



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATE:	25 MARCH 2010
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT PHIL LONG
TITLE OF REPORT:	DRAFT DERWENT CATCHMENT FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Environment Agency on the 29 January 2010 launched a 12-week consultation period on the Draft Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan (DCFMP). The purpose of the report is to request member's views in order respond by the 23 April 2010 deadline.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Head of Environment prepare a response on the Draft Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan, the content to be confirmed with the Chair of Community Services prior to submission to the Environment Agency, taking into account the views of this Committee, other member responses and the response from the members of the Land Drainage Liaison Group.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The consultation draft sets out the Environment Agencies preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50-100 years As an area of significant risk from flooding it is essential that the Council robustly responds to the draft Plan, taking appropriate account of stakeholder partner's views.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 Members will be all too aware that the risk of flooding is significant within the Derwent region. Although many of the effects are the same, there are three different types of flooding that concern the Ryedale District, the main risk coming from river and surface water flows (Annex A).
- River (fluvial) flooding: Occurs as a result of water overflowing from river channels

- Surface water (pluvial) flooding: Occurs when natural and man made drainage systems have insufficient capacity to deal with the volume of rainfall and
- Groundwater flooding: When the level of water under ground rises above its natural surface.

REPORT

5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The DCFMP is a strategic management document used by the EA to understand the causes, size and location of flood risk in the Derwent Catchment. The plan will determine the EA's approach to flood risk management in different parts of the catchment effectively forming a framework, to guide future flood management activities.
- 5.2 Previous consultation took place in June 2009 and plans have been reviewed and updated to form the revised document in Annex B.

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.1 Community Plan - Landscape and Environment Action Plan - Safeguarding environmental quality including air, land and water
- 6.2 Council Plan 2009-13 - Corporate Aims – To have a high quality, clean and sustainable environment. These aims are underpinned by 3 strategic objectives, Objective 6 - Planning to adapt to Climate change and Objective 7 - To Improve the quality of our local environment and Objective 9 – To know our communities and meet their needs.
- 6.3 Local Development Framework - The need to reduce the need to travel, avoidance of flood risk and protection of the landscape are all key considerations that will influence the future planning strategy for the District

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 As part of the consultation all Ryedale members have been asked to submit their views on the DCFMP summary (Annex C). Due to the committee timescale it is envisaged that a number of responses will be submitted late and will have to be reported to members at the meeting.
- 7.2 In addition views have been requested from members of the Land Drainage Liaison Group comprising representation from District Council, NYCC, Internal Drainage Boards, Ryedale Flood Research Group and NFU. Responses that have been received are contained in Annex C.

8.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 8.1 The full document is over 700 pages long and can be reviewed on the EA's website www.environment-agency.gov.uk. Below are detailed some of the issues members may want to consider to include in the response to the EA.
- 8.2 The consultant hydrologist for the drainage boards who drew up the scoping document for the Channel Management study is preparing a detailed technical

response, which should be available for consideration at the meeting.

- 8.3 A key area of concern is the maintenance of rivers and watercourses and the impact that this has on flood risk and occurrences. It is considered likely that there remains a need for substantial dredging and proactive vegetation management in key areas.
- 8.4 The Council with the EA and Land Drainage Board and Scarborough Borough Council have funded a 3-year channel management study. The objectives of the pilot projects are to:
- Assess the effects of vegetation and sedimentation on water levels in the main rivers within the Vale of Pickering.
 - Assess the effects of maintenance of vegetation and sedimentation of the main rivers within the Vale of Pickering on ecological biodiversity.
- It is essential that the outcomes of this work are factored into the long-term system asset management plans to form part of a wider catchment management approach to flood risk management.
- 8.5 The DCFMP should balance the need to support a strong and efficient agricultural industry and the need for food production with the biodiversity and water control benefits that measures such as increased wetlands, flood storage areas etc could bring. Actions should be taken only where positive outcomes can be demonstrated in terms of protecting people, property and infrastructure.
- 8.6 The DCFMP makes no mention of defences for Pickering or Sinnington. Though the Council supports the Slowing the Flow project above Pickering there remains a compelling need to provide adequate engineered flood defences for these settlements. Within the plan it is unclear as to which sub area Pickering and Sinnington fall under, this needs to be qualified.
- 8.7 Additional comments members may want to consider:
- **Summary Document - Catchment Overview:** "Ryedale's" name is missing, it should be alongside Selby, Scarborough and York re the flow of the river Derwent
 - **Current and Future Flood Risk:** Given the level flooding events over the past 10 years; ie one every two years; the use of the term "a one percent annual probability flood" is at best misleading.
 - **The impact of climate change:** The sensitivity analysis carried out regarding climate change is particularly welcomed. The 20% projected increase in properties at risk highlights the urgency regarding the promotion of awareness, resilience and resistance measures for properties in the floodplain. This measure is strongly supported and Ryedale District Council would be keen to work with the EA to take this forward. Sandbagging of properties is reactive, costly and ineffective by comparison to more robust flood resilience and resistance measures.
 - **Malton, Old Malton and Norton flood defences:** The Council welcomes the fact that defences will be maintained, however the Council would need to be reassured that a 'strategic catchment wide approach' to flood risk management will counter the effects of climate change and would request that the defences be kept under review and improved if required.
 - **Flash flooding:** There have been a number of flash floods in small steep catchments, for example Helmsley 2005 and the summer floods of 2007, which have demonstrated the risks to people that may arise during such events. It is important that the risks faced in Rapid Response Catchments are understood and mitigated. The Council would support a sustainable balanced approach to

reduce surface water run off.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

- The impact and cost of flooding is significant to both property and the economic wellbeing of community.
- The cost of sandbagging and emergency response can be significant
- The impact of climate change has the potential to increase cost in future years

b) Legal

- None

c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)

- Danger to staff during flooding situations
- Disruption of service.
- Disruption to transport infrastructure.
- Environmental risk of increasing severity.

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Background Papers:
Draft Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
CD of full plan available on request