

 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 31 AUGUST 2021
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 13
Subject	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL FLOOD PLAN
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling Email: andrew.doherty@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Claire Hughes Business Manager – Corporate Responsibility Email: claire.hughes@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	A report inclosing the draft Cotswold District Council Flood Plan
Annexes	Annex A – Draft Cotswold District Council Flood Plan
Recommendation(s)	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the draft flood plan
Corporate priorities	Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standard Respond to the challenges presented by the climate change emergency
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Local Resilience Forum Civil Protection Team Flood Engineer Emergency Planning Team

1. MAIN POINTS

- 1.1** The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) requires Category One Responders to plan for emergencies.
- 1.2** As a member of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) the Council benefits from a number of county wide multi-agency Emergency plans, some of which are generic in form whilst others deal with very specific incidents (e.g. Animal disease). One of those plans is a Flood Plan.
- 1.3** In November 2017 Major General (retd) Tim Cross CBE was asked by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to conduct a review of multi-agency flood plans written by Local Resilience Forums. The review acknowledged that a great deal of experience has been gained from flood events and sought to identify good practice and investigate how this could be shared more consistently across the country. The review made a number of recommendations including creation of a specific emergency flood resilience standard and revised guidance and a framework on writing a multi-agency flood plan to ensure a consistent approach. In addition the Environment Agency will provide support by performing a health check on the multi-agency flood plans every three years. LRFs are required to submit their multi-agency Flood Plans to the EA for the first health check by 24th September 2021.
- 1.4** The LRF has developed a high level multi-agency Flood Plan which aligns with the Government's revised guidance and details the strategic response to a flood event. To support this strategic plan a flood plan template has been developed for completion by each district. These individual Flood Plans will then form annexes to the countywide plan.

2. COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL FLOOD PLAN

- 2.1** The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework to support operational and tactical response by the Council to river, surface water or reservoir flooding. The plan does not specifically cover flooding from sewers or burst pipes but elements of the plan can be activated if flooding from these sources occurs.
- 2.2** The plan covers all stages of the emergency response from early warnings and initial notification through to recovery and lessons learnt. It also contains relevant maps and an overview of the flood risk and potential impacts for various areas.
- 2.3** Whilst the plan does not require formal member approval it is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for noting and comment as part of the LGA best practice for Councillors on seeking assurance around the Council's ability to respond to emergency events.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None specific or arising from this report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The flood plan forms part of the Councils compliance with its duty to plan for emergencies under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 Without a flood plan the Council faces the risk of being unprepared to respond to a flooding event. Flooding is identified as a high risk to the County in Gloucestershire's LRF Community Risk Register.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1 Not required

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Climate change continues to impact on the weather making flooding incidents more regular and less predictable. A robust flood plan will assist the Council in being to respond to flooding incidents.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

8.1 None

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- None

These documents will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX during normal office hours for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting. Please contact the author of the report.

(END)