

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	<b>Communities, Transport and Environment Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING DATE:	<b>13 March 2017</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	River Safety in B&NES - an update	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> None		

### **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 This report invites the Panel to receive an update on the ongoing work of the River Safety Group in managing the risks presented by the River Avon in Bath & North East Somerset.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Panel receives a presentation summarising the progress which has been made to date to prevent accidents and the collaborative work which has taken place to educate vulnerable groups about river safety.

### **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 Since 2011 the Council has spent over £500k on river safety which has mainly focussed on infrastructure to protect high risk areas. In 2016/17 the Council supported at least £20k of funding for safety-related improvements, including asset maintenance, educational campaigns and feasibility studies.

### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 Since 2009, 10 fatalities have occurred in the River Avon in Bath. The Council and its partners wanted to understand why these deaths were occurring and what could be done to prevent them in the future. No one agency or landowner has overall responsibility for the river so the multi-agency River Safety Group was created to deliver a collaborative approach to reviewing any incidents which occur and recommending improvements to mitigate risks.

4.2 Organisations who are members of the River Safety Group include Avon & Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue, South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, the Environment Agency, and the Canals and Rivers Trust.

## 5 THE REPORT

5.1 The presentation to the Panel will provide an update on the work of the River Safety Group including:

5.2 An update on reported water-related incidents since 2009

5.3 The reports which have been commissioned to identify recommendations and improvements

5.4 Examples of the hierarchy of measures which have been implemented to mitigate risks e.g. fencing, education etc

5.5 Examples of innovation which have been implemented in Bath & North East Somerset

5.6 Educational campaigns and how these are being reviewed in collaboration with the University of Bath, Bath Spa University and Bath College

## 6 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 None.

## 7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Finance Manager for Place has had the opportunity to input to this report and has cleared it for publication.

## 8 RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Cathryn Brown, Team Manager for Licensing and Environmental Protection 01225 477645</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>None.</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	