

Scrutiny Standing Panel Agenda



Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Standing Panel Tuesday, 10th July, 2012

Place: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Adrian Hendry, Office of the Chief Executive
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01992 564246

Members:

Councillors Mrs J Lea (Chairman), Mrs M Sartin (Vice-Chairman), K Avey, Mrs T Cochrane, L Girling, P Keska, Ms Y Knight, G Mohindra, S Murray, Mrs P Smith and P Spencer

SUBSTITUTE NOMINATION DEADLINE:

18:30

1. APOLOGIES

2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Assistant to the Chief Executive) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Assistant to the Chief Executive). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

4. NOTES OF LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 22)

To agree the notes of the last meeting held on 10th April 2012.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 23 - 26)

(Chairman / Lead Officer) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed the Terms of Reference of this Panel and associated Work Programme. This is attached. The Panel are asked at each meeting to review both documents.

6. FLOODING EVENTS IN APRIL 2012

April was the wettest month on record since 1961 for the Roding (North London) and since 1920 for the Lower Lee. This caused river flows to rise dramatically during the third week of the month. Unfortunately, this resulted in significant internal flooding to eight properties in Ongar Road, Abridge. The very heavy rain also resulted in flash flooding and overwhelmed some drainage infrastructure in a number of locations across the district.

The Engineering, Drainage and Water Team provide an out of office hours Emergency Flooding Response Service. The Council and its term contractor, Hugh Pearl Land Drainage Ltd, maintain a stock of filled sand bags for strategic redeployment and to support Council owned flood defence assets. The Council also keeps a small stock of the lighter 'self-inflatable' sandbags that officers are able to deliver and deploy as necessary. Sand bags are not provided as a matter of course but are available to be utilised in situations of emergency where properties are at imminent risk of flooding. In situations where properties are not at imminent risk of flooding residents are advised that they should purchase sandbags and take any other necessary precaution in order to mitigate the risk of flooding to their property and/ or land.

During the heavy rains between the end of April and the beginning of May the Engineering, Drainage and Water Team received eight Flood Alerts and three Flood Warnings from the Environment Agency. During this event, a number of calls were received from residents seeking assistance. Thirty-six incidents were recorded, ranging from flooding to a row of cottages to a single dwelling. The Council's term contractors delivered approximately 350 filled sandbags to three locations whilst officers delivered the lighter inflatable sandbags to a further three properties, all either already flooded or at high risk of flooding. .

In addition, some flooding situations were averted by officers carrying out on the spot clearance of road gullies where Essex County Council Highways could not get to site. Where practical, officers unblocked drains, cleared watercourses and ditches. In cases where additional resources and equipment were required, contractors were used to help minimise the flooding impact across the district.

The total cost of using the above-mentioned contractors was approximately £5550. This includes the provision of the filled sand bags, additional inspections and clearance of many of the storm grills and other strategic flood defence assets across the district. The cost was met from the existing budget. It is considered that this cost far outweighs the potential cost of flood damage to private properties and infrastructure.

The District has a long history of flooding with the Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan estimating that between 2,000 and 5,000 homes within Epping Forest are at risk from a 1% annual probability river flood (flood zone 3). Significant numbers of homes are at risk from surface water flooding also.

Further information on the event can be obtained from Kim Durrani (Assistant Director) Technical, Environment and Street Scene – 01992 564055 or at qdurrani@eppingforestdc.gov.uk.

7. ESSEX FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION (Pages 27 - 52)

(Director of Environment and Street Scene) To consider the attached report.

The full report (which is too large to include in this agenda) is available online at:

[http://www.essex.gov.uk/Environment%20Planning/Environmental-Issues/local-environment/flooding/Documents/Essex_Flood_Risk_Management_Strategy_\(Full_version\).pdf](http://www.essex.gov.uk/Environment%20Planning/Environmental-Issues/local-environment/flooding/Documents/Essex_Flood_Risk_Management_Strategy_(Full_version).pdf)

An executive summary is attached.

8. PROGRESS ON INTRODUCTION OF RECYCLING IN FLATS (Pages 53 - 54)

To note the attached report.

9. SCG ACTION PLAN - OUTTURN FOR OCTOBER 2011 TO MARCH 2012 (Pages 55 - 56)

(Director Environment and Street Scene)To consider the attached report.

RECOMMENDATION:

To note the progress of the SCG Action Plan, as at March 2012.

10. CCTV 5 YEAR ACTION PLAN (Pages 57 - 64)

(Director Environment and Street Scene)To consider the attached report.

RECOMMENDATION:

To note the progress on the CCTV 5 year Service Plan.

11. IAA MEMBER WORKING GROUP MINUTES (Pages 65 - 70)

To note the attached set of draft minutes for 10 May 2012.

12. BOBBINGWORTH TIP LIAISON GROUP MINUTES - MARCH 2012 (Pages 71 - 74)

To note the attached set of draft minutes.

13. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To consider which reports are ready to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

14. FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the future meeting dates of this Panel. They are:

*30 October 2012;
08 January 2013;
*12 February 2013; and
02 April 2013.

*The two meetings dedicated to Crime and Disorder issues (October and February).