

## ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

### A meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel was held on 15 February 2018

**PRESENT:** Councillor Higgins (Chair), Councillor Goodchild (Vice Chair); Councillors Branson, Coupe, Hubbard and McGee.

**OFFICERS:** S Binks and J Dixon.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Biswas, Davison and Lewis.

#### **\*\* DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no Declarations of Interest made by Members at this point in the meeting.

#### **\*\* MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 18 January 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

#### **FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

S Binks, Principal Engineer within Highways Management, Maintenance and Design of the Council's Growth and Place directorate, was in attendance at the meeting to provide Members with an update in relation to Flood Risk Management.

The report was based upon recommendations 90 and 91 of the Pitt Report, stating that Scrutiny Committees needed to review works carried out to manage flood risk and also to receive an annual summary of actions taken locally to manage flood risk.

Information was provided in relation to the following Flood Risk Management Schemes:-

##### Saltersgill Fields

The scheme for Saltersgill Fields was designed to capture overland flows that had caused flooding problems in Saltersgill. Drawings had been completed and planning permission had been granted. It was highlighted that when completing the Outline Business Case for the Environment Agency, some of the properties would not benefit from the Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Scheme. The Environment Agency, therefore, had requested further modelling and the scheme had now been widened to include these properties. The scheme would be fully funded by the Environment Agency and it was anticipated that the revised business case would be submitted to the Environment Agency in March 2018 for approval. It was hoped that, subject to EA approval, the scheme would be completed during the 2018/19 financial year.

##### Ormesby High Street

The Panel was informed that a number of properties on Ormesby High Street had suffered from flooding in the past. This was due to overland flows from Ormesby Hall and under capacity of the Middlebeck culvert.

It was explained that this was a complex scheme which aimed to protect around 20 properties from flooding. Discussions with the National Trust had commenced and the Council was also working with Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool Councils on the scheme. Funding for the scheme had been applied for over two years (2018 – 2020).

##### Albert Park Trash Screen

The Panel was advised that in November 2016, the trash screen at Albert Park was almost overtopped by flood waters. It was considered that the screen had contributed to this as it was very difficult to clear the amount of debris blocking the screen. The Environment Agency, in conjunction

with the Council, had designed a new screen which should allow water to flow and make clearing debris easier. The report contained a photograph of the current screen and the new proposed design.

In response to a query it was confirmed that the Environment Agency had put up the original trash screen and that they were responsible for routine maintenance. However, it had now been agreed that the Council would monitor the screen keep it clear of debris during a flood warning and recharge the Environment Agency.

The Panel was also provided with information in relation to the following studies:-

#### Environment Agency/Northumbrian Water – Marton West Beck

It was explained that this was a joint study between the Council, The Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water and was due to be completed in May 2018. A short-list of options had been arrived at and were based on the existing dams in the Coulby Newham area and Gunnergate Lake and included improvements to the flood walls in the lower reaches of Marton West Beck.

#### Regional Prioritisation Approach

A new study was to commence in the new financial year in conjunction with NWL and the EA. The study would concentrate on Middlesbrough East following flooding on 1 April 2017. The study would be jointly funded between the three parties and a bid would be submitted for Local Levy funding for the Council's contribution.

#### New Developments

Members were advised that all major developments now included Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) techniques, in accordance with National Guidance and the Tees Valley Standards. Examples of SuDS included ponds and swales at Hemlington Grange and the Old Police HQ; storage cells on the proposed Bishopton Road development and cascading ponds and swales on the Brookfield site.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his attendance and the information provided.

**AGREED** as follows:-

1. That the update information provided, in relation to Flood Risk Management, be noted.
2. That a further update be provided in 12 months' time.

#### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE**

The Chair provided a verbal update to the Panel in relation to the business conducted at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 16 January 2018, namely:-

- Call-In – Members' Small Scheme Allocations

It was highlighted that the decision was not to refer back to the Executive.

**AGREED** that the information provided be noted.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 15 March 2018 at 1.30pm.