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REPORT

Councillor Michael Hewitt, Chairman of Flood Steering Group
Councillor Dennis Brown, Cabinet Member, Transport & Environment

Position Statement of the Salisbury District Flood Steering Group

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the progress made by the Flood Steering Group and to recommend further works to be considered, as requested under minute 391 (15th September 2004).
- 1.2 The Steering Group has previously identified four priority areas where joint working between authorities was likely to be beneficial namely, the Bourne Valley, The Upper Till, Tisbury and Pitton. The Bourne Valley was dealt with in the previous report. This report contains a position statement in respect of The Upper Till, Tisbury and Pitton plus comments on three additional areas, Landford, Harnham/Wilton/Salisbury and Teffont.
- 1.3 Following completion of improvement works downstream of Tilshead the Steering Group is recommending a re-evaluation of the consultants' reports for other parts of The Upper Till.
- 1.4 The joint Environment Agency, Wiltshire County Council, Salisbury District Council flood defence scheme at Tisbury has progressed to the planning approval stage. The cost of the work to be funded by the council has been identified and the report recommends approval of up to £25,000 for this.
- 1.5 Improvements to the watercourse at Pitton have been completed.
- 1.6 The report also recommends investigation of the flooding mechanisms at Landford, further development of a scheme for Teffont in consultation with the Environment Agency and makes reference to Flood Wardens and a Flood Awareness DVD.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The winter of 2004/2005 was the driest for at least 26 years with only just over 50% of the average rainfall. Consequently ground water levels are very low with some monitored sites showing record minimum levels. However, experience over the last 17 years has shown that conditions can change from dry one year to flooding the next and it is essential that we continue to appraise the flood risks in the area.
- 2.2 Since the last cabinet report the group has met 3 times and progressed matters on the identified priority areas.

- 2.3 The group has reviewed future priority areas following the completion of works at Pitton and the progress made at Tisbury.

3. **Priority Areas**

- 3.1 Projects, which the group considered, merited prioritizing for future funding and joint working between authorities to be presented to cabinet.
- i Upper Till
 - ii Landford
 - iii Harnham/Wilton/Salisbury
 - iv Teffont

4. **Progress and Position Statement for outstanding Priority Areas**

4.1 The Upper Till

4.1.1 Tilshead

Following the completion of improvements to the watercourse downstream of the village the flooding problems in Candown Road could be reviewed to identify whether any financially viable improvements are possible to reduce the flood risk.

4.1.2 Orcheston

Enlargement of the road culvert and maintenance of the existing ditches would reduce flood risk. The costs of this work could be re-evaluated.

4.1.3 Shrewton

There is little scope to improve the capacity of the watercourse without extensive work.

- 4.1.4 The watercourses in Shrewton and Orcheston are scheduled to be adopted as main river by the Environment Agency in 2006.

4.2 Tisbury

- 4.2.1 Planning Approval for the flood defence scheme at Tisbury Row/Court Street was obtained on 4th February 2005 however due to some necessary design variations the application will need to be re-submitted.

- 4.2.2 The work will be undertaken by Mowlem Civil Engineering one of the Environment Agency framework contractors.

- 4.2.3 Cabinet have approved in principle to support this scheme and the bill of quantities has been broken down to identify the cost of the works to the ordinary watercourse (Fonthill Brook)

- 4.2.4 The total, including on costs is £22,206.

4.3 Pitton

- 4.3.1 The improvement works to the watercourse approved by Cabinet on 21st July 2004 have been satisfactorily completed.
- 4.3.2 The Parish Council is investigating whether it can secure funding to install an electricity supply for emergency over-pumping, should the improved watercourse be overwhelmed at a future date.

4.4 Landford

- 4.4.1 Following some flash flooding due to exceptional rainfall in February 2004 the steering group consider that a survey to investigate the drainage arrangements in parts of Landford could be beneficial in identifying the flooding mechanisms and any remedial works needed.
- 4.4.2 Southern Water has identified a number of surface water infiltrations into the sewers and we are working with them to reduce the level of sewer surcharging during flood events.

4.5 Harnham/Wilton/Salisbury

- 4.5.1 The Environment Agency is carrying out feasibility studies to develop a flood defence scheme in Harnham.
- 4.5.2 This is a long term project which will not involve the council in flood defence work, but there may be opportunities to support the Environment Agency work with environmental enhancement, particularly on land owned by the council.

4.6 Teffont

- 4.6.1 Teffont stream is scheduled to be adopted by the Environment Agency as statutory main river in 2006.
- 4.6.2 The district council has a proposed flood relief scheme that was designed after the severe flood in 1999.
- 4.6.3 It is proposed to offer to develop this designed scheme with the Environment Agency prior to adoption if they consider it viable.

5. **Flood Warden Scheme**

- 5.1 This has continued to be developed with The Environment Agency since the last cabinet report and there are now 37 flood wardens and 3 village flood plans in South Wiltshire.

6. **Flood Awareness DVD**

- 6.1 Copies of the DVD prepared by Southern Water, Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council have been obtained and it is proposed to show selected sections of it to the area committees in the autumn.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The Capital Programme to 2007/08 contained £100,000 for flood alleviation schemes. To date £40,000 has been spent on work at Pitton and £25,000 is earmarked to support the Environment Agency flood alleviation scheme at Tisbury.
- 7.2 The further works proposed by the Flood Steering Group are:
- 7.2.1 Re-evaluation of the consultant's reports for the Upper Till.
 - 7.2.2 Investigation into the flooding mechanisms in Landford.
 - 7.2.3 Further review and development of the flood defence scheme designed for Teffont.
- 7.3 It is estimated that these 3 further studies will cost in total approximately £25,000 and that this can be funded from the capital programme.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 Despite an exceptionally dry winter the Flooding Steering Group has continued to identify priorities and strategies to reduce the flood risk to the residents of the district.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet

- 9.1 Note the content of the position statement of the Flooding Steering Group.
- 9.2 Approve the re-evaluation of the consultant's report for the Upper Till.
- 9.3 Approve a contribution, not exceeding £25,000 towards the Tisbury Flood Alleviation Scheme being constructed by The Environment Agency.
- 9.4 Approve the investigation into the flooding mechanisms in Landford.
- 9.5 Authorise the sharing of information with The Environment Agency in respect of the flood defence scheme designed for Teffont and approves further development work on the scheme in consultation with the Environment Agency.

10. Implications

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| 10.1 | Financial | : | £100,000 is allocated for flood alleviation schemes in the capital programme until 2007/2008. To date £40,000 has been spent on work at Pitton, and £25,000 is earmarked for Tisbury. |
| 10.2 | Legal | : | None at this time |
| 10.3 | Personnel | : | None |
| 10.4 | Community Safety | : | None |
| 10.5 | Environmental | : | Flood defence works will reduce the environmental impact of flooding, which causes damage to property, disruption of services, erosion and pollution. |
| 10.6 | Council's Core Values | : | Providing excellent service. Being fair and equitable. Being environmentally conscious. |
| 10.7 | Wards Affected | : | All |
| 10.8 | Consultation undertaken | : | None |