

Contact Officer: Steve Copley

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 15th January 2018

Present: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)
Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Rob Walker

In attendance: Tom Ghee
Councillor Peter McBride

Apologies: Councillor Gulfam Asif
Penny Bunker (Clerk)

134 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 27 November 2017 were approved as a correct record.

135 Interests

No interests were declared

136 Admission of the Public

The Committee agreed that the meeting be held in public session.

137 Kirklees Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Further to the Committee meeting on 18 September 2017, Tom Ghee, Flood Management and Drainage Team, introduced a comprehensive report which described the progress being made with work on those actions and priorities set out in the Kirklees Local Flood Management Strategy, as approved by Cabinet on 15 January 2013.

Appendix 1 to the report provided a summary of the action plan which, following a request made at a previous meeting, had been made clearer to explain the progress being made in delivering the various actions (*Red, amber and green indicators*)

Appendix 2 to the report provided a summary of the flood management initiatives carried out in 2017/18, and a statement on external grant funding over the lifetime of the strategy. This also explained that it was anticipated that similar levels of grant funding will be secured in 2018/19 and beyond, to deliver on further capacity and improvements to the local drainage infrastructure.

In summary, the debate and questions focused on:-

- Progress with the actions, priorities and work associated with the strategy

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- The need for those officers involved in the work on the strategy to work more closely and proactively with colleagues in highways to deliver upon the improvements, schemes and solutions that are still required.
- The development of the approach to gulley cleaning to prioritise those areas and routes which are prone to flooding.
- The opportunities for councillors and local people to work more closely with officers to improve upon the level of understanding of local flood risk within the Kirklees area (*Objective 1*)
- The limitations on the duties and responsibilities of the council to encourage proactive, responsible maintenance of privately owned flood defence and drainage assets (*Objective 8*)
- The progress being made with the new initiatives in Calderdale and Kirklees to maximise the opportunities to reduce surface water run-off from the upper catchment areas to help prevent the risk of flooding in lower lying areas (*Objective 10*)
- How the work on the Kirklees local flood management strategy, a five year strategy approved in January 2013, should progress in 2018

RESOLVED - Members of the Committee agreed that:-

- (1). Tom Ghee and Cllr Peter McBride be thanked for their attendance and report for today's meeting
- (2). The Committee would like to see the work on the Kirklees local flood management strategy continue to develop and be refreshed in 2018/19, in view of the changes and improvements which the work on the strategy has created in Kirklees and its surrounding areas in the period since 2013.

Members suggestions included:-

- Review and reappraise the strategy and its priorities and action plan for 2018/19 onwards
 - Consider the key learning points in the period from 2013 to 2018, plus best practice and learning etc. from other local authorities
 - The need for those officers involved in the work on the strategy to work more closely and proactively with colleagues in highways to deliver upon the improvements, schemes and solutions that are still required.
- (3). That a further report on the development of the strategy, the action plan and the priorities for 2018/19 onwards, be shared with the Committee in due course.

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Agenda Plan 2017/18

The Committee considered the agenda plan noting that the next meeting on Monday 26 February 2018, should focus on the following items:-

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- The work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority scrutiny function
- Inclusion and diversity strategy – Update on action plan
- Scrutiny Panels – Reports from Chairs (Lead member reports)

RESOLVED – That Penny Bunker and the Governance Team re-check that the above mentioned items will be ready for debate at the Committee meeting on 26 February 2018.

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Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place at 10.00am on Monday 26 February 2018, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Huddersfield.

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Committee take place at 10.00am on Monday 26 February 2018.