



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
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Date	16th June 2021
SUBJECT	Flooding Committee

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To consider whether Full Council wishes to establish a “Standing Committee” to respond to and proactively take forward flooding related issues or to establish a separate Advisory Committee (no decision-making powers) that reports into the Development Committee.
2. To advise Members that in establishing either option, all meetings would be held in public, convened by way of Summons and formally supported by the Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk.
3. To recommend that in determining Terms of Reference that membership consists of seven Members and a quorum of three.
4. To advise Members that having established such a committee, should the work of this Committee be completed, then it can be subsequently disbanded.

BACKGROUND

5. All flooding related aspects are currently considered by the Development Committee along with a myriad of other issues as evidenced by the Development Register of Outstanding Items.
6. The nature of issues that arise tend to be reactive and often lead to correspondence being submitted “after the event”
7. Whilst Todmoroden Town Council does not have any statutory responsibility in response to flooding, it nevertheless is extremely concerned for its residents and businesses about the impact of flooding. It has proactively sought to open up discussions with Calderdale MBC to adopt a more holistic approach to this issue and to also seek to involve agencies in discussion that could lead to more localised interventions.

8. As part of the Development Committees remit, it is difficult to give this important issue sufficient focussed attention and hence having established some willingness from Calderdale MBC to enter into discussions, it is felt to be of such importance that by establishing a Committee focussed specifically on this issue, progress can be made.

RESOURCING

9. There will be a need to formally support this Committee from either or both the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk.
10. Under current staffing provision this would be challenging as they both support the current Neighbourhood Plan process and the Assistant Town Clerk the Climate Emergency Committee in addition to the Development Committee.
11. However as the detailed Neighbourhood Plan work moves towards a conclusion over the next 6 months, other projects are delivered, and potentially increased staffing levels recruited, including dealing specifically with the Climate Emergency Committee and its Action Plan, more capacity should be created to support a Flooding Committee.
12. Should Members decide to establish such a Committee, initial meetings to determine Terms of Reference and to identify the issues to be considered can be held, and an Action Plan developed. However implementing the Action Plan will then require resource to be allocated.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

13. At this stage of consideration there are no direct financial implications. Future staffing need will be addressed as part of a review currently under way.

RECOMMENDATION

14. That Members consider whether at this stage they wish to establish a formal decision making Standing Committee or non decision making Advisory Committee.
15. That if deciding to form either of these options that membership be limited to seven members and a quorum of three.
16. That the balance of the Committee be 4 of the current administration and three others.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

17. Establishing a Standing Committee requires Full Council approval

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

18. There are none directly arising from this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

19. None from this report but any feedback may be considered.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

20. The work of any proposed Flooding Committee will have Climate Emergency as a continued theme .

IMPACT EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

21. None arising from this report.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

22. None

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Colin Hill