Notes: O & S Committee, Wednesday, 17 June 2009

Introduction:

Officers thank the O & S Committee for the opportunity to expand and update upon the earlier presentation on 18 March 2009. In addition officers are supported this evening, by BWB consulting who have been working with a number of our Worcestershire partners, as well as others. They will provide an overview of our changing and additional responsibilities, as a result of the Draft "Flood & Water Management Bill".

Progress to Date:

The Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership has prepared a Worcestershire Land Drainage Protocol – attached for Member approval.

A new National Indicator, NI 189, requires extensive training (planned) as it has a comprehensive series of base indices to arrive at the correct final score. The EA are taking a lead in the training role. An earlier event also explored possible new grant funding routes. However, as the principal factors relate to the numbers of properties flooded, divided by 145,000, 37,000 and 9,000 respectively, it's most unlikely that as with former DEFRA (or MAFF) grants, any Redditch schemes will not score sufficiently highly and thus unlikely to succeed in securing extra government funding.

Timetable of Critical Events (updated):

Note dates are provisional and in some cases actions have been or may hopefully be sooner rather than later): -

- 01 April 2009   Flood Forecasting Centre brought into operation including "Extreme Rainfall Alert Service"
- 21 April 2009   Draft "Flood & Water Management Bill" published; consultation by 24/07/09
- 25 June 2009   Officers to attend "Flood Management 09" conference
- Summer 2009   New building regulations "for flood resilient buildings"
- December 2009   EA to provide LRF's with inundation maps for each Reservoir – we currently have no advance information
- June 2010   National Flood Emergency Framework
- June 2010   new standards for sewers, and
- December 2011   National emergency exercise

Conclusions:

The various appendices have been prepared using existing legislative references only. Officers ask Members to agree that it will not be necessary to re-approve these documents provided that any references are simply typographic changes to correspond to the new ones. Where there are substantive, new, amended or deleted obligations, these will of course be brought to Members attention for subsequent approval.

At present, no account has been taken of cross-boundary working or applying catchment focus to future emergencies. Historically, local authorities have worked solely within their own individual areas. Clearly, climatic changes that have apparently recently taken place, prior to and following July 2007 take no account of such boundaries.

There are significant watercourses which pass through Redditch, where the vast majority of their catchments lie outside the Borough Boundary and thus outside the remit of our immediate control or influence.

O & S is asked to consider, and where they feel appropriate, to recommend that the attached documents be taken forward to the Executive Committee of the 12 August 2009. This will allow certain key objectives to be achieved in accordance with relevant criteria set out in the NI 189 validation process, by September 2009.

Appendices:

Please note that the following documents are for 'reference purposes only' at the present time. Where there are any specific references to locations and/or properties, disclosure is subject to normal Data Protection Act policies. Some of these are currently unavailable and so marked. They are as follows: -

1. "Worcestershire Land Drainage Protocol" – May 2009, WDLP/LDTG
2. Ditches ands Other Minor Watercourses – RBC (03/06/09)
3. Landscape & Land Drainage Maintenance Policy – RBC (18/02/09)
4. Dredging (Land Drainage) MaintenancePolicy – RBC (05/06/09)
5. Flood Resilience Analysis – RBC (05/03/09)

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