

## **Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)**

### **Flood Risk Management**

#### **Draft terms of reference**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires all lead Local Flood Authorities to review and scrutinise the actions of Flood Risk Management Authorities that may affect their local area.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) has been designated as the relevant Scrutiny Board to undertake this statutory scrutiny function for Leeds.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Board received briefings on the flood risk management function in March and October 2012. Arising from these briefings the Board decided to carry out some further in depth inquiry work with council services and partners.
- 1.4 It was agreed that this further work should focus on the following areas:
  - How well the relevant council services perform their respective roles;
  - The role of Yorkshire Water; and
  - The role of the Environment Agency
- 1.5 The authority is required to prepare a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which forms part of the council's budget and policy framework. If the draft strategy is at an appropriate stage of development, it will be considered by the Board as part of the inquiry in line with the budget and policy framework procedure rules.

#### **2.0 Scope of the inquiry**

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the work of the council and its partners to address flood risks in Leeds.
- 2.2 The Board hopes that its findings will provide a timely and positive contribution to the development of the city's flood risk management approach.

#### **3.0 Comments of the relevant director and executive member**

- 3.1 Scrutiny Board procedure rules require that the Board consults with the relevant Executive Member and Director on the terms of reference for its inquiries. Any views will be communicated to the Board.

#### **4.0 Timetable for the inquiry**

- 4.1 The inquiry will take place in spring 2013.
- 4.2 The inquiry will conclude with the publication of a formal report setting out the board's conclusions and recommendations.

#### **5.0 Submission of evidence**

##### **5.1 Session One – Scrutiny Board meeting 21 March 2013**

The evidence for this session will cover the role and contribution of the various relevant council services including the Flood Risk Management team, Highways and Planning to managing flood risk in Leeds.

##### **5.2 Session 2 – Scrutiny Board meeting 18 April 2013**

The evidence for this session will cover the role and contribution of Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency to managing flood risk in Leeds.

- 5.3 If the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is at an appropriate stage of development, it will be considered by the Board as part of the inquiry.
- 5.4 The inquiry will be supported by officers from City Development Directorate. Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency will also be invited to participate.

#### **6.0 Equality, Diversity and Cohesion and Integration Issues**

- 6.1 Where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by the Scrutiny Boards will include  
To review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the council's Equality and Diversity scheme, and on the council's Cohesion and Integration Priorities and Delivery Plan.
- 6.2 This inquiry is not specifically related to any of the council's Equality Improvement Priorities.

#### **7.0 Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 Following the completion of the scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.
- 7.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for monitoring the implementation of recommendations.

## **8.0 Measures of success**

- 8.1 It is important to consider how the Board will deem whether its inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 8.2 The Board will look to publish practical recommendations.

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