



meeting	FLOODING (DRAINAGE & WATERCOURSES) SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	28 April 2008	agenda item number

Report of the Chair of the Flooding (Drainage & Watercourses) Select Committee

Requested Information & Work Programme

Purpose of the report

1. To furnish Members of the Select Committee with information, as previously requested, and to indicate the proposed work programme.

Background

2. On 31 March 2008, during questions to the Environment Agency and Severn Trent, the issue of blockages to drains caused by jet washing bins on the highway was raised. The Select Committee requested from the drainage manager further information and clarification around this issue – which also links to the responsibilities of district councils and the Environment Agency.

Information

3. The County Council as highways authority would have responsibility to clear highways drains and gullies blocked by the debris resulting from the jet washing of refuse bins. However, there is no record of drains and gullies being blocked by such debris and it therefore seems unlikely that this was a contributing factor in the summer floods of 2007.
4. If the jet washing of refuse bins causes pollutants to enter gullies and following that to enter a watercourse that would be a matter for the Environment Agency to address. There may also be environmental health issues associated with jet washing which would fall under the remit of district councils.

Work Programme

5. On 28 April 2008 the Select Committee will receive information from Steve Broadhead, Clerk and Engineer, Newark Area Internal Drainage

Board and receive representation from Parish Councils which were severely affected by the summer floods; on 6 May the Select Committee will visit Lowdham and on 19 May North Levedon. At the meeting on 30 June the Select Committee will seek to agree its final report.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that

the Flooding (Drainage and Watercourses) Select Committee note the work programme, receive briefing and evidence, and initiate lines of questioning as necessary.

Councillor Yvonne Davidson

Chair of the Flooding (Drainage and Watercourses) Select Committee

Background papers: nil.