



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 4 October 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Operations

SUBJECT: DRAFT DERWENT CATCHMENT FLOOD
MANAGEMENT PLAN

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the recently published Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan (DCFMP) by the Environment Agency (EA), and to agree the Districts Council's response to the draft proposals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. That a Members seminar is set up at the earliest opportunity to enable the Environment Agency to brief Members on the draft Derwent Catchment Management Plan.
- b. Members and Officers consider what specialist support will be required to technically review the draft plan and associated documents.
- c. That a formal Council response is made prior to 31 December 2007.

3.0 BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

3.1 The DCFMP was discussed at the Full Council meeting held on the 6 September and was referred to the Policy & Resources Committee.

3.2 A Scrutiny Review of Land Drainage was undertaken by the Council in 2005 in response to a number of issues:

- concern about the future of Internal Drainage Boards
- concern about the impact that the current river maintenance regime had on flooding.

3.3 Following a seminar based on the final Scrutiny report, the Council agreed to sponsor a land drainage group. The group's remit was to make recommendations to promote sustainable land drainage for the benefit of the people of Ryedale, local businesses and the natural environment. This was to

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be achieved through action, jointly or separately, to alleviate flooding, improve river maintenance, and to seek joint funding for this purpose.

- 3.4 The first meeting of the group took place in April 2005 and was well attended with representation from the Internal Drainage Boards; the Pickering Flood Defence Group; the National Flood Forum; Ryedale District Council; the Environment Agency; North Yorkshire County Council; Yorkshire Water; and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The main issues for the group to initially address were identified as:

- River maintenance
- Flood catchment management plans
- Agri-environment grant initiatives
- Promoting involvement and discussion

- 3.5 At the January 2006 meeting of the Land Drainage Group the Environment Agency made a presentation on the development of a River Derwent Catchment Area Plan. The proposed plan would set out a broad programme of action to address river management and it was considered that this EA document would have a profound impact on the future management of the Derwent Catchment.

- 3.6 The Land Drainage Group was provided with an up-date on the development of the catchment plan by the EA in July this year. The next meeting of the group is scheduled to take place on the 2 October.

4.0 POLICY CONTEXT

- 4.1 Corporate Aim 4 – To have a clean and sustainable built and natural environment.

5.0 REPORT

- 5.1 The Environment Agency (EA) provided copies of the Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan (DCFMP) on the 4 September for consultation. The EA will be consulting with stakeholders on this draft plan over the next 3 months with the consultation period ending on 31st December 2007. (A copy of the draft plan is provided at Annex A)

- 5.2 Defra and the Environment Agency see the development of Catchment Flood Management Plans as a planning tool through which the Agency aims to work in partnership with other key decision makers within a river catchment area to explore and define long term sustainable policies for flood risk management. CFMPs are seen as a learning process to support an integrated approach to land use planning and river basin flood risk management.

- 5.3 The River Derwent catchment covers a large area from the North York Moors to the Humber Estuary and the draft document splits the catchment up into six smaller areas, reviews policy and suggest a number of actions as to how the policy can be implemented within each of the six areas.

5.4 The plan has been designed to provide broad scale ideas that will guide and enable solutions to be developed over 50-100 year time period. The DCFMP will be reviewed every six years to monitor its performance and to take account of new information that may influence the area. Potential effects of climate and land use change will be key factors in the ongoing development of the plan.

5.5 A timescale has been applied to the flood management actions, ranging from

Short timescale 0-5 years

Medium timescale 5 – 25 years

Long timescale 25 – 100 years

and the key objectives are to:

- 1) Reduce the risks of flooding to people, property and the environment;
- 2) Improve the quality of life in terms of amenity, recreation and access;
- 3) Protect and enhance landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the Derwent catchment;
- 4) Balance the needs of water users and improve water use management;
- 5) Limit and adapt to the effects of climate change;
- 6) Promote a sustainable and vibrant local economy.

6.0 OPTIONS

6.1 The Council has the opportunity to scrutinise and provide comments back to the Environment Agency. To support the consultation process Members should consider:

- 1) Inviting the Environment Agency officers to a Seminar at the earliest opportunity to enable the key points of the draft document to be clearly understood.
- 2) Members and Officers consider what specialist support will be required to technically review the draft plan and associated documents.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There is no provision within the Committees estimates to support additional expenditure.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 The risks of flooding have been clearly demonstrated in the Derwent catchment area over the last ten years. New flood alleviation schemes at Malton, Old Malton and Norton have significantly reduced the risk of flooding for our communities protected by these new schemes. However, further work will be required within the Derwent catchment area over the coming years to successfully manage the impact of climate change and land use.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 The Environment Agency have spent the last 18 months developing the Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan. The Council and other stakeholders now have the opportunity to review the plan and formally make representations on the draft plan by the end of December.

Background Papers: Catchment Flood management Plans – Volume 1 – Policy Guidance July 2004. (DEFRA/Welsh Assembly Government/ Environment Agency)

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact John Davison, Director of Operations if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The Officer can be contacted at Ryedale House, 01653 600666 ext 220 or email john.davison@ryedale.gov.uk