

## Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Agenda Item 9 - Groups and Panels: A) Flooding

1. At the Special Council of 18/01/24 it was resolved unanimously that Council:  
  
‘Requests the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate the above matters guided by Council’s debate and makes recommendations to Cabinet and Council regarding the role of Council as Local Lead Flood Authority.’
2. Background paper as presented at the Special Council:  
<https://rutlandcounty.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g2887/Public%20reports%20pack%2018th-Jan-2024%2019.00%20Council.pdf?T=10>
3. It is proposed that the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertakes a piece of work to collate evidence and data to investigate the county’s response to both the floods in October 2023 and January 2024 to understand objectively what lessons are to be learned, to inform future responses to flood events in the county, identifying any implications on policy and, where appropriate, make recommendations as per the resolution made at the Special Council.
4. This work will run alongside the Section 19 inspection work which is being undertaken. The scope of the Section 19 inspection will cover aspects of flooding which will require specialist expertise to inform flood management in the medium and long term (noting the timescale for the completion of a Section 19 inspection is a minimum of 12 months).
5. Proposal for the meeting of 8/02/24:
  - a) Appoint a Chair
  - b) Approve method for the work (reference the ‘PICK’ assessment completed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
  - c) Agree broad scope for the work (Paragraph 3)
6. Next Steps:
  - a) The Chair will contact all non-executive Councillors to invite participation in the work, ensuring a clear outline of the time commitment required and the pace of the work and noting the April deadline for completion.
  - b) Once the group is established:
    - i. Detailed scoping of the work including staged timescales, engagement, communication, resources required to complete the work.
    - ii. Identification and collation of background data and evidence to ‘frontload’ the work.
    - iii. Identification of key stakeholders to call upon for evidence.
7. Timescale for completion of the work

Due to the sense of urgency and noting the timescale for the Section 19 inspection work, a report, including recommendations, will be completed by the end of April 2024.