

**REPORT TO THE MALMESBURY AREA (1)
COMMITTEE**

Report No. 7

Date of Meeting	16 July 2008
Title of Report	Multi-Agency Flood Working Group - Budget Spend
Link to Corporate Priorities	Housing - Flooding
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

Further to the Chief Executive's report of 19 June 2008 to the Executive, this report updates the Committee on the work of the Flood Working Group thus far and also details the spending commitments to date.

Officer Recommendations

To note the information herein.

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
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Flood Working Group was set up on 17 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 been a very successful exercise in joint working and 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 are the minutes of the meeting held 23 May 2008 to be noted by the Committee.
- 1.4 Attached as Appendix 2 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. Understanding the nature and extent of the works of the other agencies 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.
- 1.5 Attached as Appendix 3 is the North Wiltshire District Council list of current key tasks with a proposed order of priority. 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 note the committed spend to date against the budget allocations.

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 the appendices 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 budgets.

4. Current Expenditure and Commissioning of Works

4.1 Topographical surveys and hydraulic modelling has commenced in the Minety/Crudwell/Purton area accounting for £6200 of the £30,000 budget allocation for this project to date. There are still two more surveys to be completed with varying complexity and scale. The Environment Agency have also indicated a willingness to match fund the hydraulic modelling work at Crudwell as the main watercourse involved is the Swill Brook which is classed as “Main River”.

4.2 Work at Murcott to install a surface water sewer with associated silt pit and outfall structure has been commissioned at a cost of £10,535.

4.3 As yet no action has been taken at Eastcourt Road, Crudwell where the road bridge culvert on the Swill Bridge needs replacement with a larger culvert as this work is being undertaken in conjunction with the Parish Council using the allocated budget from the fund. It is hoped that the Environmental Agency will match fund the operation. The size of the culverted bridge will come from the hydraulic model when this is complete. An optimal drainage solution will be trialled electronically within the computer model before to ensure funding produces the greatest return against future flood risk.

4.4 Wiltshire County Council is undertaking CCTV work in Crudwell which includes clearing and repairing blocked pipes and repairing broken pipes, manholes and covers. To date a cumulative figure for time spent at Crudwell is twenty days at a cost of £43,000.

4.5 Wiltshire County Council is undertaking CCTV works in Parklands, Malmesbury on the B4040. It appears that contractors working for Virgin Media have broken existing pipework whilst installing their own services. The estimated cost to Wiltshire County Council are £60,000 to £100,000 but will be reclaimed from Virgin Media in due course.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 - Multi-Agency Flood Working Group Minutes – May • Appendix 2 - NWDC Priority Flooding Areas • Appendix 3 - Priority Flood Areas for Wiltshire for WCC EA and WW
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Multi-Agency Flood Working Group – Budget Allocation	Executive – 19 June 2008	E17