

Phil Norrey  
Chief Executive

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To: The Chairman and Members of  
the North Devon Locality  
(County) Committee

County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 4QD

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(See below)

Your ref :  
Our ref :

Date : 23 March 2017  
Please ask for : Gerry Rufolo 01392 382299

Email: gerry.rufolo@devon.gov.uk

## **NORTH DEVON LOCALITY (COUNTY) COMMITTEE**

Friday, 31st March, 2017

A meeting of the North Devon Locality (County) Committee is to be held on the above date at 11.30 am or at the rising of the HATOC which ever is the later at Meeting Rooms at Taw View to consider the following matters.

P NORREY  
Chief Executive

### **A G E N D A**

#### **PART 1 - OPEN COMMITTEE**

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes  
Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 December 2016 (previously circulated)
- 3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention  
Items which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.
- 4 Environment Agency Flood Risk Pilot Initiatives and Other Developments (Pages 1 - 2)  
Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/17/19) attached

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

- 5 Dates of Future Meetings  
29 June, and 30 October 2017 and 17 April 2018 all at Taw View, Barnstaple  
County Council Committee dates available on the website:  
<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

**PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Part II Reports**

*Members are reminded that Part II reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s).*

*Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore invited to return them to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.*

**Membership**

County Councillors

Councillors C Chugg (Chairman) , F Biederman, A Davis, R Edgell, M Edmunds, B Greenslade, J Mathews and J Yabsley

North Devon District Council

Councillors J Chesters and G Lane

DALC

Councillor D Chalmers

**Declaration of Interests**

Members are reminded that they must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

**Access to Information**

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact Gerry Rufolo on 01392 382299.

Agenda and minutes of the Committee are published on the Council's Website

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In addition, anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. An open, publicly available Wi-Fi network (i.e. DCC) is normally available for meetings held in the Committee Suite at County Hall. For information on Wi-Fi availability at other locations, please contact the Officer identified above.

**Emergencies**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding leave the building immediately by the nearest available exit, following the fire exit signs. If doors fail to unlock press the Green break glass next to the door. Do not stop to collect personal belongings, do not use the lifts, do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

**Mobile Phones**

Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Committee Room or Council Chamber

If you need a copy of this Agenda and/or a Report in another format (e.g. large print, audio tape, Braille or other languages), please contact the Information Centre on 01392 380101 or email to: [centre@devon.gov.uk](mailto:centre@devon.gov.uk) or write to the Democratic and Scrutiny Secretariat at County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD.

PTE/17/19

North Devon County/Locality Committee  
31 March 2017

## **Environment Agency Flood Risk Pilot Initiatives and Other Developments**

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

***Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.***

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this follow-up report, in line with its original request for feedback from the Environment Agency following its consideration of item PTE/16/17 at its meeting of 20 December 2016.

### **1. Background/Introduction**

At its meeting of 20 December 2016, the Committee considered a report (PTE/16/67) entitled 'Flood Risk Management Responsibilities and Incidence Response & Recovery'. This brief, follow-up, report is in direct response to the request for the Environment Agency to provide feedback on its pilot initiatives and other developments in the area, which were referred to by the Environment Agency representative who attended the previous meeting.

### **2. Environment Agency Pilot Initiatives and Projects in North Devon**

Through its attendance at the North Devon County/Locality Committee meeting on 20 December 2016, the Environment Agency representative (Simon Dart) made specific reference to two particular flood risk projects which they are leading in North Devon, one being a pilot project in the Braunton area, the other being a proposed flood defence scheme at Bishops Tawton. A brief update on each is provided below.

Natural Flood Management Pilot Initiative, Braunton - The Environment Agency is currently working in partnership with Devon County Council Flood Risk Management, North Devon Biosphere and Natural England on a Natural Flood Management (NFM) pilot study in the Ackland Stream catchment, Braunton. Historic mapping and the knowledge of local landowners were utilised in order to determine appropriate measures. Based on this, a range of techniques were then selected – including leaky dams, tree/hedge planting and constructed wetlands – which are due to be constructed in the coming months. Flow monitors and rain gauges have been installed to establish a baseline of monitoring data, with this data to be continually assessed as the project progresses, in order to determine the effectiveness of measures implemented. There is also a possibility for the extension of this project into the future, with a second site in the area having been identified as having potential for NFM measures.

Proposed Flood Defence Scheme at Bishops Tawton - The Environment Agency are currently progressing the business case for a project that will give flood benefit to Bishops Tawton. The approach to modelling the site is under review, in order to determine how to represent flooding issues in a way that isn't cost prohibitive to the benefits available for the construction. The EA have identified that there is likely to be a significant funding gap for the scheme, as it has a very low score using the Flood Defence Grant in Aid Partnership Funding standard calculation. However, the EA are currently working with Devon County

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Council and South West Water to try and address this issue. If the required amount of funding cannot be found, then the EA would like to review what can be achieved through the planning process and try and have an input on planned development or other local budgets to gradually address some aspects of the project.

### 3. Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

This report is based on the specific request made by the Committee for feedback from the Environment Agency. As such, this is presented for information only, with a very simple report format adopted. The Environment Agency will continue to update the relevant communities and stakeholders in the progress of its own works. The DCC Flood and Risk Management Team will provide Member updates, where it is engaged in these initiatives, through its annual reports to Cabinet and to the Place Scrutiny Committee, as well as through its occasional newsletters, Member briefings and web site content.

Dave Black  
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

### Electoral Divisions: All North Devon Divisions

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Martin Hutchings

Room No: AB3 Lucombe House, County Hall

Tel No: 01392 383000

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
None		

pc220317ndc  
sc/cr/environment agency flood risk pilot initiatives and other and other delvelopments  
03 220317