

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE		Report No. 11
Date of Meeting	19 th June 2008	
Title of Report	Multi-Agency Flood Working Group – Budget Allocation	
Portfolio	Housing – Flooding	
Link to Corporate Priorities	All	
Key Decision	No	
Executive Workplan Ref	B396	
Public Report	Yes	

Summary of Report

Further to the Chief Executive's report of 3rd January 2008, this report updates the Executive on the work of the Flood Working Group thus far in respect of identifying key task areas in relation to flood alleviation and control, seeks the agreement of the Executive to fund areas of priority within the North Wiltshire district and also seeks delegated authority for the Chief Executive in consultation with the Flood Working Group to authorise allocation of the budget set out in the report.

Officer Recommendations

It is recommended that the Executive:

1. **Note the work of the Flood Working Group in attempting to ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency approach in respect of flood risk with the North Wiltshire area.**
2. **Agree the North Wiltshire District Council priority task areas as set out in Appendix 2.**
3. **Delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Flood Working Group authority to authorise the allocation of the budget as set out in paragraph 3.2 of this report to the priority areas set out in paragraph 2 above.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
No	No	No	No	No

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Flood Working Group was set up on 17th January 2008 in response to the unprecedented flooding problems in the North Wiltshire district as identified by severe flooding in July 2007 and January 2008.
- 1.2 The Working Group has brought together representatives of North Wiltshire District Council, Wiltshire County Council, Environment Agency and Wessex Water. In addition the group has invited Crudwell Parish Council representatives and others to assist its deliberations.
- 1.3 Attached as Appendix 1 is a comparative list of key tasks being carried out by Wiltshire County Council, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency within the North Wiltshire District area. By understanding the nature and extent of the works of the other agencies this has enabled North Wiltshire District Council to focus on key areas of need within its own control. It has also ensured that agencies do not duplicate effort but fully understand the nature of problems within various areas. In turn this has enabled staff to communicate more comprehensively and give reassurance to members of the public who do not always understand the causes of flooding in their respective areas or which agency is responsible for alleviating/resolving the problems.
- 1.4 Attached as Appendix 2 is the North Wiltshire District Council list of current key tasks with a proposed order of priority. (It should be noted that a separate report is anticipated regarding works carried out by Wiltshire County Council in respect of Thornhill, a contribution to which by this Council will be considered by the Flood Working Group.) In addition officers of Wiltshire County Council and North Wiltshire District Council are in close liaison to ensure that there is a seamless transition to the new Wiltshire Council which can then agree its long and short term commitments.

2. Options

- 2.1 To agree the priority of key tasks as set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.2 To alter the priority of key tasks as set out in Appendix 2.

3. Financial Position

- 3.1 The current budget for land drainage is set out in paragraph 3.2. Historically the actual budget was low and leaving aside the single officer responsible for land drainage issues, it is understood that that budget has been supplemented by virements from other similar areas over the years. It is clear from Appendix 2 that even with the substantial increase to the budget for 2008/2009 that land drainage will require a long term settlement.
- 3.2 The current budget, ignoring officer time is:

Land Drainage:	£62,560
Area 1 Committee contribution:	£14,518
Area 2 Committee contribution:	£ 3,500
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Total	£80,578

3.3 In order to accommodate the proposed works an additional sum of £18,922 is required which can be accommodated from within the existing Council budget.

4. Risk Analysis

Clearly there is an identified need to resolve various flooding problems across the District. Failure to effect necessary actions will exacerbate this situation.

5. Legal and Community & Environmental Implications

5.1 Although North Wiltshire District Council does not have a statutory duty to act in this area, it has appropriate powers to ensure that landowners keep watercourses and ditches clear.

5.2 Successfully dealing with potential flooding problems has a clear environmental and community benefit.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 – NWDC Priority Flooding Areas• Appendix 2 – Flooding Area Priorities – WW, EA and WCC
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference