

## Inquiry Scope

<b>Title</b>	Flooding in Bucks 2013-14: Lessons Learned
<b>Signed-off by</b>	Warren Whyte, Chairman of ETL Select Committee
	Sara Turnbull, Head of Member Services (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
<b>Author</b>	Kelly Sutherland
<b>Date</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
<b>Inquiry Group Membership</b>	Proposal is that the Inquiry will be chaired by Warren Whyte supported by the full Committee membership
<b>Member Services Resource</b>	Member Services will provide the following officer support:  Sara Turnbull, Head of Member Services – Policy Advice and Report Quality Assurance Kelly Sutherland – Policy Lead & Project Management
<b>Lead Cabinet Member</b>	Mrs Lesley Clarke OBE, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment
<b>Lead HQ/BU Officer</b>	Mrs Karen Fisher, Strategic Flood Management Team Leader
<b>What is the problem that is trying to be solved?</b>	To ensure that lessons learned from the 2013-14 flood experiences will lead to improved responses from Buckinghamshire County Council and relevant partners in the event of flooding incidents in future.
<b>Is the issue of significance to Buckinghamshire as a whole?</b>	During the winter of 2013-14, a number of communities across the County were affected by surface water, fluvial and/or groundwater flooding – from Denham in the South to Aylesbury in the North.
<b>Is the topic of relevance to the work of BCC?</b>	Yes.
<b>Is this topic within the remit of the Select Committee?</b>	Yes.
<b>What work is underway already on this issue?</b>	The Flood Management Team have completed Section 19 investigations into flood incidents and have looked at preventative measures. The Resilience team have also assessed the Council's emergency response and have been involved in the multi-agency lessons learned process. Community Emergency Plans, held by Parish and Town Councils, have been encouraged as a result.
<b>Are there any key changes that might impact on this issue?</b>	Increased development across the County and associated drainage implications. Cutbacks to resources in the Public Sector. Climate change – possible increase in periods of heavy, prolonged rainfall. Approval of Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS)
<b>What are the key timing considerations?</b>	Would like the Inquiry's recommendations to be made by Winter 2015-16.
<b>Who are the key stakeholders &amp;</b>	Buckinghamshire County Council (incl TfB) District Councils

<b>decision-makers?</b>	Parish Councils Environment Agency Utility Companies e.g Thames Water Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
<b>What might the Inquiry Achieve?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate residents and elected members on how best to deal with Flooding emergencies</li> <li>• Ensure a more co-ordinated response between agencies/stakeholders in future.</li> </ul>
<b>What media/communications support do you want?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press release to launch inquiry evidence-gathering</li> <li>• Press release to promote the report once published</li> </ul>

### Evidence-gathering Methodology

<b>What types of methods of evidence-gathering will you use?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desktop research</li> <li>• Evidence gathering meetings</li> <li>• Visits to flood sites</li> <li>• Local Area Forums – use previous minutes/reports of LAF meetings in areas affected by Flooding</li> </ul>
<b>How will you involve service-users and the public in this inquiry?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite written submissions from any Bucks residents who experienced flooding in 2013-14</li> <li>• Invite representatives from Resident's Flooding Groups to meeting to give evidence and answer members' questions – possibly Marlow as an e.g. of River flooding, Hughenden Valley as an e.g. of sewage issues and The Willows as an e.g. of Surface Water flooding.</li> </ul>

### Outline Inquiry Project Plan

Stage	Key Activity	Dates
Scoping	Inquiry Scope Agreed by Select Committee – propose to hold an initial meeting late May to further refine the scope with members.	May/June 2015
Evidence-gathering	<b>21<sup>st</sup> July Select Committee Meeting</b> – Inquiry Evidence from BCC Officers – Karen Fisher, Andy Fyfe, rep from TfB. Setting the scene, understanding BCC's responsibilities around flooding and emergency response, what work has been done internally as a result of the 2013-14 flooding.	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2015

	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September Select Committee Meeting</b> – Inquiry Evidence from Residents and Key Partners – invite resident’s groups to talk about their experiences at the time of the flooding and afterwards, to highlight any issues. Then speak to reps from District Councils, Parish or Town Councils, Environment Agency, Utility Companies such as Thames Water, to understand their different duties and responsibilities and how they responded in 2013-14. Would they do anything different now as a result of lessons learned?	8 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
	Visits to Flood Sites?	August/September according to member availability
Developing Recommendations	Inquiry Group/SC meeting – Key Findings Report & Possible Areas of Recommendations considered	September 2015
	Testing & developing recommendations with stakeholders	Late September
Reporting	Final Inquiry Group report with recommendations completed (signed-off by SC Chairman)	October
	Report published for Select Committee	
	Select Committee agrees report to go forward to decision-makers	October/November 2015
	Cabinet/Partner considers recommendations	November/December 2015