

Motion - River Avon Flooding

Officer Briefing Notes

The Council has statutory duties under the FWMA and has recently (in December 2013) appointed a Flood Risk Manager who is reviewing the legislative requirements and, alongside other officers, developing a work plan to be agreed with the Cabinet Member.

Officers have developed a good working arrangement with the Environment Agency and will be establishing a Flood Board to oversee this area of work. This is a public forum and the first meeting is likely to take place in March 14.

Following a meeting with the Council's River Champion, officers are now planning to meet and work with a number of potential partners including the River Regeneration Trust.

Recognising the limits on the budget, officers will seek external funding opportunities through the EA and other partner organisations. Cabinet has already shown a commitment to this area of work and, subject to the budget process, intends to make an additional capital investment of £200K in 2014/15 to enhance flood protection/mitigation in Chew Valley.

River Dwellers have now received formal recognition from the Council.

The Council has developed multi agency response arrangements and has a Major Incident Response Plan. Although further development of this is planned, the current service has received praise from the emergency services for the professionalism and skill with which recent flood responses have been managed by the Council.

The Council's Drainage Team will continue to work closely with fellow officers to ensure that the regeneration agenda receives appropriate technical support to mitigate flood risk.

The implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) was scheduled for April 2014. The government has not yet confirmed this however and there has been some recent media coverage, primarily about who will meet the costs. The authority awaits further guidance from the government.