



meeting **FLOODING SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **18 September 2006** **agenda item number**

Report of the Chair of the Flooding Select Committee

Setting the scene

Purpose of the report

1. To provide Members with a background to the issues involved in Flooding, bearing in mind the agreed scope for this review.

Background

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee accepted a scope at its meeting of 10 July 2006 to establish a Flooding Select Committee to run until March 2006.
3. The aim of the review was to ensure that safeguards are in place to protect the present and limit future building development in identified areas of flood risk along the River Trent in Nottinghamshire.

Issues

4. As this is the first meeting of the Select Committee a representative from the Environment Agency, Paul Lockhart, and the County Council's Head of Emergency Management and Registration, Rob Fisher, have been invited to present Members with a background to the issues involved in flooding. They have been particularly asked to focus on County Council responsibilities, vis-à-vis those of the Environment Agency, District Councils or other organisations.
5. The presentations will include a short tour for Members to the suspension bridge at the rear of County Hall to witness first hand some of the improved flood defence work already being carried out along the River Trent in this area.
6. Attachment 1 provides Members with background notes to Rob Fischer's presentation. Attachment 2 is a copy of Rob's presentation itself. Attachment 3 is a copy of Paul Lockhart's presentation.
7. Members have also been provided separately an information "pack" for their use throughout the review. The pack includes background

information, press clippings, other reports and other material that will assist Members in their understanding of flooding issues.

8. The pack is designed to be used by Members and has allocated space for Committee agenda and minutes to be added, other papers circulated throughout the review, maps and other key information. Should any Member find further information through their own community that they believe is relevant to this Committee they are asked to provide a copy to the Scrutiny Officer for this Committee, Chris Gilbert, who will arrange copies of the material to be added to each pack at each meeting.
9. It is recommended that where possible Members bring their folders to every meeting to allow each Member to receive the latest information available and to ensure each Member has access to a comprehensive set of notes and materials to allow for the best evidence based report to be produced and sent to Cabinet in April 2007.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that

the Flooding Select Committee accept the presentations, engage in the short tour of the flood defences around County Hall and ask questions of the expert representatives in accordance with the agreed scope for this review.

Councillor Yvonne Davidson
Chair of the Flooding Select Committee

Background papers: nil.