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Chief Executive

CABINET AGENDA

Date: **Wednesday 21st January 2015**

Time: **7.00pm – N.B. TIME**

Venue: **Council Chamber**

This meeting will be webcast live on the internet.

Membership:

Councillor Riley	Chairman - Leader of the Council
Councillor Sharp	Responding to Challenge
Councillor Stanley	Resources and Performance
Councillor Skipp	Environment & Leisure
Councillor Mrs Egan	Homes and Customer Engagement
Councillor Dick	Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Howard	Canvey Island, Floods and Water Management
Councillor Isaacs	Neighbourhoods and Safer Communities
Councillor Smith	Waste & Business Liaison

Cabinet Enquiries:
Reference:
Publication Date:

Ann Horgan ext. 2413
6/2014/2015
Tuesday 13th January 2015

**AGENDA
PART I
(Business to be taken in public)**

1. Apologies

2. Members' Interests

3. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2014.

4. Forward Plan

To review the Forward Plan

5. Public Health and Wellbeing

5(a) Community Safety Update

The Cabinet will be asked to consider a report.

(Report of the Cabinet Member Neighbourhoods and Safer Communities)

6. Environment

6(a) Extension Period of Flood Support Schemes - Update

The Cabinet will be asked to consider a report.

*(Report of the Cabinet Member Canvey Island, Flood and Water Management)
Cabinet Member Resources & Performance)*

6 (b) Notice of Motion Referred from Council – Request for Borough Warden to patrol Canvey Island Sea Front

The Cabinet will be asked to consider a report.

(Report of the Cabinet Member Environment & Leisure)

6 (c) Notice of Motion Referred for Council - Waterside Farm Skateboard Park request for Repair

The Cabinet will be asked to consider a report.

(Report of the Cabinet Member Environment & Leisure)

7. Transforming Our Community

7(a) Draft Flood Risk Management Plans

The Cabinet will be asked to consider a report.

(Report of the Cabinet Member Canvey Island, Flood and Water Management)

8. Efficient and Effective Customer Focused Services

9. Matters to be referred from /to Policy & Scrutiny Committees

10. Matters to be referred from /to the Statutory Committees

PART II

(Business to be taken in private)

(Item to be considered with the press and public excluded from the meeting)

There were no items known at the time of publication of this agenda



CABINET

17TH DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Riley, Chairman	Leader of the Council
Councillor Sharp	Responding to Challenge
Councillor Stanley	Resources and Performance
Councillor Skipp	Environment & Leisure
Councillor Mrs Egan	Homes and Customer Engagement
Councillor Dick	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Howard	Canvey Island, Floods and Water Management
Councillor Smith	Waste and Business Liaison

APOLOGIES: Councillor Isaacs.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: Acott, Barrett, Blackwell, Cole, Greig, Hart, Hurrell, Ladzrie, Letchford, Tucker, Varker and Wood.

74. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

75. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19.11.2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

76. FORWARD PLAN

To comply with regulations under the Localism Act 2011, the Leader of the Council presented a revised Forward Plan to the meeting which outlined key decisions likely to be taken within the next quarter 2014. The plan was reviewed each month.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure observed that reports were to come forward from Council for Cabinet to consider the budget implications of two Notices of Motion concerning the appointment of Wardens.

The Chairman of the New Local Plan Task & Finish Group, Cabinet Member for Waste and Business Liaison indicated that an update report would be made on progress on the work of the Group.

Resolved – To note and approve the Forward Plan.

77. LEISURE AND RECREATION STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered a report advising on the outcome of the consultation on a new Leisure and Recreation Strategy for Castle Point and the recommendations from the Environment and Scrutiny Committee following the Committee's examination of the draft Strategy.

Resolved:

To approve the Leisure and Recreation Strategy for Castle Point.

78. ACTION ON FLOODING – EXTENSION PERIOD OF FLOOD SUPPORT SCHEMES

The Cabinet considered a report advising of the extension period for certain flood support schemes. The Cabinet Member Canvey Island, Flood and Water Management reported that the extension was to cover the financial year 2013/14. As a result of the extension, residents affected by the events of August 2013 would be able to claim for financial assistance, subject to meeting certain criteria. The assistance available included:

- Council Tax or business rates relief – for a period of 3 months.
- Grants of up to £5,000 to fund flood resilience works.

Full information was available on the Council's website and would be provided in printed copy on request for those residents without internet access. Residents were invited to call the First Contact team for assistance. The schemes were being promoted and to date up to 50 enquiries had been received

The Government had asked Local Authorities to let them know of the number of properties which were affected by 19.12.2014 which was a very tight deadline and whether the Council wished to make a claim under the scheme.

The Government was to be informed of the Council's intention to claim under the schemes and to seek an extension of the scheme to cover residents affected by the floods of 20.7.2014 as unfortunately the scheme did not cover those residents who were flooded in July 2014. The Cabinet Member would provide a further update at the next meeting.

Resolved: To note the report and endorse the action being taken.

79. SUSPENSION OF PARKING CHARGES DURING THE FESTIVE PERIOD

The Cabinet received a report seeking approval to the suspension of car parking charges at the Council operated Town Centre short stay car parks from 20th December until 28th December 2014.

Resolved:

To approve the suspension of car parking charges at the Oak Road, Rectory Road, Richmond Hall and Essex Way car parks during the period 20th December until 28th December 2014.

80. REGENERATION OF HADLEIGH TOWN CENTRE – HADLEIGH ISLAND GATEWAY SITE AND CASTLE LANE CAR PARK SITE

The Cabinet considered a report informing the Cabinet of the progress being made with the ambitions of the Castle Point Regeneration Partnership to regenerate Hadleigh Town Centre. In particular it informed the Cabinet of a marketing campaign seeking expressions of interest for the Hadleigh Island Gateway Site, involving the Council's land at the former Crown Public House.

It also advised the Cabinet of an approach made by a local business seeking to expand its operations in Hadleigh by acquiring a parcel of land part of the Castle Lane Car Park for an extension to its premises.

Resolved:

1. To note the current initiatives being explored to regenerate Hadleigh Town Centre.
2. To authorise the Head of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods to commence a marketing campaign with a view to seeking expressions of interest from developers to redevelop the Hadleigh Island Gateway Site which includes the Council's land at the former Crown Public House.
3. To authorise the Head of Law to respond favourably, without prejudice and subject to contract to the request from a local business to acquire the parcel of land which forms part of the Council's land at the Castle Lane Car Park site, subject to valuation, upon such terms and conditions as the Head of Law considers appropriate and not less than the District Valuer's valuation. To be ratified by Council.

81. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Cabinet considered a report presenting the latest position in relation to the General Fund Financial Forecast for the period 2014/19. The report was intended to provide Cabinet with the latest information on the future predicted cost of the Council's current spending plans; report on current performance in respect of the current budget and update Cabinet on developments of a financial nature, which might impact on the Council's financial plans.

Resolved: to note report.

82. MATTERS TO BE REFERRED FROM/TO POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Cabinet considered a report advising on the outcome of the consultation on a new Leisure and Recreation Strategy for Castle Point and the

recommendations from the Environment and Policy Scrutiny Committee at Item 6 (a) Leisure and Recreation Strategy. Minute 77 referred.

83. MATTERS TO BE REFERRED FROM /TO THE STATUTORY COMMITTEES
There were no matters.

Chairman



Castle Point Borough Council

Forward Plan

JANUARY 2015

CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN

JANUARY 2015

This document gives details of the key decisions that are likely to be taken. A key decision is defined as a decision which is likely:-

- (a) Subject of course to compliance with the financial regulations, to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates subject to a threshold of £100,000; or
- (b) To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards in the area of the local authority.

The Forward Plan is a working document which is updated continually.

Date	<u>Item</u>	Council Priority	Decision by Council/ Cabinet	Lead Member	Lead Officer(s)
January 2015	<u>Draft Flood Management Plan Consultation</u>	Environment Transforming Our Community	Cabinet	Canvey Island, Floods and Water Management	Head of Neighbourhoods & Regeneration
February 2015	<u>Treasury Management Reports</u>	Efficient and Effective Customer Focussed Services	Cabinet	Resources & Performance	Head of Resources
February 2015	<u>Budget and Policy Framework</u> To consider and make recommendations to Council on the Council tax and budget setting	All	Cabinet/ Council	Resources & Performance	Head of Resources
February 2015	<u>Housing Revenue Account Rent Levels 2015/2016 etc</u>	Transforming Our Community Efficient and Effective Customer Focussed Services	Cabinet	Homes & Customer Engagement	Head of Housing & Communities Head of Resources

Date	<u>Item</u>	Council Priority	Decision by Council/ Cabinet	Lead Member	Lead Officer(s)
February/ March 2015	<u>John H.Burrows</u> Report back on investigations from Place and Communities PSC	Environment	Cabinet	Environment & Leisure	Head of Environment
March 2015	<u>Financial Update</u>	Efficient and Effective Customer Focussed Services	Cabinet	Resources & Performance	Head of Resources
March 2015	<u>Review of Equality Scheme Objectives</u>	Efficient and Effective Customer Focussed Services	Cabinet	Homes & Customer Engagement	Head of Law
April 2015	<u>Resources Strategies : To note revisions</u>	All	Cabinet	Resources & Performance	Head of Resources

CABINET

21st January 2015

Subject: Update on Safer Communities Initiatives

Cabinet Member: Councillor Isaacs - Neighbourhoods and Safer Communities

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- 1. Purpose of Report**
To inform Cabinet on current community safety initiatives carried out by, or supported by the Council.
 - 2. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives**
This report is linked to the Council's Priority Public Health & Wellbeing.
 - 3. Recommendation**
That Cabinet note the contents of this report.
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4. Background

The Council is an integral partner in a number of key partnerships across the Borough.

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Castle Point and Rochford works as an overarching strategic body ensuring the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy. In particular the "Feeling Safer" ambition involves the police, probation officers and other partners.

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory partnership established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is a partnership between the police, local authorities, the probation service, health authorities, the voluntary sector, local residents and businesses. The Council is a leading partner in the Castle Point and Rochford CSP.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on all Council employees to have regard to the safety and well-being of children in the course of their Council duties.

The Council also has a duty to protect vulnerable adults, who are people aged 18 and over receiving care, whether residential or at home, as well as those who require assistance in the conduct of their affairs and those who have been detained, as all these groups are at risk of abuse. In many cases abuse

of vulnerable adults may result from their disability, mental health, age or illness.

5. Progress and Activities

5.1 Safeguarding Audit

Along with all other local authorities and public sector providers, the Council is currently completing a safeguarding audit. There are a total of seven categories on which the authority compliance is scored. Standards within the audit include:

- Senior level commitment to safeguarding, and accountability
- Policies and procedures
- Safe recruitment and employment practices, staff induction and training
- Strategies in place relating to domestic abuse, honour based violence, Prevent (the Counter Terrorism Strategy), child sexual exploitation.
- Inter-agency working and information sharing

The results of the audit will be reported back to Members in due course.

5.2 Local Strategic Partnership Community Information Day

The LSP is holding its annual Community Information Day on **Saturday 24th January** 11am – 2pm at Runnymede Hall, Thundersley. This free event showcases partner agencies and the services and help available for our residents across the borough. Of particular note this year are:

- FREE blood pressure checks from the NHS
- FREE cycle tagging from the Community Safety Partnership / Essex Police
- FREE dog chipping – carried out by Acres Way Kennels

All are welcome to attend

5.3 Community Safety Partnership Funded Projects

The CSP funding, received from the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Office to address local community safety issues, was awarded to the following schemes which are currently being carried out across the Borough:

- **Crimestoppers Domestic Abuse Campaign** – specially created publicity material to encourage reports of domestic abuse to the confidential hotline & website.
- **Trading Standards Marketing Fraud Prevention** – home visits by the National Scams Team to elderly residents in the Borough already identified as being on a "scams list" as repeat victims of scams.

- **CAVS befrienders burglary prevention initiative** – training for befrienders and supply of burglary prevention advice and packs to the potentially vulnerable residents that they visit.
- **London Theatre Bus Company Alcohol ASB school workshops** – senior school workshops highlight the risk and harm of alcohol related ASB.
- **Children’s Centre Domestic Abuse Training** – Accredited training for children’s centre staff to help identify, assist and signpost victims of domestic abuse. Followed by a campaign in the centres to encourage reporting.
- **CAB Offender Advice Service** – Specialised advice for offenders referred by probation service etc to help and assist with rehabilitation.
- **Mediation for anti-social behaviour (ASB) cases** – Free specialist mediation for neighbour disputes and other issues that lead to ASB.
- **Free small appliance electrical testing** –PAT testing in the homes of over 65yr olds or those needing other care to prevent accidental fires and promote home safety. **Appointments still available.**
- **Sanctuary Scheme** – security improvements to the homes of high risk domestic abuse victims, allowing them to feel safer in their properties, and in some cases, avoid becoming homeless. 15 victims have been assisted so far this year in Castle Point, with improvements ranging from simple additional locks on windows and doors, right through to creation of a “safe room” allowing the victim time to ring the emergency services should the perpetrator access the home. All improvements are carried out following a visit by the police crime prevention officer.

5.4 **2015/16 Funding for CSP**

Levels of funding for CSPs was recently reviewed by the PCC’s office and the revised methods of calculation will provide Castle Point with a slightly higher amount of funding next year (£16,000 compared to £13,000 this year).

5.5 **Outreach work by Legacy XS**

The Council has given permission for the local group Legacy XS to carry out outreach work on areas of council land with activities such as their football cage.

6. **Corporate Implications**

(a) **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

(b) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

(c) Human Resources and Equality Implications

There are no human resource or equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

(d) Timescale for implementation and Risk Factors

The projects described in this report are on-going matters.

7. Conclusions

The Council continues to carry out regular engagement on a variety of matters to ensure the safety of communities in Castle Point.

8. Background Papers

None.

Report Author:

Melanie Harris - Head of Partnerships and Safer Places.

CABINET

21st January 2015

Subject: Extension Period of Flood Support Schemes – Update

Cabinet Member: Councillor Howard – Canvey Island, Floods and Water Management

Councillor Stanley – Resources and Performance

1. Purpose of Report

To provide an update to Cabinet on the Council's actions in relation to the extension of the government flood support scheme which was subject to a report to Cabinet in December 2014.

2. Links to Council Priorities

This report is linked to the Council's aim for the delivery of the Council's priorities and objectives regarding the Environment.

3. Recommendation

That Cabinet note the content of this report.

4. Background

4.1 Cabinet were previously advised that the Government funded Flood Support Scheme had been extended to include the period 1st April 2013 to 4th December 2013, which may be of assistance to residents who were affected by flooding in August 2013.

4.2 The Council was required to provide the following information to DCLG by the 19th December if it wished to submit a claim under the scheme:

- Confirmation of intention to claim financial support and details of the scheme/s claiming compensation under.**
- The total number of households flooded – where water has entered the property at the ground level – between 1st April and 4th December 2013.**
- Of those, the number of households (if any) where people have been unable to return home.**
- The total number of businesses flooded between 1st April and 4th December 2014.**

- The date(s) on which such flooding occurred and a brief description of the nature and cause of the flooding (e.g. tidal, pluvial, fluvial).

4.3 The elements of the scheme are summarised in Appendix 1 of this report.

5. Intention to Claim

5.1 The Council has sought to raise awareness of the scheme extension through various means including a press statement, social media and announcement/reports to Council and Cabinet in December 2014.

5.2 The Council's website includes a section dedicated to the scheme and which provides information, guidance and contact information for those residents who were affected by flooding during the extended period of the scheme. The guidance sets out clearly the criteria to be met and the process which will be applied in order to comply with the national scheme.

The website link is as follows: www.castlepoint.gov.uk/flood-support-schemes

5.3 The Council advised DCLG of its intention to claim under the following elements of the scheme on 18th December 2014, and at the same time requested that the scheme was further extended to include the events of July 2014:

- Council Tax Rebate
- Business Rates Rebate
- Repair and Renewal Grant

5.4 The full letter is reproduced at Appendix 2.

6. Residents Expressions of Interest

6.1 At the time of writing this report, the Council has received 26 expressions of interest and general enquiries from residents of the Borough, 9 of which have resulted in an application for funds under the Repair and Renewal Grant. Unfortunately, as the scheme currently stands, there is only limited time during which residents may take advantage of the scheme. This point has also been raised in the letter to DCLG and an extension requested.

6.2 There have been no new claims for Council Tax or Business Rates Relief although a number of residents were eligible, applied and received an appropriate Council Tax Discount at the time.

7. Corporate Implications

a. Financial implications

The cost of the scheme will be recovered in full from central government.

The Council has not yet received full scheme guidance from DCLG and at the time of writing this report it is not known at which stage payment under the grant scheme may be made by the Council to residents, or what the process will be for recovering the Council's costs. An enquiry was made to DCLG prior to the Christmas break.

b. Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

c. Human Resources and Equality implications

None arising directly from this report.

8. Timescale for implementation and risk factors

The Council has until the end of March 2015 to submit a claim to DCLG (please see 7a above). In order to enable this deadline to be met, residents have until the end of January to submit an application or for new works to be completed.

An extension to this deadline has been sought.

Background Papers:

- DCLG - Letter to Chief Executives dated 28th November 2014
- Essex Local Authorities websites
- Cabinet Report – December 2014
- Letter to Department for Communities & Local Government – 18th December 2014

Report Author: Chris Mills – Head of Resources

Key Elements of the Government Funded Flood Support Scheme

1. **Council Tax Flood Relief Discount:** Council Tax flood relief discounts for homeowners whose homes were significantly flooded at any time between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, where the property became uninhabitable.
 - Where the impact of the flooding was minimal and access or use of the property was not adversely affected, a discount will not be provided.
 - The Council cannot offer relief for flooding of gardens, garages or other outbuildings.

2. **Business Rates Relief Scheme:** Business properties that were flooded may be eligible for 100% business rate relief for three months, if they were adversely affected by flooding between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014.
 - Business rates flood relief can be applied to all types and uses of non-domestic business premises.
 - Where the premises were flooded in whole or in part as a result of adverse weather conditions on that day.
 - As a result of the flooding at the premises, the business activity undertaken at the premises was adversely affected.
 - The rateable value of the business premises on that day was less than £10 million.

In considering whether the business activity has been adversely affected, the impact of the flooding in the full context of all business activities undertaken at the premises will be considered. Very small or insignificant impacts will not be considered. Relief is for the impact of flooding as a result of the adverse weather conditions only.

3. **Severe Weather Recovery Scheme (communities' element)** - to support local authorities with the costs associated with impacts on local communities.
 - The communities element of the grant only applies where at least 10 properties in total have been recorded as affected (water having entered the property).
4. **The Repair and Renew Grant (RRG) scheme** - to provide grants of up to £5,000 to homeowners and businesses that had been flooded during the period to implement a wide range of flood resistance and/or resilience measures to minimise the impact of any future floods.

The RRG does not provide funding to support general repairs arising from flood damage, or to cover insurance excess payments. At present all RRG claims have to be installed and invoiced/paid by 31st March 2015.

5. **Business Support Scheme** – which provides hardship funding to businesses affected by the floods.

Eligible businesses are those that have sustained hardship and significant loss of trade as a result of the floods, but it is not to be used for rewarding poor business practice (e.g. if a business has not put any insurance arrangements in place) or for routine business expenses or costs that are recoverable elsewhere.



benfleet | canvey | hadleigh | thundersley

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Neil O'Connor
Department for Communities & Local Government
2 Marsham Street
Fry Building
2nd Floor NW
London SW1P 4DF

Ref: DM/AH/KS

18 December 2014

Dear Mr O' Connor

2014 Recovery – Severe Weather and Flooding

Thank you for your letter dated 28th November 2014 advising of the Government's decision to extend support to areas affected by severe weather and extending the eligible period for certain schemes to cover the entire 2013/14 financial year.

However may I make some observations on this announcement to highlight the unfairness of the schemes for the community of Castle Point and seek a further extension of the eligible period to address this. I would also seek an extension of the eligible period to deal with the practicalities of administering the schemes.

The Borough of Castle Point has been affected by two severe rainfall flood events on 24th August 2013 and 20th July 2014. While residents and businesses affected by the severe flood of 24th August 2013 will be caught by the extension and will qualify for assistance those affected by the event of 20th July 2014 will not.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Liz Truss has been made personally aware and taken great interest in the flood event of July 2014. Colleagues within your Department and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are well aware of the serious flood event suffered on Canvey Island in July. The Lead Local Flood Authority, Essex County Council have issued a Section 19 report following the flood and the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Mark Walport has conducted a separate review and made a number of recommendations into the events.

It is estimated that over 1000 homes suffered flooding to ground floor level in July 2014. This is based on evidence derived from applications from the Council's own Council Tax Discount Scheme implemented in August this year and on site investigation on Canvey Island.

While work is underway through a multi-agency group to identify and address the shortcoming of the drainage system on Canvey Island – the solution will take time and funding to implement. In the interim if the Repair and Renew Grant could be extended this would assist residents to improve the resilience of their properties in the short term.

The Council would also be grateful if an extension could be made to deal with the practicalities of administering the schemes – the period for submission is short claims are required by the

beginning of February - this gives residents very little time to make their claims and the period required to assess, approve and submit a claim to Government by the end of March is unrealistic and raises doubt as to whether there is genuine wish on the part of the Government to support the community in recovering from these flood events.

I should be most grateful if consideration could be given to these requests.

In the meantime please accept this letter as confirmation of Castle Point Borough Council's intention to claim financial support arising from pluvial flooding for the following schemes:

Council Tax Relief Scheme
Business Rate Relief Scheme
Repair and Renew Scheme

The Council is promoting these schemes to residents and is seeking to establish the information requested regarding the number of households and businesses flooded.

As mentioned earlier we have robust evidence to support the number of properties flooded in July this year - over 1000 properties. However as these investigations continue more evidence is emerging of the extent of the flooding – for a number of reasons such as difficulty in securing insurance cover residents are reluctant to come forward with this information. It is only as a result of direct contact has it been possible to arrive at this figure.

We are aware that a number of these properties were also flooded in August 2013 and will qualify for assistance.

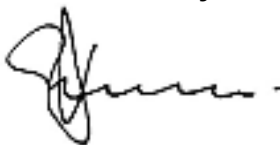
I will arrange for the information to be passed to you as soon as possible.

I look forward to hearing from you as to whether the schemes can be extended beyond the financial years.

The Contact Officer for Castle Point Borough Council is:

Miss Chris Mills, Head of Resources:
cmills@castlepoint.gov.uk
Telephone: 01268 882215

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Marchant', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Marchant
Chief Executive

CABINET

21st January 2015

**Subject: Notice of Motion to Referred from Council – Request for
Borough Warden to patrol Canvey Island seafront
Cabinet Member: Councillor Skipp – Environment and Leisure**

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the Motion put to Council on 10th December 2014 requesting the Council to delegate a Borough Warden to patrol the seafront and to fine anybody who does not clear up after their dog has fouled the seaside pathway and the grassed areas on the seafront.

2. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives

This request links with the Council's Environment objective.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet notes the content of this report and recommends to Council that no further action is required as the Council already has suitably trained staff authorised to serve fixed penalty notices where offences are observed whilst undertaking other work activities.

4. Background

4.1 The Motion put to Council by Councillor Anderson and seconded by Councillor Palmer was that:

"Many local residents who live near Canvey Island seafront have asked if Castle Point Borough Council will delegate a Borough Warden to patrol the seafront and to fine anybody who does not clear up their dogs fouling the seaside pathway, and the grassed areas on the seafront.

I call upon this Borough Council to carry out their responsibilities to residents, to send a Warden to patrol the seafront, and fine those residents who do not follow the dog fouling regulations of clearing up after them".

- 4.2 The Motion was adjourned without debate to the next Council meeting to enable Cabinet to consider whether it wishes to report on the matter. Council Procedure Rule 13 Motions on Expenditure applies.
- 4.3 Dog fouling as well as being unpleasant and unsightly also presents a risk to public health. The Council is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership through a combination of education programmes and enforcement activities. Covert and overt patrols are undertaken in areas which are known to be dog fouling hotspots. Whilst overt patrols in particular, act as a deterrent to would be offenders, in practice offences are rarely observed and fixed penalty notices served, as dog owners are more inclined to pick up after their dog has fouled if other people are in sight.
- 4.4 The Council made a Dog Control Order in 2011 under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which makes it an offence for persons in charge of a dog to not pick up dogs mess after it has fouled. This applies to all land in the open to which the public have access, with or without payment and includes the foreshore.
- 4.5 Whilst the majority of dog owners in the Borough act responsibly picking up after their dogs a small minority of dog owners see the Borough's public spaces as one big toilet; this Order has been brought in to ensure those irresponsible persons are made to pay for their failure to act.
- 4.6 The Head of Environment using her delegated powers has authorised Council Officers who are suitably trained and regularly patrol/visit public places e.g. parks and open spaces, the foreshore and public highways to serve fixed penalty notices where dog fouling offences are observed in the course of their other work activities.
- 4.7 Since the introduction of the Dog Control Order there has been close and effective collaborative working with the Canvey Island Town Council. The Community Warden previously employed by the Canvey Island Town Council was authorised by the Head of Environment once she had undertaken the necessary training, to served fixed penalty notices on behalf of this Council. The two new Wardens employed by the Town Council will also be authorised to serve fixed penalty notices once they have received the requisite training required of Parish/Town Council employees in the Approved Code of Practice.
- 4.8 This Council provides a network of dog and litter bins across the Borough all of which can be used to dispose of dogs mess. The Council provides free dog bags for dog owners to use so there really is no excuse for dog owners not clearing up after their dog has fouled.
- 4.9 In addition, Pinnacle, the Council's Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Contractor is responsible for keeping public highways and Council owned recreational land (including the Canvey foreshore) clean throughout the year and clearing up after irresponsible dog owners.
- 4.10 For the period 01/04/14 to 31/12/14 the number of borough wide dog fouling complaints reported by the public was 14; this compared to 52 for the same

period the previous year. Also, the number of resident requests for Dog Fouling Notices to be put up has decreased from 24 during the same period in 2013 to 19 in 2014.

- 4.11 In the case of dog fouling it is common for people to perceive the problem to be much greater than it actually is. This is probably due to its unpleasantness and the associated public health risks it presents.

5. Corporate Implications

(a) Financial Implications

None associated with this report as the Council already has suitably trained staff authorised to serve fixed penalty notices where offences are observed whilst undertaking other work activities.

In practice the number of fixed penalty notices that are served in any one year is low but any income from fixed penalty fines is used to offset the cost of providing the associated services.

(b) Legal Implications

Persons committing an offence can be served with a fixed penalty notice for £80 or be prosecuted. Payment of a fixed penalty fine within 14 days offers the offender the opportunity to discharge the offence. Failure to pay the fine within this time period is very likely to result in prosecution, and if found guilty, would result in the offender having a criminal record and being faced with a fine of up to £1000.

(c) Human Resources and Equality Implications

(d) Human Resources

None associated with this report as the Council already employs duly authorised staff to fine irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dog has fouled on any land open to the public, with or without payment across the whole of the borough.

(e) Equality Implications

The Dog Control Order provides exemptions in particular cases for registered blind people, and for deaf people and for other people with disabilities who make use of trained assistance dogs.

6. Timescale for implementation and Risk Factors

Not applicable.

Background Papers

The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Borough of Castle Point) Order 2010

Report Author: Trudie Bragg, Head of Environment

CABINET

21st January 2015

**Subject: Notice of Motion Referred from Council – Waterside Farm
Skateboard Park Request for Repair**
Cabinet Member: Councillor Skipp – Environment and Leisure

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the Motion put to Council on 10th December 2014 in respect of the skateboard park at Waterside.

2. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives

This proposal links with the Council's Environment priority.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet notes the content of this report and decides if it wishes to report on the matter.

4. Background

The Motion put to Council by Councillor Grace Watson and seconded by Councillor Neville Watson was that "We call upon this Council to make the necessary repairs to the Skateboard Park at Waterside which sadly has fallen into Disrepair."

The Motion was adjourned without debate to the next Council meeting to enable Cabinet to consider whether it wishes to report on the matter. Council Procedure Rule 13 Motions on Expenditure applies.

The skateboard park is a very large, well-used facility which attracts users from all over the Borough as well as from further afield. The layout of the park suits skateboarders as well as scooter and BMX riders.

Independent specialist advice has confirmed that the ramps have been maintained to a high standard with the surfaces being kept clean, free from

litter and regularly painted in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

It has become apparent within the industry though that the design of the steel ramps by this particular manufacturer have a number of inherent design flaws. The most significant of these is that when placed directly on the ground and completely unventilated, there are no means to control airflow and moisture dispersal from within the internal cavity of each ramp. This leads to the untreated mild steel plates corroding internally. In the case of the skateboard park at Waterside the problem has been further exacerbated by the supplier applying expanding foam to the underside of the riding surfaces in an attempt to reduce noise. This has had the effect of holding even more moisture against the bare steelwork.

Once the design flaw was discovered, a remedy to the corrosion issue was sought. Extensive repair and additional ventilation works were carried out in 2012 totalling £19k. Unfortunately the additional ventilation has not stemmed the corrosion.

The specialist advice received has highlighted repair work would be too complex/expensive and would not be guaranteed for more than a couple of years. The only long-term solution is to replace the ramps or remove the skateboard park all together.

5. Corporate Implications

(a) Financial Implications

Indicative replacement costs for the whole skateboard park range from between £150k and £500k depending on the construction material used. Following on from the specialist's recommendations a total replacement cost of £200k using a mix of concrete and steel would see the facility returned to one of the country's premier skateboard/BMX parks. The skateboard park will continue to be maintained using the existing maintenance budget to delay further deterioration whilst officers try to secure funding for the long-term replacement of the facility.

If external funding could not be identified then the cost of replacement works would need to be considered against the Council's Medium Term Financial Forecast position, in particular the significant savings and cost reductions required in later years to achieved a balanced budget and maintain adequate levels of reserves.

The skateboard park was installed in phases and it could be replaced in phases with the oldest /worst affected ramps being replaced first. External funding will be sought so that the defective ramps can be replaced at the earliest opportunity.

(b) Legal Implications

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that the facility is safe to use. If it deteriorates to such an extent that this is no longer the case, the Council will have to remove the offending ramps.

(c) Human Resources and Equality Implications

None associated with this report.

6. Timescale for implementation and Risk Factors

Replacement of the skateboard ramps will be dependent on securing the necessary funding.

Background Papers

None

Report Author: Ryan Lynch Operational Services Manager

CABINET

21st January 2015

Subject: Draft Flood Risk Management Plans

Cabinet Member: Councillor Howard – Canvey Island, Floods and Water Management

1. Purpose of Report

To advise the Cabinet of the proposals set out in the draft Flood Risk Management Plans, and seek approval for the proposed consultation response.

2. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives

The proposals set out in the draft Flood Risk Management Plans will have implications for Council in terms of both its *Transforming our Community* and Environment objectives.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet agree to submit the response set out at section 7 of this report to the consultation on draft Flood Risk Management Plans.

4. Background

- 4.1** A flood risk management plan (FRMP) highlights the hazards and risks of flooding arising from rivers, from the sea, from surface water, from groundwater and from reservoirs. It sets out how risk management authorities (RMAs) will work together with communities to manage these hazards and risks.
- 4.2** The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 require the preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans. Lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) such as Essex County Council are required to prepare FRMPs where the risk of flooding from local flood risks is significant (surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses). The Environment Agency (EA) is required to prepare FRMPs for all of England covering flooding from main rivers, the sea and reservoirs.

- 4.3 The EA has worked with LLFAs where possible to prepare integrated draft FRMPs that cover all sources of flood risk. These draft FRMPs are now the subject of consultation with the aim of preparing final Flood Risk Management Plans by December 2015.
- 4.4 The EA has coordinated its work across ten separate river basin districts. For each river basin district it has worked with relevant LLFAs and other partners to gather information and identify flood risk management objectives and flood management measures to improve flood risk management within the district.
- 4.5 The measures that are set out within each of the Flood Risk Management Plans fall within one of the following four categories:
- **Preventing;** by avoiding putting people or the environment at risk of flooding.
 - **Preparing;** by taking actions that prepare people for flooding.
 - **Protecting;** by protecting people from the risk of flooding.
 - **Recovery and review;** by learning from when flooding happens and how to recover from it.
- 4.6 In many cases, measures are already being taken, or are already agreed, to manage future flood risk as a result of the extensive flooding experienced across England in the 2013/14. However, there are additional measures proposed within the FRMPs for delivery in 2015 onwards.
- 4.7 Each river basin district is vast covering a large swathe of the country. In order to make the FRMPs meaningful, the EA have split each river basin district into catchments, with the objectives and actions for each catchment set out in a specific chapter. Castle Point sits within the South Essex catchment.
- 4.8 Water does not however respect political administrative boundaries. As a consequence, part of the South Essex catchment is located within Anglian River Basin District and part is located within the Thames River Basin District. This has implications for Castle Point, and the FRMP that covers the geographical area of Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley is the Anglian River Basin FRMP, and the FRMP which covers the geographical area of Canvey Island is the Thames River Basin FRMP.
- 4.9 It is therefore necessary to consider, and as appropriate respond to the consultation on the drafts of both these plans as both affect the Castle Point area.

5. The Anglian River Basin District Draft Flood Risk Management Plan

- 5.1 The Anglian River Basin District extends from Lincolnshire in the north to Essex in the south and from Northamptonshire in the west to Norfolk in the east. It is a vast area covering some 27,890 km² with a population of 6 million people. There are around 550,000 people at risk of flooding from the sea or a river living within the Anglian River Basin District. There are 645,000 people at risk of flooding from surface water.
- 5.2 There are 12 catchments within the Anglian River Basin District. The towns of Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley are located within the part of the South Essex catchment that is included within the Anglian River Basin District, along

with Southend-on-Sea, Rayleigh, Rochford, Hockley, Hawkwell, Basildon, Billericay and Wickford.

5.3 The South Essex catchment within the Anglian River Basin District is 252km². Within this catchment there are 84,500 people at risk from surface water flooding.

5.4 Given the issues associated with surface water flood risk within the South Essex catchment the following objectives for flood risk management are proposed for the area:

- To develop a clearer understanding of the risks of flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses and to consider how best to communicate and share the information that becomes available.
- To define and explain the criteria by which areas at risk of flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses are assessed and resources are prioritised.
- To set out clear and consistent plans for risk management so that communities and businesses can make informed decisions about the management of the residual risk.
- To ensure that planning decisions are properly informed by flooding issues and the impact future planning may have.
- To encourage innovative management of flood and coastal erosion risks, taking account of the needs of communities and the natural and built environment.
- To ensure that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents are effective and that communities are able to respond properly to flood warnings.

5.5 The draft FRMP sets out measures to achieve these objectives. Measures relevant to Castle Point or to the entire catchment are summarised in the table which follows.

Action	Type of Measure	Priority	Status
Castle Point Specific			
Benfleet and Southend Marshes environmental enhancement project – natural flood risk management	Protection	Moderate	Ongoing
East Thundersley Surface Water Flood Alleviation study to determine options (area includes Westwood)	Protection	High	Ongoing
New Thundersley Options Study	Protection	High	Ongoing
South Benfleet flood storage area options for maintenance	Protection	High	Ongoing
Catchment Wide			
SuDs design guidance.	Prevention	Moderate	Agreed
Increase awareness of flood risk and available resilience measures and make flood risk information easily accessible.	Preparedness	Very High	Ongoing
Establish and proactively maintain a partnership for Flood Management.	Preparedness	High	Agreed

Action	Type of Measure	Priority	Status
Develop, publish and consistently implement a clear policy for consenting works and for enforcement actions.	Protection	High	Ongoing
Funding for capital works to mitigate flood risk – innovative finance solutions and monitoring and funding schemes.	Prevention	Moderate	Ongoing
Facilitate use of SuDs Adoption guidance at individual development scale.	Protection	High	Ongoing
Manage overland flow paths applying urban blue corridor concepts.	Protection	High	Ongoing
Facilitate application of appropriate land management practices by engagement with agricultural land owners.	Prevention	Moderate	Ongoing
Investigate local flood issues in conjunction with lower tier authorities.	Prevention	High	Ongoing
Identify area that would benefit from a forecasting system and determine feasibility.	Prevention	Moderate	Ongoing

- 5.6 The measures identified above do not appear to effectively address the surface water flood risk issues that affect the Castle Point area. Whilst the investigation of flood risk and flood risk management options in South Benfleet, Thundersley and New Thundersley is welcomed, the measures relating to these areas do not prescribe for the implementation of any outcomes of these studies, and as such may not result in any improvements to flood risk management on the ground. It is therefore recommended that 'implementation' is a requirement of the measures related to these areas.
- 5.7 Additionally, there are no measures proposed to tackle the issue of surface water flooding in the Hadleigh area. The South Essex Surface Water Management Plan identifies a Critical Drainage Area within Hadleigh, and also a number of potential surface water hotspots. During the heavy rainfall events of August 2013 and July 2014 properties within the Critical Drainage area were flooded indicating that the modelling of this risk was accurate. It would not therefore be unreasonable to expect that any evidence gathered by the Scrutiny Committee relating to this area was used to develop an appropriate measure for the management of flood risk in Hadleigh also.
- 5.8 As properties in Hadleigh, Thundersley and New Thundersley have flooded on more than one occasion in less than a year, it would not be unreasonable for these areas to be ascribed very high priority in terms of their implementation.
- 5.9 The catchment wide measures are generally considered to be appropriate in the management of surface water flood risk in Castle Point. However, it is noted that only moderate weight has been attached to the benefit appraisal and feasibility assessment of a forecasting and warning system. Given the number of people at risk, and the extent of damage caused by surface water flooding in South Essex in 2013 and 2014, it is considered that a forecasting and warning system covering the area is essential and would be of the upmost use to emergency planners, emergency responders, to communities and to individual property owners. It will help to ensure that the right resources

are in place to manage flood risk; it will help to ensure vulnerable people are protected from harm; and it will enable people to avoid the loss of property.

- 5.10 Within the Thames part of the South Essex catchment, discussed in the following section, it is proposed that such a system is implemented, and it is considered that this implementation should extend to the rest of the South Essex catchment also. It is also considered that a high priority is attached to the implementation of such a system due to the benefits it would provide.

6. The Thames River Basin District draft Flood Risk Management Plan

- 6.1 The Thames River Basin District extends from the Cotswolds in the west to South Essex and North Kent in the east. This extent includes the Greater London area. Within the river basin district there are 1.6m people at risk of flooding.
- 6.2 There are 17 catchments within the Thames River Basin District. Canvey Island is located within the part of the South Essex catchment that is included within the Thames River Basin District, along with Two Tree Island to the east and the river frontage and River Mardyke in Thurrock.

South Essex Catchment

- 6.3 The South Essex catchment within the Thames River Basin District is 232km². Within this catchment there are 68,000 people at risk from flooding from the sea or from a river, although the majority of the population are substantially defended from flood risk from the sea as a consequence of the defences constructed in the period after the 1953 floods. These defences offer a 1 in 1,000 year standard of protection (0.1% chance of flooding in any year).
- 6.4 Surface water flood risk is also identified as an issue for the South Essex catchment. The catchment is predominantly drained marshes, which pose challenges to drainage. In addition to this, urbanisation has caused these low lying areas to become impervious to surface water resulting in flooding, particularly during heavy rainfall when drainage systems are overwhelmed. The flood events that occurred on Canvey in 2013 and 2014 are included as examples of this issue.
- 6.5 River flooding and flooding from reservoirs is also identified as an issue, although these risks are located within the Thurrock part of the catchment.
- 6.6 Given the issues affecting the South Essex catchment, the following objectives for flood risk management are proposed for the area:
- **Social** – reduce the risk of flooding to communities where possible.
 - **Social** – raise community awareness and understanding of all sources of flooding.
 - **Social** – enhance recreation and general amenity across the catchment.
 - **Economic** – ensure development and redevelopment in areas at risk of flooding is appropriate, does not increase flood risk and reduces risk wherever possible.

- **Economic** – promote the use of sustainable drainage systems in development to help reduce pressure on existing drainage networks.
- **Environmental** – protect and enhance biodiversity through flood risk management schemes.
- **Environmental** – restore naturally functioning river systems where possible.
- **Environmental** – promote sustainable land use management to land owners across the catchment to achieve reductions in flood risk.

6.7 The draft FRMP sets out measures to achieve these objectives. Measures relevant to Castle Point or to the entire catchment are summarised in the table which follows.

Action	Type of Measure	Priority	Status
Castle Point Specific			
Address contaminated land at Two Tree Island	Recovery and Review	High	Proposed
Develop an integrated urban drainage plan for Canvey	Prevention	Very High	On-going
Northwick flood and drainage works, Canvey Island	Prevention	Moderate	Proposed
Catchment Wide			
Adaptation of spatial planning to reflect local flood risk – SUDs Guidance	Prevention	Moderate	Agreed
Raise community awareness	Preparedness	Very High	On-going
Establish a working framework between Risk Management Authorities (EA + 3 LLFAs in South Essex)	Preparedness	High	Agreed
Policy for the regulation of works on ordinary water courses.	Protection	High	Ongoing
Funding for capital works to mitigate flood risk – innovative finance solutions and monitoring and funding schemes.	Prevention	Moderate	Ongoing
Implementation of SuDS and source control measures.	Protection	High	Ongoing
Manage overland flow paths applying urban blue corridor concepts.	Protection	High	Ongoing
Review land management measures – agricultural land	Prevention	Moderate	Ongoing
Investigate local flood issues in conjunction with lower tier authorities.	Prevention	High	Ongoing
Implement surface water flood forecasting and warning systems	Preparedness	Moderate	Agreed
Appraisal of uneconomic assets in Essex, Southend and Thurrock in order to remove those structures that are not managing flood risk but are restricting the movement of fish and eels upstream.	Protection	High	Proposed
Area wide invasive non-native species project. Threat to ecology, and also a threat to the functioning of flood risk management assets if they grow in the wrong place.	Prevention	High	Proposed

Action	Type of Measure	Priority	Status
Area wide riparian (river bank landowner) tree planting project. Good for ecology. Also prevents sedimentation and manages surface water flows.	Protection	High	Proposed

- 6.8 The specific measures proposed for Castle Point are appropriate given the surface water flooding events that occurred on Canvey Island in 2013 and 2014. It may however be appropriate for the action related to the Integrated Urban Drainage Plan to be re-written to also require its implementation as it is likely that actual flood prevention and flood protection works will fall from this plan.
- 6.9 It may also be appropriate to request that the Environment Agency give consideration to the evidence gathered by the Scrutiny Committee with regard to the flooding on Canvey Island and as appropriate identify additional measures in response to that evidence before the FRMP is finalised in December 2015.
- 6.10 The catchment wide proposals are also generally appropriate, although some apply more to other organisations or more to issues in the Thurrock area. There are however some concerns about the phrasing of the proposed asset review. It is called an appraisal of uneconomic assets, but then refers to the removal of structures that are not managing flood risk. It is important that only those structures that are not managing flood risk are removed. The removal of 'expensive' assets that are managing flood risk would not be acceptable.
- 6.11 There is also a concern about the priority afforded to the implementation of a surface water flood forecasting and warning system. Such a system would be of the upmost use to emergency planners, emergency responders, to communities and to individual property owners. It will help to ensure that the right resources are in place to manage flood risk; it will help to ensure vulnerable people are protected from harm; and it will enable people to avoid the loss of property. It is therefore considered that the implementation of such a system should be afforded a higher priority.
- 6.10 Some of the proposed actions will potentially carry a cost for Castle Point Borough Council. As a riparian landowner, the Council may wish to engage in the tree planting project which will obviously incur both an initial cost and an ongoing maintenance cost. Riparian landowners may also incur costs associated with the removal of non-native species from river banks.

Thames Tidal Strategic Area

- 6.11 In addition to the 17 catchment areas within the Thames River Basin District, there is also the large Tidal Thames Strategic Area which impacts on flood risk management within a number of catchments, including South Essex. The Tidal Thames Strategic Area extends from Teddington in West London to Sheerness and Shoebury to the East. A plan is already in place for this area and is known as the Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) Plan. The TE2100 Plan aims to ensure the continued protection of 1.25 million people and around £200 billion worth of property from tidal flood risk in London and the Thames Estuary. This includes continued protection for Canvey Island.

- 6.12 The TE2100 Plan, which was the subject of extensive consultation during its development, was approved by Defra last year. It includes 97 recommendations for managing tidal flood risk on the Thames until 2100. It is these recommendations that have been included as ongoing tidal flood risk management measures in the Thames River Basin FRMP. These measures include the maintenance and improvement of the sea defences protecting Canvey Island, and the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the active defences such as the Benfleet, and Fobbing barriers, pumping stations, floodgates and outfalls.
- 6.13 Due to the extensive nature of the TE2100 Plan, there are no additional tidal flood measures proposed for the Thames Tidal Strategic Area within the FRMP.

7. Proposed Response

- 7.1 The way in which the draft Flood Risk Management Plans have been prepared necessitates the preparation of a separate consultation response on each. It is proposed that the following response is submitted in respect of the Anglian River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan:

The Council welcomes the recognition that surface water flood risk is a significant issue in South Essex. South Essex is a heavily populated area. In August 2013 and July 2014 properties across the area experienced flooding from surface water as a result of extreme rainfall events. The extent of flooding experienced during these events was previously unprecedented.

It is considered that the measures set out in table 9.1 of the Anglian FRMP take steps towards addressing the surface water flooding issues affecting South Essex. However, it is considered that many of the area specific measures are focused on the preparation of plans and the development of options, but with no requirement for those plans and options to be implemented. As such it is not likely that the measures proposed, as currently worded, would deliver any improvement to flood risk on the ground.

It is therefore requested that the measure related to East Thundersley is rewritten to read as follows:

'The preparation of a surface water flood alleviation study for East Thundersley, and the implementation of appropriate flood alleviation options'

It is requested that the measure related to New Thundersley is rewritten to read as follows:

'The preparation of an options study for New Thundersley, and the implementation of appropriate flood alleviation options.'

It is requested that the measure related to South Benfleet is rewritten to read as follows:

'The identification and implementation of appropriate options for the maintenance of the South Benfleet Flood Storage area.'

It is also requested that the measures for East Thundersley and New Thundersley are ascribed a very high priority, as properties within these areas have experienced internal surface water flooding on more than one occasion in the last year.

The Council is concerned that no actions for the alleviation of surface water flood risk in Hadleigh (Essex) are identified within the schedule of measures for the South Essex catchment. The South Essex Surface Water Management Plan identifies a critical drainage area covering a large urban area within Hadleigh.

During the heavy rainfall events of August 2013 and July 2014, properties within this critical drainage area experienced internal surface water flooding. It is requested that an additional measure is therefore added to the schedule of measures at table 9.1 which reads as follows:

'Identify and implement appropriate options for the alleviation of surface water flood risk with the Hadleigh Critical Drainage area as identified in the South Essex Surface Water Management Plan.'

It is requested that this measure is afforded very high priority due to properties within this area having experienced internal surface water flooding on more than one occasion in the last year.

The Council welcomes the proposal in relation to a surface water flood forecasting and warning system. However, it is noted that the measure proposed relates only to a benefits appraisal and feasibility appraisal. There is no commitment to the implementation of such a system. It is considered that there would be considerable benefits to emergency planners, to emergency responders, to communities and to individual property owners of such a system.

Clearly, this is already recognised for that part of the South Essex catchment which sits in the Thames River Basin District as there is a measure in the plan for that area which seeks the implementation of a system. It is considered that this measure should be extended to the whole of the South Essex catchment, and that the measure related to flood forecasting and warning in table 9.1 should be rewritten to read as follows:

'Implement the delivery of a surface water flood forecasting and warning system for South Essex.'

Given the benefits associated with such a system, it is considered that this measure should be afforded a high priority.

As a result of the flooding events in August 2013 and July 2014, the Council has convened a Scrutiny Committee to collect evidence in relation to surface water flooding and flood risk in Castle Point. Once the work of the Scrutiny Committee has concluded the Council would be pleased to share its evidence

with all relevant partners with the aim of providing a local context for flood risk management improvements in the Castle Point area.

In terms of other potential contributions that the Council may make to local reductions in flood risk, the Council will engage with the partners to determine how its planning decisions, land management practices and relationships with local communities and residents can contribute towards between flood risk prevention, protection and preparedness.

7.2 It is proposed that the following separate response is made in respect of the Thames River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan:

The Council welcomes the recognition of the tidal and surface water flood risks affecting Canvey Island which sits within the South Essex catchment of the Thames River Basin district. The sea defences provide substantial protection from tidal flood risk. However, due to the low lying nature of Canvey Island, and the complexities of the drainage network on the Island, surface water flooding is a significant issue. In August 2013 and July 2014 properties across Canvey Island experienced flooding from surface water as a result of extreme rainfall events. The extent of flooding experienced during these events was previously unprecedented.

The Council is pleased to see that the preparation of an Integrated Urban Drainage Plan for Canvey Island has been afforded a very high priority within the Thames River Basin District. However, the preparation of a plan alone will not improve the management of surface water. The plan will need to be implemented in order to make any difference to local conditions. It is therefore proposed that the measure associated with the integrated urban drainage plan within table 48 is rewritten to require the implementation of the plan also:

'Develop and implement an integrated urban drainage plan for Canvey Island.'

The Council welcomes the proposal in relation to the implementation of a surface water flood forecasting and warning system. However, it is noted that the measure is not afforded high priority. It is considered that there would be considerable benefits to emergency planners, to emergency responders, to communities and to individual property owners of such a system. Given these benefits, it is considered that this measure should be afforded a high priority.

The Council has some concerns with regard to the measure entitled 'the appraisal of uneconomic assets'. The details of the measure indicate that only ineffective flood management assets will be removed, however this title indicates that consideration will be given to cost, and could potentially result in expensive but nonetheless functional assets from being removed. It is considered that this measure should be re-titled 'the appraisal of ineffective assets' refocusing on the functionality and effectiveness of the assets.

The Council welcomes the cross-reference to the recommendations of the Thames Estuary 2100 Project in relation to measures for the Thames Tidal Strategic area.

As a result of the flooding events in August 2013 and July 2014, the Council has convened a Scrutiny Committee to collect evidence in relation to surface water flooding and flood risk in Castle Point. Once the work of the Scrutiny Committee has concluded the Council would be pleased to share its evidence with all relevant partners with the aim of providing a local context for flood risk management improvements in the Castle Point area.

In terms of other potential contributions that the Council may make to local reductions in flood risk, the Council will engage with the partners to determine how its planning decisions, land management practices and relationships with local communities and residents can contribute towards between flood risk prevention, protection and preparedness.

8. Corporate Implications

(a) Financial Implications

There are actions within the draft Flood Risk Management Plan that may have cost implications for the Council:

- Actions related to SuDs approval, particularly if the legislation is changed as recently proposed, to make the local planning authority responsible for this; and
- Actions related to land management e.g. works in Westwood, the removal of non-native species from riparian land in Council ownership, and tree planting on riparian land.

The cost implications to the Council of these actions will need to be assessed, as details become clearer.

(b) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for Castle Point Borough Council arising from the recommendations of this report.

(c) Human Resources and Equality Implications

Human Resources

The recommendations of this report can be actions within existing human resources.

Equality Implications

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

(d) IT and Asset Management Implications

There are no IT or asset management implications arising from this report.

10. Timescale for implementation and Risk Factors

A response to the draft Flood Risk Management Plan consultation must be submitted to the Environment Agency by the 31st January to ensure it is considered.

11. Background Papers

Anglian draft Flood Risk Management Plan

Thames River Basin District draft Flood Risk Management Plan

Report Author: Amanda Raffaelli