

## Overview & Scrutiny Commissioning Committee 8 December 2009 Additional Documents

Agenda Item	Page No
<b>3 MINUTES</b> of the meeting held on 10 November 2009.	<b>1 - 10</b>
<b>9 FLOOD PREVENTION IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE</b> <b>Contributors</b> Jim Stevens, Head of Transport, Mark Averill, Network Operations Manager, Duncan Laird, Policy Officer, Transport- Policy and Performance	<b>11 - 20</b>
<b>Purpose</b> This item will outline how the County Council and its partners are working to reduce the likelihood of flooding in Buckinghamshire. This will include discussion of how the County Council are planning for the management of surface water outlined in the recent <i>Flood and Water Management Bill</i> .	
<b>Context</b> After the major flooding experienced across the country in 2007, including Buckinghamshire, the Pitt Review recommended several changes to how flood prevention should be managed. These recommendations included new responsibilities for upper tier local authorities, such as the County Council. In light of the recent major flooding in Cumbria and a question asked at County Council about surface water management, the Committee wish to scrutinise the County Council's approach to flood management.	
<b>Paper</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Flood Management Briefing Paper</li></ul>	



# Minutes

## *OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE*

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 3, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT TIME NOT SPECIFIED AND CONCLUDING AT TIME NOT SPECIFIED.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr B Allen, Mr P Cartwright (VC), Mrs A Davies, Mr M Edmonds, Mr T Egleton (C), Mr P Hardy, Mr N Hussain, Mrs B Jennings, Mrs W Mallen and Ms R Vigor-Hedderly

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr J Bilson, Mr R Davey and Mr M Moore

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Mrs M Baldwin, Mr F Downes and Mrs V Letheren

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mr M Chard, Clarke, Ms K MacDonald, Mr G Morley and Mr M Woods

#### **1. APOLOGIES/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies were received from Mr M Appleyard, Mr J Bajina and Mr P Monk.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr P Cartwright declared a personal interest as a Member of the Chiltern Civil Enforcement Group.

Mr M Edmonds declared a personal interest as Cabinet Spokesman for Countryside and a Member of the Programme Board established to investigate alternative means of managing the Country Parks and Green Spaces.

#### **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2009 were confirmed subject to the



following:

Page 3, paragraph 4, line 2 should read "cut to service 40" not 459 and page 3, paragraph 4, line 3 should read "cut to bus service 459 and 40" not just 459.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2009 were confirmed although Members made the following comments;

A Member said that all County Councillors should be allowed to attend any meeting and any closed sessions of those meetings. Members discussed that any Member should be able to attend but not participate. The Chairman asked if Regulatory and Audit could look at this issue to see if the Council's Standing Orders require amending.

**Action: Clerk to highlight discussion to Anne Davies, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.**

#### **4. PUBLIC PLATFORM**

The Chairman agreed that a written representation regarding rural bus services submitted by Mr J Mole, Oakley Parish Council could be taken under the public platform agenda item.

Copies of the representation were tabled at the meeting.

The Chairman suggested that as the representation raised issues regarding bus services this item could be taken under agenda item 8 which considers this issue. The Cabinet Member for Transport would then be asked to send a written response to Mr J Mole.

A Member asked for clarity on whether Mr J Mole was speaking on behalf of Oakley Parish Council or as an individual.

**Action: Clerk to clarify.**

#### **5. COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION**

There were no Councillor Calls for Action.

Mr N Hussain advised that at the next meeting of the County Council the constitutional amendments will be proposed and that a briefing note will be written. Training will then be arranged after Christmas.

Mr P Hardy informed the Committee that the constitutional amendments will be discussed at Regulatory and Audit Committee on 16 November 2009 and said that any Member who wishes to attend the Committee is welcome to do so.

#### **6. CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS/FORWARD PLAN**

Mrs R Vigor-Hedderly advised that there was a Decision To Be Taken on the Civil Enforcement Policy. The Member said that the Cabinet Member for Transport is asked to agree that the Policy be placed on the Buckinghamshire County Council website and be subjected to consultation via the County Council website and include a Press Notice. Mrs R Vigor-Hedderly said that she would like to see the consultation pushed further to include District and Parish Councils.

The Chairman said that the consultation should follow the County Council consultation

process and highlighted that the consultation process is one of the items on the work programme for the Commissioning Committee.

Mrs R Vigor-Hedderly said that the document was published on the 2 November and that comments were due by the 9 November. She said that an extension of time was required.

**Action: Policy Officer**

*[Addendum: Post meeting note:*

*To clarify the Cabinet Member decision on the 'Civil Enforcement Area – Parking Policy and Enforcement' is around the following recommendations:*

***The Cabinet Member for Transport is invited to AGREE:***

- the draft 'Civil Enforcement Area – Parking Policy and Enforcement' document should be placed on the BCC web site;*
- the document should be subjected to consultation via the BCC web site and include a Press Notice;*

*The period of 2-9 November was around the decision to place the policy document on the public website and is not in relation to the consultation on the civil enforcement area policy document as a whole. The consultation for this document will occur over the next 3 months.]*

Mr P Hardy advised that the decisions for Resources included the outline business case for the Academy at Quarrendon and the Resources Service Plan 2009/10. It was highlighted whether the Overview and Scrutiny Commissioning Committee should have a way of dealing with Service Plans. The Chairman invited suggestions on how the Commissioning Committee could deal with Service Plans, which are regarded as the operational plan for each portfolio area. A Member suggested that Members who have each agreed to monitor a portfolio area for the Forward Plan and Cabinet Member Decisions could also look at the Service Plans. The Chairman said that the Committee needs to think about how it deals with Service Plans in the future and that a system needs to be agreed. He suggested adding the item to the Committees forward plan.

**Action: Policy Officer**

## **7. CALL-INS**

There were no call-ins.

## **8. BUS CONSULTATION**

Val Letheren, Cabinet Member for Transport and Andrew Clarke, Group Manager for Transport attended the meeting to answer Members' questions in relation to how the County council consults on changes in bus routes.

The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that after years of being able to meet inflation, last year in the MTP, the Transport service area had to face major decreases. This year however bus contracts are not subject to further decreases. The Cabinet Member said that the more people who have concessionary travel on buses, the less viable the service becomes as commercial contractors do not want to run these services. In rural areas bus services have a number of concessionary travellers totally approximately 40-90% of service users. These services may have increased capacity

but decreased revenue.

The Committee was informed that in LTP2 the Transport service area consulted on how they ran services and issues are addressed. The Cabinet Member said that when they are required to look at how money is spent there are guideline criteria for evaluating supported bus services which are used. Hard copies of the criteria were provided to Members of the Committee.

In relation to the recent changes in rural bus services, the Cabinet Member said she had looked at the letter which was sent to Parish Councils and said that in retrospect the letter could have been written in softer tones and apologised. The Committee was advised that given the consultation period covered the month of August an extra two weeks was provided for the consultation period totally eight weeks instead of six.

The consultation on how services are run was done in LTP2 and the service area is now developing LTP3. The Cabinet Member said that it was necessary to have a look at the rural bus network and informed the Committee that a seminar or workshop was to be run in December. She said she will let Members know the dates once agreed.

The Chairman informed the Cabinet Member of the letter received by the Commissioning Committee from Mr J Mole, Oakley Parish Council. Mr M Edmonds advised that Oakley Parish Council was within his local area and that he has spoken to Oakley Parish Council and other Parish Councils within his area and that they informed him that they had not received the letter from Transport and was unaware of the proposed changes. The Cabinet Member said that she had met with Mr J Mole and a representative from Brill Parish Council. She highlighted that the bus service in question only ran on a Friday to Bicester. Brill Parish Council had indicated that they were willing to contribute a sum towards the continuation of the service and Mr J Mole had informed the Cabinet Member at the meeting that he would go back and speak to his Parish Councillors regarding also making a contribution. The Cabinet Member was awaiting to hear from Mr J Mole.

Members then asked questions and the questions and answers are summarised below:

**Many Parish Councils have reported that they did not receive the letter advising of the bus changes. How do you decide who to consult with?**

Letters were sent to Parish, District and County Councillors and responses were received. The Cabinet Member said that she understood from the discussions that most Parish Councils have email addresses and that in future Parish Councillors will be contacted by post and email.

**Did you put up a notice in the actual buses whose services would be affected inviting comments?**

An information sheet was produced but this is a good idea which will consider for the future.

**Many villages have parish magazines or newsletters. You should consider including any information in these or putting a notice on the bus shelters.**

We are intending to put some small modifications on the website and keep local Members informed.

**The Workshop/seminar is very short notice. How are elderly residents expected to attend this in Aylesbury? Can you visit the Parishes?**

We will be attending Local Area Forums (LAFs) and involving users, Parish Councils and local Members where possible.

**Iver doesn't have a LAF, how do you propose to contact them?**

For areas without LAFs visits to the Parish Councils, or public meetings could be arranged.

**The decision making process needs to be made clearer to interested parties. In the recent bus consultation process it was not clear whether interested parties were being 'consulted' on the decision to cut bus services or whether the decision itself was already made and 'consultation' involved influencing the proposed changes.**

The criteria used are a guide and the service area continually receives feedback. There is further work to be done in this area.

**Was it right to cut £400k from bus services when there are other discretionary services which possibly should have been cut first. Hopefully Cabinet colleagues will learn from this exercise that the decision regarding what services should be cut should be considered in greater detail before any decisions are made.**

It is not an easy decision when cuts have to be made. Hopefully with LTP3 we have changed direction.

The Chairman commented that important issues were raised during the discussions and that with future pressures the County Council needs to make real informed decisions and not sweeping cuts to services budgets. He said he was encouraged that the Cabinet Member acknowledged the problems regarding the consultation process and that there should be greater involvement of the public. The Chairman asked the Cabinet Member if she could put some thoughts in writing regarding how consultations are going to move forward in the future.

Mrs R Vigor-Hedderly commented that the Councillor Call for Action which she had previously raised still had outstanding issues and asked where she goes from here. The Chairman said she should discuss this with the Cabinet Member for Transport and that if her issues remained unresolved she could raise the issues at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commissioning Committee.

**9. FUTURE DIRECTION OF COUNTRY PARKS AND GREEN SPACES**

The Chairman welcomed Mr M Woods, Group Manager, Countryside and Heritage.

The Chairman advised that the Officer was invited to attend as Members raised concerns at the previous meeting of the Commissioning Committee regarding Member involvement in the process of investigating alternative means of managing country parks and green spaces.

Mr M Woods introduced the report and advised that the Programme Board representing a range of stakeholders has been established to investigate alternative means of managing the Country Parks and Green Spaces. The Programme Board had met twice by the time the issue was discussed at the previous Commissioning Committee and the Programme Board asked that a report be compiled for Cabinet. Cabinet received the report of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment outlining proposals for the nominated Programme Board and agreed the recommendations.

The Project has been put forward to consider ways to manage Country Parks and Green Spaces and there are various possible outcomes. Market sounding and testing has been completed and meetings will be arranged with various organizations including the National Trust and other Trusts which operate in and outside of the County. It was noted that it is unlikely that a single organization will want to manage all the sites.

Mr M Edmonds advised that the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment had asked him to look at this issue as Cabinet Spokesman.

Members then asked questions and the questions and answers are summarised below:

**Milton Keynes Council have open spaces, many of which are run on a Trust basis of which Milton Keynes Council sit on. Would it be useful for the Commissioning Committee to talk to Milton Keynes Council so we are more informed of our options?**

The Chairman said that it might be too early for the Commissioning Committee to undertake this until some options are developed.

**Mansfield Farm in Iver has a tenanted farm what would happen to the tenanted farm should the Parish Council consider managing the land?**

This is not such a good example as it is in-hand woodland with limited public access. However, some of the sites are quite large and fairly costly to manage such as Black Park and Langley Park which make up most of Wexham Parish Council. In this instance it may not be appropriate for the Parish Council to manage as the Parks are so large. Parish Councils will be contacted individually where details of the project will be communicated to them and the question posed regarding whether they would consider managing any of the Country Parks or Green Spaces within their area.

**What is the total budget and current cost of running the Country Parks and Green Spaces?**

This information is in the report.

**Facilities Management is expensive. Are there any examples in other comparable authorities which have taken this option?**

There are a number of examples, for example: Torbay, Fife, Martonvale, Nene Park Trust and Milton Keynes Park Trust. Three of which are fairly close to Buckinghamshire, although they all have slightly different models. Might be interesting to invite Milton Keynes Partnership Trust to a future meeting of the Commissioning Committee.

**How can Members get involved? Country Parks and Green Spaces are well used and cost the County Council in the region of £450k and it is important that Members and residents are consulted and involved in the management of one of the County Councils prime assets before it goes into an unelected partnership.**

Members were drawn to the Communication Strategy on page 43 of the report. It was highlighted that the Communication Strategy sets out internal and external means of communication. Mr M Woods said he wanted to volunteer to attend a meeting of the Commissioning Committee to inform Members about what was happening. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment has also written to Members and District Councils twice, once in August 2009 and again recently. Another means of Member involvement is the Country Parks and Green Spaces Liaison Group which is due to meet next on 16 November 2009.

Mr M Edmonds invited Members to contact him should they have any contribution to make and said that local Members will be kept informed.

Mr M Woods said that the Programme Board itself has County Councillor membership



but that should Members feel it was necessary to have more they would need to discuss this with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment.

A Member said that they would like this issue to keep coming back to the Commissioning Committee.

The Chairman referred Members to the recommendations on page 26 of the report and asked Members of the Committee how they would like to be involved with or kept informed about the Project. The Chairman suggested that a Task and Finish Group could be set up to look at this issue and involve Members who are interested.

The Committee AGREED to set up a Task and Finish Group for Country Parks and Green Spaces to work alongside the Programme Board.

**Action: Policy Officer**

## **10. TASK AND FINISH GROUP WORK**

Members had received the draft scoping documents for the Task and Finish Group projects into Safeguarding Practices in Client Transport and the Examination of the Budget in Public.

Members NOTED the report and the Chairman asked that if any Member had any comments to forward them to Mr M Chard, Policy Officer.

The Chairman advised that the membership of the Task and Finish Groups was currently being arranged.

## **11. CAPITAL RECEIPTS - EVALUATION OF PROGRESS**

Mr F Downes, Cabinet Member for Resources and Mr G Morley, Strategic Property Group Manager attended the meeting regarding implementing the recommendations from the Capital Receipts review.

The Cabinet Member advised that the County Council is required to fund all borrowing it wishes to make and that surplus properties were disposed of to fund the Capital Projects which was sufficient until the credit crunch. Alternative methods to fund Capital Projects is now required and options are being considered. The County Council may have to cut back on Capital aspirations or move more boldly into borrowing.

The Committee was advised that the past 12 months had been difficult as developers were not developing and prices have decreased.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for a very comprehensive report but raised concern that there appeared to be a slippage on the Corporate Property Strategy and Capital Receipt Strategy. The Officer said that due to changes within Property Services there had been delay in bringing forward the Corporate Property Strategy and highlighted that the Strategy is more than just a Strategy it is a change in culture in how to deal with property.

The report has been to Chief Officers Management Team (COMT), Leaders Advisory Group (LAG) and following a small additional will be going to Cabinet in early January 2010. The document will provide the authority with a set of procedures in how to take forward the role of corporate landlord. However it was highlighted that once the procedures had been established the property market still played a vital role in the achievement of capital receipts.

Following discussion Members asked questions. The questions and answers are summarised below:

**Would the County Council evict tenants such as those in tenant farms or would the County Council honour the tenancy?**

At 65 a tenant farmer is required to give up the farm. The County Council is not in the business of evicting tenants and over the past 10 years a third of Agricultural land has been lost in this way. Tenant farmers may also be offered the opportunity to purchase the property at market value. There are also time limited leases and the tenant is clearly aware of the expiry date of the lease. The County Council may seek to sell a property when the lease is due to expire.

**Is the primary criteria to sell property or are you waiting for a plan for the Council? There must be consideration for the greatest possible return?**

Any possible changes are in the future and as part of the recommended proposals there will be a strategy. The County Council does not sell anything which has not already been declared surplus by the authority. The new strategy will allow the County Council to be more open.

From 1 April 2009 property owners become responsible for the rates payable. Before this the owner was not required to pay rates for empty properties, which is an important factor to consider as there are now cost implications for empty properties.

The Officer advised that when a service area no longer requires a property they approach property services for disposal. Difficulties arise however when the properties are not declared surplus as in some cases the service area receives income from subletting. This highlights a need for a Corporate Property Strategy.

**How professional and direct is your group going to be?**

In early April 2009 Property Services was restructured into Operational and Strategic areas. The Operational side deals with the general repairs of properties whilst the strategic core looks at the opportunities available and considers how they can be taken forward and professionals are used to prepare reports.

**Why is the County Council so afraid of borrowing?**

The County Council has no problem in borrowing provided as there is the revenue to support that borrowing. Last year the Council borrowed approximately £5m. It would be wrong to support the Capital programme by merely selling property. We are aware of the situation and looking at options.

**There could be a delay from when a property is declared surplus to when it is sold. What are the associated revenue costs such as boarding up, general maintenance, security and so on?**

Approximately £200k a year is retained for the demolition and maintenance of properties.

**With a change in the law regarding empty property rates are property services likely to hear about more previously unknown properties and are you well equipped to dispose of them?**

There is not an enormous number of empty properties which the Council do not know

about and an eye is kept on those not declared surplus. Where property is not declared surplus they usually have tenants. Some properties do not have tenants though as the service areas do not want to have tenants to generate rights.

**Is the Councils policy to sell surplus properties?**

Yes

**Do the receipts from sales go into the general pot?**

Yes

**Can disposals of Country Parks be ringfenced?**

The receipts from any disposals go into the corporate pot it is not the policy of the County Council to ringfence proceeds. Property is within the ownership of the County Council not the individual service areas.

**12. STATUTORY/MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY SERVICES REVIEW - PHASE 1**

Members NOTED the report.

**13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**

**That the press and public be excluded for the following item which is exempt by virtue of Paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual**

**14. CAPITAL RECEIPTS - EVALUATION OF PROGRESS - CONFIDENTIAL**

This item was dealt with in the public session.

**15. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2009**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2009 were confirmed.

**16. STATUTORY/MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY SERVICES REVIEW - PHASE 1 - CONFIDENTIAL**

This item was dealt with in the public session.

**17. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

The Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting and for all their contributions to discussions.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date for the next meeting is 8 December 2009 at 10am in Mezzanine Room 3, County Hall, Aylesbury

## CHAIRMAN

**Title:** Overview and Scrutiny Flood Management Briefing Paper  
**Author:** Duncan Laird  
**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2009

### Background

Please find responses to questions submitted by Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding flood management within Buckinghamshire. A presentation will be delivered providing background information to support this paper.

### Responses

#### **How have the Council and its partners acted to reduce the likelihood of flooding since 2007?**

##### *Buckinghamshire County Council*

- £200k funding has been secured to develop Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP) in High Wycombe and Chesham.
- The County's Resilience Team works in partnership and co-ordinates work streams with emergency services regarding flooding and severe weather emergencies.
- Transport for Buckinghamshire conducts ongoing highway gully and drain clearance and maintenance.
- A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has informed the Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework (LDF).
- County officers with flood management responsibilities have attended workshops and seminars to increase technical capabilities.
- Flood and weather warning information page on the Buckinghamshire County Council website in addition to guidance on developing community resilience plan.
- CCTV survey of Chesham culvert undertaken. Currently working with the Environment Agency (EA) to carry out structural repair work to reduce the risk of collapse and flooding.

##### *Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)*

- £325k has been secured for flood protection and resilience measures for 57 properties in Buckingham. The Environment Agency is providing funding for measures for a further 43 properties in 2010.
- Flood assessment studies have been completed of Leckhamstead, Little Horwood, and Padbury. Grant funding to deliver actions identified due in 2010.
- AVDC actively works with Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs), riparian owners and the community to reduce flood risk and improve flood resilience.
- AVDC organises and chairs a multi agency Aylesbury Vale flooding group. Flooding issues are discussed and work stream co-ordinated to reduce flood risk.
- Exercised powers under the Land Drainage Act to resolve some local flooding issues.
- A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has informed site allocations within the Aylesbury Vale Local Development Framework (LDF).

### *Wycombe District Council (WDC)*

- Worked with Parish Councils with flooding issue in their areas to develop Community Resilience Plans.
- Worked with the County's Resilience Team to produce a flood management plan for the River Thames
- Supported the Environment Agency in developing the Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme to protect 420 properties in Marlow
- Exercised powers under the Land Drainage Act to resolve some local flooding issues.
- Raised awareness with Councillors of the risk of flooding in the District. A Councillor has been nominated as a Member of the Local Government Flood Forum and has attended their meetings.
- WDC organises and chairs a multi agency Aylesbury Vale flooding group. Flooding issues are discussed and work streams co-ordinated to reduce flood risk.
- A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has informed site allocations within the Wycombe District Local Development Framework (LDF).

### *South Bucks District Council*

- A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has informed site allocations within the South Bucks District Local Development Framework (LDF).

### *Chiltern District Council (CDC)*

- An internal CDC flood management group has been created to address flood management issues within the District.
- A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has informed site allocations within the Chiltern District Local Development Framework (LDF).
- Updated information is provided on the CDC website for "Flood Watch".

### **What future plans are there to reduce the likelihood of surface water flooding?**

- The first Buckinghamshire Strategic Flood Management Group took place on 30th November 2009. The meeting was organised and chaired by Jim Stevens (Head of Transport for Buckinghamshire). The group was attended by representatives from the Environment Agency, Buckinghamshire District Councils and Internal Drainage Boards. The group discussed and moved forward actions on:
  - Developing Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) in High Wycombe and Chesham through a working group involving County and District representatives.
  - Creating a suitable a Buckinghamshire local flood management governance structure.
  - Identifying means to work in partnership to address issues raised by the Floods Bill.
  - Agreeing to meet three times a year to move forward the flood management agenda.

- The County Council's Resilience Team is developing a Community Resilience strategy working with parish and town councils to enhance the resilience of their communities, including specific hazards such as flooding.
- CDC currently investigating ways to record flood incidents on our GIS both from river and surface water.

### **What is the Council's stance on construction on flood plains?**

- The County Council takes guidance from Planning Policy Statement 15 "Development & Flood Risk": The County Council discourages development on flood plains where possible. When development is unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures must be implemented to lower the risk of flooding to an acceptable level.

### **What are the main barriers to reducing the likelihood of flooding?**

Please find a summary of the key issues and barriers relating to flood management below. Further explanation will be provided in the supporting presentation.

- **Governance** - Need to develop a local flood management governance structure including all relevant stakeholders with clearly defined responsibilities that addresses the requirements of the draft Flood and Water Bill.
- **Funding** - Total cost of implementing the draft Flood and Water Bill for English local authorities, according to the central government, is £72m per year. The Government claims implementing the Bill will be a "Spend to Save" initiative resulting in savings to local authorities of £84-£172m per year. The accuracy of these figures has been questioned by LGA.
- **Data collection & analysis** – Risk maps, drainage asset register, (including highways and private landowners), action planning
- **Staff resource** – Estimated 3-8 full time equivalents required per year to implement requirements of the Bill. There is currently no flood management post within County Council and limited posts within Districts
- **In-house Flood Expertise** – Lack of sufficient expertise within County and Districts to deliver requirements outlined in the draft Flood and Water Bill.

### **How can/do local people have an input into local flood management planning?**

- Districts councils have facilitated and led community involvement in flood management issues across the County. Examples include:
  - Supporting flood action groups in at risk settlements e.g. Buckingham, Padbury
  - Information campaigns to raise awareness with local communities
  - Consultation on the development of flood studies e.g. Leckhamstead, Little Horwood, and Padbury flood studies
  - Working through parish councils in at risk areas to address flooding
- The County Council's Resilience Team is developing a Community Resilience strategy working with parish and town councils.
- The guidance for developing SWMPs requires a significant amount of consultation with members of the public. The guidance will be followed when developing SWMPs in High Wycombe and Chesham.0

## Contact

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Buckinghamshire County Council

## Flood Management – An Overview

Duncan Laird  
8<sup>th</sup> December  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee



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Buckinghamshire County Council

### Key Drivers – Flood Management

- Government's "*Making Space for Water*" and "*Future Water*" strategies
- Summer floods 2007 & Pitt Review response
- EU Floods Directive
- Flood and Water Management Bill
- Climate Change - Adaptation



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Buckinghamshire County Council

### Types of Flooding

- **River** - occurs when a river cannot cope with the water draining into it from the surrounding land
- **Ordinary watercourse** – flooding from all watercourses that do not form part of a main river
- **Surface water** - when heavy rainfall overwhelms drainage capacity of the local area
- **Groundwater** - when water levels in the ground rise above surface levels
- **Sewer** - occurs when sewers are overwhelmed by heavy rainfall or when they become blocked
- **Coastal** - flooding that results from a combination of high tides and stormy conditions

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### River and Coastal Flooding – Properties at Significant Risk



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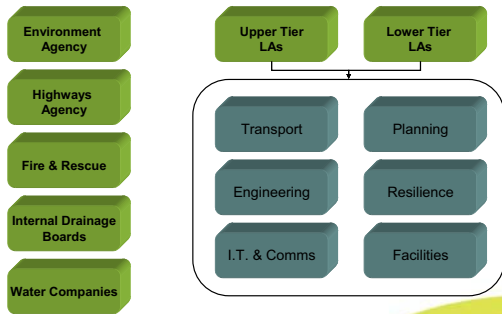
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### Key Flood Management Stakeholders



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### Flood Management Issues

- Current flood legislation is outdated with its roots in the 1930s and 1940s
- Responsibilities for different aspects of flood management in the UK are poorly defined often leading to lack of ownership and accountability
- No organisation currently has any clear responsibility for flooding from surface run-off or groundwater sources



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### Flood and Water Management Bill

- New government legislation to address key issues
- Currently being considered in Parliament – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> readings conducted in late November
- Clarification of roles and responsibilities
- Transfer of strategic **local** flood management responsibilities to upper tier and unitary authorities
- Broadening out traditional measures of defence, drainage and protection to a 'portfolio' of flood management measures:
  - Risk maps and risk management
  - Awareness campaigns
  - Community defences and adaptation

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### Continued & Revised Responsibilities

- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Strategic overview & co-ordination of local flood management - Ordinary Watercourse, Surface Water, Groundwater
  - Develop and own a Flood Management Strategy
  - Develop Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs)
  - Lead on Sustainable Drainages Systems (SUDS)
  - Continue to hold responsibilities for emergency planning
- District Councils
- Continue to hold responsibilities for emergency planning
  - Continue to use powers under the Land Drainage Act to resolve local flooding issues.
- Environment Agency
- Continued responsibility for flooding from main rivers
  - Support local authorities and provide guidance and tools

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### Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP)

- 3.8m properties in England at risk surface water flooding
- A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) is:
  - “a framework through which key local partners ...work together to understand the causes of surface water flooding and agree the most cost effective way of managing surface water flood risk”***
- Key elements of a SWMP:
  - Evidence base
  - Strategy
  - Deliverable action plan
- 77 settlements in England appraised as most susceptible to surface water flooding provided with grants to develop SWMPs

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### Top 10 "At Risk" Settlements SWF in Bucks

England Rank	Settlement	Properties at Risk
50*	High Wycombe	5,800
67*	Chesham	4,400
166	Aylesbury	2,000
176	Marlow	1,900
292	Amersham	1,100
390	Wendover	810
436	Chalfont St.Peter & Gerrards Cross	710
470	Princess Risborough	640
485	Bourne End & Flackwell Heath	610
575	Hazlemere & Tylers Green	480

\*SWMP grant secured

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### SWMP Development Grants – Southeast

County or Unitary Authority	Settlements covered	Number of prop's at risk	EK
Hertfordshire	St Albans, Watford	10,900	£200
Buckinghamshire	High Wycombe and Chesham	10,200	£200
Luton Unitary	Luton	9,500	£175
Reading Unitary	Reading	8,100	£150
Slough	Slough	7,000	£125
Hampshire County	Basingstoke & Farnborough	7,200	£125
Swindon Unitary	Swindon	4,800	£100
Surrey County	Woking and Byfleet	4,600	£100
London	Via the Drain London consortium	440,900	£3,200
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>503,200</b>	<b>£4,375</b>

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### Flood Management Funding




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## Challenges

- **Governance** - Need to develop local flood management governance structure with defined responsibilities
- **Data collection & analysis** – Risk maps, drainage asset register, (including highways and private landowners), action planning
- **Funding** - Total cost of implementing the Bill for English local authorities (RIA) = £72m per year – “Spend to Save” savings of £84-£172m – Figures questioned by LGA
- **Staff resource** – Estimated 3-8 full time equivalents required per year to implement requirements of the Bill - no current post within County Council and limited posts within Districts
- **In-house Flood Expertise** – Lack of sufficient expertise within County and Districts
- **Timescales** - SWMPs to be developed by Mar 2011

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## Questions

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