Appendix F – Comments of Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)

21st January 2014

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Comments to Executive Board

The Scrutiny Board considered the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, as part of the council's budget and policy framework, at its meeting on 21 January 2014.

The Scrutiny Board would ask the Executive Board to take account of the following observations in finalising its recommendation to Council on adopting the Strategy.

General

Members of the Board broadly welcomed the document. They stressed the importance of maximising the combined resources available to address flood risk, in order to progress action on the priority measures listed in the strategy.

Statutory Role of Scrutiny

In accordance with scrutiny's specific statutory role in relation to flood risk management, the Scrutiny Board decided it would undertake an annual review of progress against the strategy, based on the Schemes and policies included in the List of Measures at Appendix C to the report and the eight key monitoring indicators listed in Section 7 of the strategy.

Recommendation – That Section 7 of the draft strategy is amended to incorporate an annual review of progress by the relevant Scrutiny Board.

Specific issues

Members welcomed the support that had been received from other local authorities for the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme bid.

The Board was concerned about the on-going issue of insurance costs for homeowners at risk of flooding.

Members stressed the importance of considering flood risk issues in relation to planning and development. Whilst it was acknowledged that developer contributions for new building could sometimes be key to funding improvements that would also benefit the existing local community, Members were also concerned about the potential impact of the number of planning applications in areas at risk of flooding.

The Board discussed the work of the gully cleansing team and the prioritisation of hotspots for more regular maintenance.