

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **3 October 2012** at Loxley House

from 2.03 pm to 3.40 pm

- ✓ Councillor Parbutt (Chair)
Councillor Bryan
Councillor Culley
- ✓ Councillor Choudhry
Councillor Dewinton (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Hartshorne
- ✓ Councillor Healy
- ✓ Councillor Jenkins
- ✓ Councillor Khan
Councillor Klein
Councillor Molife
- ✓ Councillor Parton
- ✓ Councillor Watson
- ✓ Councillor S Williams

✓ indicates present at meeting

In Attendance

- Mr C Capewell - Team Leader, Bridge/Drains, Highway Design
- Mr P Daniels - Senior Drainage Engineer, Highway Design

- Mr D Woolley) Environment Agency
- Mr M Wray)

- Ms F Bull - Severn Trent Water

- Ms A Kaufhold) Overview and Scrutiny Review Co-ordinator
- Mr N McMenamin)

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bryan (other Council business), Culley, Dewinton, Hartshorne, Klein (other Council business) and Molife, and from Mrs B Denby, 3rd Sector Advocate.

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

30 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

31 THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT 2010

RESOLVED that the report of the Head of Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated be noted.

32 THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT 2010 - PRESENTATION

The Committee received for information a presentation provided by Mr C Capewell and Mr P Daniels from Highway Design Section, Nottingham City Council.

The information provided in the presentation included:

- arising from the findings of the Pitt Review into the severe flooding experienced throughout England and Wales in 2007, the City Council now had a new role as Lead Local Flood Authority, assisted by the Environment Agency which retained responsibility for main rivers and Severn Trent Water, whose remit remained the foul and surface water sewer network;
- among the responsibilities currently being undertaken or developed were the development of an Asset Register and local Strategy, the conduct of formal investigations under Section 19 of the Act, involvement in Regional Flood and Coastal Committees and the further development of partnership working protocols. These were particularly important, given that responsibility for flooding issues cut across a range of functions, including pollution control, climate change, parks and open spaces, planning and development management, highways and emergency planning;
- a breakdown of 2 major flooding incidents in June and July 2012, and their aftermath. Actions identified as working well included keeping watercourse grills clear, repeated clearing of gullies in known hotspot areas, good communications levels between partner agencies, and good cross-boundary partnership working with borough councils. Other measures, included the laying of new porous block paving, local floodgates on Council property and large kerb gullies, worked very well, with no flooding or standing water reported;
- communications with Nottingham City Homes, especially in respect of sandbag provision and gully cleaning, were highlighted as working less well, and action was being taken to improve lines of communication;
- arising from these major incidents, an updated hot spot list was being compiled, a revised road gully cleaning regime, including localised evening cleaning, had

been implemented, while consideration was being given to having flood protection equipment stored in secure containers on a locality basis.

During discussion the following comments were made and information was provided in response to questions:

- councillors acknowledged that gully cleansing was problematic in areas with narrow terraced streets, and welcomed a move to evening cleaning, as there was a citizen perception that gullies were not cleaned as often as was the case. It was confirmed that there was a correlation between flood risk areas and roads that were difficult to access for gully cleansing equipment;
- it was explained that a Nottingham-Derby-Leicester joint project on highway drainage had led to the development of a joint Good Practice Guide, based on pooled intelligence and expertise. Each city had conducted a benchmarking survey in 2011, which provided a sound basis on which to map objectives and priorities. Intelligence and data mapping on drainage was being constantly upgraded, with local knowledge formally captured, and this had revealed that not every gully was being cleaned every year, as was previously believed;
- Nottingham's gully cleansing performance compared favourably with that of Derby and Leicester, especially in terms of value for money, as Nottingham operated one-person crews, unlike the other 2 cities;
- the Environment Agency advised that a 'carrot and stick' approach was being adopted to help ensure that borough and district councils had local plans in place, in line with the legislation;
- Central government policy had moved from provision of match funding to 'payment by results', meaning that longer term funding was to be linked to the numbers of homes protected by flood alleviation programmes. This approach was being taken with smaller schemes for the first time, with contributions from businesses expected to benefit from such schemes.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the appreciation of the Committee for the information provided by Ms Bull, Mr Capewell, Mr Daniels and Mr Wray be recorded;**
- (2) that Mr Capewell circulate copies of the documents below to the members of this committee:**
 - (a) The 3 Cities Good Practice Guide;**
 - (b) The Core Cities 'Highway Drainage Benchmarking Survey';**
- (3) that contributors give consideration to engaging the City Council's Development Control Committee, via the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, to seek to 'mainstream' technological developments, such as porous block paving, into the planning process;**

- (4) that the Committee consider adding the following to the Committee's Work Programme 'How can the City Council's neighbourhood working model help inform the development and delivery of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems?'

33 PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY

Further to minute 27 dated 5 September 2012, consideration was given to a report of the Head of Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated.

The report was introduced by Ms A Kaufhold, Overview and Scrutiny Review Co-ordinator, who explained that a future agenda planning revision exercise had been conducted, from which a series of proposed outcomes, at Appendix 2B to the report, had been compiled. These proposals ranged from prioritising issues for consideration or requesting and compiling additional information for the Committee's consideration, to removing items from the work programme. The Committee's previous commitment to pilot the 'Hertfordshire' scrutiny model, where appropriate, was important for helping achieve timely scrutiny reviews in the future.

Ms Kaufhold also reported that, arising from discussions relating to the work programme and suggestions by councillors, further topics had been identified as potential items for review, including the Nottingham Growth Plan, neighbourhood working and structures and family support strategy.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the proposals for prioritising and managing the work programme as detailed at Appendix 2B to the report be approved;
- (2) that the following topics be added to the work programme for consideration at future Overview and Scrutiny meetings, as detailed at Appendix 3:
- The Nottingham Growth Plan;
 - Neighbourhood working and structures;
 - Family support strategy.

34 RESPONSE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES RELATING

RESOLVED that the response from the Director of Neighbourhood Services relating to ward councillor engagement in budget decisions and planning applications etc be noted.

35 CANCELLATION OF MEETING

RESOLVED that the meeting scheduled to take place on 7 November 2012 be cancelled.

