

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		PSEG/02/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	26 March 2015	
Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Management Task and Finish Group (Minute 8/ November 2014)		
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The Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Management Task and Finish Group has been making progress in its scrutiny investigation, and once it has completed gathering evidence then its findings and conclusions will be set out in a scrutiny report for the Committee's consideration. The terms of reference for the review are 'to consider the preventative measures available to the County Council that may be taken to enhance improvements in flood management across Essex, with particular emphasis upon the enforcement of third party responsibilities'.

Over the next month the Group has invited contributors to delve deeper into flooding enforcement and mitigation, how planning may contribute to flood mitigation, and ways of raising public awareness. It is hoped that the Group will then be in a position to reflect on what it has learned in order to reach some conclusions.

In the meantime it is considered from past experience that it is helpful if steps are taken to familiarise the full memberships of committees with the broader issues being investigated by task and finish groups prior to a committee's endorsement being sought for final scrutiny reports. Last May this Committee received a briefing on Flood and Water Management with the focus being on enforcement and preventative measures available to County Council. The Group's scrutiny report will be submitted to the Committee once the Group's investigation has been completed and will refresh understanding of those matters, and so it is not intended that the Committee revisit them at this time.

The purpose of bringing the scrutiny review to the Committee's attention today is to engage Members in the consideration of the roles of home and landowners in the mitigation of flooding. Often attention tends to focus upon identifying which public agency or utility should be resolving a flooding problem, but that is only a part of the whole picture as individuals too have legal responsibilities. The Group itself will take today's evidence into consideration when reaching its conclusions, and explore ideas for raising better public awareness of flood mitigation. Therefore it is important that the Committee as a whole takes part in cross examining contributors so that as much relevant information as necessary is obtained.

The questions that will frame today's briefing are:

1. What role do home and landowners have in terms of flood mitigation, and what are their third party responsibilities?
2. What action should home and landowners take in order to fulfil their responsibilities?
3. How are home and landowners likely to be aware that they have third party responsibilities?
4. If they fail to fulfil their responsibilities, what courses of action may be taken against them? eg by other individuals affected by their failure to take action , and by other agencies.

Flood Management Officers have been invited to the meeting to provide a briefing, and answer Members' questions.

Action required by the Committee at this meeting:

To consider the responsibilities of home and land owners in the mitigation of flooding.
