

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8 MARCH 2010

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

WIRRAL FLOOD GROUP – COMMUNICATION

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the progress made to date by the Wirral Flood Group specifically on the item of community group involvement relating to flooding.
- 1.2 The report seeks approval for undertaking a Wirral Flooding Awareness Event in Summer 2010.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that following my previous report to this Committee on 21 September 2009 a request was made as to how the Wirral Flood Group were going to communicate with the various existing community flood groups and other members of the public.
- 2.2 The issue of community group representation and general flood awareness was discussed at the Wirral Flood Group that was held on the 21 January 2010.

3.0 WIRRAL FLOOD AWARENESS EVENT

- 3.1 It was agreed at the Wirral Flood Group meeting of the 21st January 2010 to organise a Wirral flood awareness event for the Summer of 2010. The event will offer an opportunity for all residents on Wirral who are concerned about flooding to hear current information on flood prevention activities from all relevant agencies.
- 3.2 An invitation to this event will be offered to all known community flood group representatives and they will be asked how they would like to be involved in the Wirral Flood Group. It was felt that this would also give the groups an opportunity to engage with the respective agencies that work to reduce flooding on Wirral and also meet other residents who may have experienced similar flooding problems.
- 3.3 Currently, any domestic property that has experienced flooding and that is recorded on the Council's Reported Flooding Register (formerly the "Hot Spot" list) has been visited by a Technical Services Officer.
- 3.4 Further to this it was agreed that a letter would be distributed to residents who have experienced flooding highlighting actions they can take to protect their properties and mitigate the risk of any flooding. The letter will also communicate what actions the Council have taken in response to flooding and

alert them to the existence of a Wirral Flood Group and the forthcoming awareness event.

- 2.5 Members should also be aware that the primary responsibility for the warning of flooding rests nationally with the Environment Agency and they discharge this duty via a number of different methods most notably the Flood Warning Service.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All costs will be met from existing resources.

5.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct staffing implications.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSTMENT

- 6.1 There are no equal opportunity implications from this report.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As a result of this work both the residents that have experienced flooding and the other people who attend the flooding awareness event will be more aware of how to mitigate against it occurring and aware of the work that the council and other agencies are taking to address flooding in general.

8.0 HEALTH IMPLICATIONS/IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

9.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no implications under this heading.

10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

11.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no planning implications to this report.

12.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no implications under this heading.

13.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There are no implications under this heading.

14.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

14.1 The information contained within this report has a relevance to all Wards as flooding has previously occurred in many and has the potential to occur in all.

15.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 There are no background papers.

16.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

16.1 Committee is requested to:

- (i) Note the progress to date of the Wirral Flood Group;
- (ii) Endorse the proposal to hold a Wirral Flood Awareness Event in the summer of 2010.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES