

Table of Pitt Review Recommendations, Cost implications, Benefits and Response

Pitt Report No. & Recommendation		Delivery Time Table	Supporting Organisations	Costs	Benefits	Response of Head of Planning, Health & Environment and Head of Property and Operational Services
7	There should be a presumption against building in high flood risk areas in accordance with PPS25, including giving consideration to all sources of flood risk and ensuring that developers make a full contribution to the costs both of building and maintaining any necessary defences	Beginning Immediately. Lead by Local Authority.	CLG, Environment Agency	Cost may be passed on by developers for housing stock specifically in high flood risk areas.	Should significantly reduce the vulnerability of new properties to flooding.	Will affect: Planning, Forward Planning, Building Control, and Housing Sections. May impede upon the achievement of affordable housing targets by increasing costs and reducing availability of suitable sites
11	Building Regulations should be revised to ensure that all new or refurbished buildings in high flood-risk areas are flood resistant or resilient.	In place by 2010 Lead by CLG	Local Authority	Low, extension of existing staff role, training costs. Staff time requires to be invested in review and update current regulations.	Can significantly reduce the time for recovery costs of refurbishment. For the most frequent floods, the benefits from resistance measures outweigh the up-front investment by a factor of between 5-to-1 and 10-to-1. Resilience measures become cost beneficial for properties with a 4% or greater annual risk of flooding	Will affect: Planning, Forward Planning, Building Control, and Private Sector Housing. May necessitate policy review.
12	All local authorities should extend eligibility for home improvement grants and loans to include flood resistance and resilience products for properties in high risk	By end 2008 Lead by Local Authority		Negligible. Capital funds already available in the form of Decent Homes Assistance	Promotes resistance and resilience and helps affordability. See benefits outlined for recommendation 11 above.	Two properties received financial assistance to have works carried out following the flooding. It is recommended that the Wyre Forest District Council Private Sector Housing

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	areas			sourced from Single Capital Pot for Private Sector Housing. Costs will be dependant on grant uptake.		Assistance Policy be extended to provide Decent Homes Assistance for flood resilience measures to all persons where it will be of benefit to the community as a whole.
13	Local authorities, in discharging their responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to promote business continuity, should encourage the take up of property flood resistance and resilience by businesses.	By end 2008 Lead by Local Authorities (Higher Tier)		Negligible. Costs and implementation covered by county.	Encourages businesses to become more resilient to flooding. See benefits outlined for recommendation 11.	Wyre Forest District Council and Worcestershire County Council have joint arrangements concerning advising businesses on continuity planning. A business continuity awareness week was held in July and the two authorities will continue to co-operate and produce literature in this regard.
14	Local authorities (District Councils) should lead on the management of local flood risk, with the support of the relevant organisations.	By end 2010 Lead by Local Authority	Defra, Environment Agency, Water Companies IDB's	Potentially high. Will be dependant on subsequent guidance and the level of investment and the form there of	Giving one organisation the lead for local flood risk management should ensure clear accountabilities, more efficient decision making, allow more in-depth knowledge of local flood issues to be developed and greater cost-savings through investment prioritisation. In the long term this should be lead to more effective management of local	Will affect: County Council Highways Private Sector Housing, Emergency Planning, Forward Planning. May require the implementation of improved and systematic interdepartmental communication /discussion forums. Will need to be dealt with as part of the role of the

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					flood risk.	<p>Watercourse Officer Post.</p> <p>Joint agency surface water flooding maps and identification of critical infrastructure is being undertaken by the Environment Agency in consultation with the emergency services and the County Emergency Planning Officers. This will form part of the multi agency flood plans. Wyre Forest multi agency flood plan is due to be the first released in the County at the end of this calendar year.</p>
15	<p>Local authorities should positively tackle local problems of flooding by working with all relevant parties, establishing ownership and legal responsibility</p>	<p>Beginning Immediately.</p> <p>Lead by local authority</p>	<p>Environment Agency, Water Companies, IDB's Other asset owners</p>	<p>Small budget may be required for legal costs and research e.g. land registry enquiries all other structure in place, and task is underway. Significant additional staff time required</p>	<p>See above. This will also ensure that smaller, local food problems are not overlooked.</p> <p>It will substantially build local knowledge within the Local Authority as well as forming and re-enforce ties between relevant and useful contacts from other agencies.</p>	<p>Will Impact upon: County Council Highways Private Sector Housing, Emergency Planning, Forward Planning.</p> <p>Can utilise existing formats such as Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership. This task has work towards this began soon after the floods last year. Substantial data has already been collected. But this will require an ongoing role as part of the Watercourse</p>

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					<p>Officer post.</p> <p>Under the umbrella of the Local Resilience Forum, Worcestershire has established a severe weather sub group which will address and plan the emergency response for all situations concerning severe weather including extreme rainfall and flooding.</p>
16	<p>Local authorities should collate and map the main flood risk management and drainage assets (over and underground), including a record their ownership and condition</p> <p>By end 2010</p> <p>Lead by Local Authority</p>	<p>Environment Agency, Water Companies, IDB's Other asset owners.</p>	<p>Potentially large costs in terms of staff time and resources.</p> <p>(See rec 15)</p>	<p>Understanding the flood risk management and drainage system will enable better decision – making and prioritisation of investment, including in relation to maintenance regimes.</p>	<p>This responsibility will require cross departmental resources.</p> <p>(See rec 15), collection and collation of data is underway. Current priority focused on high risk areas.</p> <p>This will also entail a degree of shared working with partners such as County and District Councils.</p>
17	<p>All relevant organisations should have a duty to share information and co-operate with local authorities and the Environment Agency to facilitate the management of flood risk.</p> <p>By end 2010</p> <p>Lead by DEFRA</p>	<p>Local Authorities, Environment Agency, Water Companies, IDB's Other asset owners.</p>	<p>Negligible costs dependant upon final government conclusions. Some additional staff time likely.</p>	<p>See benefits for recommendation 16.</p>	<p>The council will have to consider freedom of information act/policy as well as data protection act. Transferred data would also ideally be in a common format, which will need to be implemented when required. DEFRA is leading on this</p>

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					recommendation, any outcome to be reported in due course if appropriate.
18	<p>Local surface water management plans, as set out under PPS25 and co-ordinated by local authorities should provide the basis for managing all local flood risk.</p> <p>Surface Water Management Plans to be completed by end 2010.</p> <p>Local Authority EA</p>	Environment Agency	Costs potentially high in terms of regularly hiring in consultant expertise. This could be reduced by developing and utilising in-house capabilities e.g. Training + personnel.	Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP) will co-ordinate surface water drainage to help reduce flooding in communities at greatest risk, leading to reduced material damage to properties and infrastructure, lower clean-up costs, and improvements in local water quality. The annual cost from surface water flooding is £270 million and rising and analysis suggests that there would only need to be a 1% reduction in flood risk in order to make the SMWP's cost-beneficial.	<p>Will affect: Planning, Forward Planning, Private Sector Housing.</p> <p>New or updated skills are required in order to pull these together. Such skills can be developed internally (for a long term solution) or brought in, in the form of consultants.</p> <p>Either way understanding of is initialled in surface water management plans must be further researched.</p> <p>This will require an ongoing staff commitment to carry out the review and maintenance recommendations in the plans.</p> <p>A pilot project for Wribbenhall is being set up and a funding bid has been submitted to DEFRA by the multi agency partnership involving Environmental</p>

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						Agency, County Council, District Council and Severn Trent Water.
19	Local authorities should assess and, if appropriate, enhance their technical capabilities to deliver a wide range of responsibilities in relation to local flood risk management.	Beginning immediately, completed to support new statutory duties in 2010.	LGA, CLG, Defra, Environment Agency.	(See rec. 18)	In house 'intelligent customer' function should ensure that the best value is delivered in relation to flood risk management services. This engineering capacity should also ensure that flood risk management is prioritised appropriately at a local level.	Will affect: Wyre Forest District Council as a whole. Assessments' must be made as to the requirements of the council to properly implement the recommendations. Requirements may include specialist training, use of contracted staff and consultants, policy reviews and audits. There will be a significant ongoing role for the Watercourse Officer post.
20	The Government should resolve the issue of which organisations should be responsible for the ownership and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems.	In place by end 2008, legislation in place by end 2010.	Defra	The result of this resolution will have a major impact on the long term cost implications especially if Local Authorities are charged with a lead role. At least enforcement /oversight role	This will resolve a common problem of uncertainty over the responsibility for necessary maintenance of SUDS. It has been demonstrated that a 10%-15% saving in capital costs of the sustainable drainage achieved can be achieved compared with 'traditional' systems. This figure is maximised if SUDS are considered	Could affect: Operations' Management, Private Sector Housing, Dependant on upcoming Government decisions

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			very likely.	at the earliest stage of development.		
26	<p>The Government should develop a single set of guidance for local authorities and the public on the use and usefulness of sandbags and</p> <p>Other alternatives, rather than leaving the matter wholly to local discretion.</p>	<p>In place by end of 2009</p> <p>Lead by Central Government.</p>	<p>Environment Agency CLG Cabinet Office Local Authorities</p>	<p>May potentially have a small impact upon cost in terms of sand bag distribution. Dependant on upcoming Government decisions.</p>	<p>Less resource diverted into ineffective sandbagging during emergencies.</p>	<p>Will affect: Emergency Planning, Operations' Management.</p> <p>Dependant on upcoming Government decisions.</p> <p>As part of the work of the Severe Weather Group countywide policy on sandbagging is being developed. Currently those districts regularly affected by flooding have taken action to make vulnerable properties more resilient by issuing aqua sacks and encouraging the use of flood gates, both of which will alleviate the need for emergency sandbagging.</p>
28	<p>The forthcoming flooding legislation should be a single unifying Act that addresses all sources of flooding, clarifies responsibilities and facilitates flood risk management.</p>	<p>In place by end 2010 (see rec 58)</p> <p>Lead by Defra</p>	<p>All government departments.</p>	<p>(See rec 20)</p> <p>Dependant on upcoming Government decisions.</p>	<p>Ensures effective delivery of other recommendations.</p>	<p>Dependant on upcoming Government decisions.</p>
38	<p>Local authorities should establish mutual aid agreements in</p>	<p>Guidance issued by the end 2008</p>	<p>LGA</p>	<p>(see rec 20)</p> <p>Dependant on</p>	<p>Enhanced mutual aid arrangements, leading to a more effective,</p>	<p>Will affect: Emergency Planning.</p>

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	accordance with the guidance currently being prepared by the Local Government Association and the Cabinet Office.	Lead by Local Authorities and Cabinet Office		upcoming Government decisions.	coordinated multi-agency response and more efficient use of assets nationally.	Mutual aid agreements exist between the County Council and all six districts in Worcestershire. In the case of Wyre Forest this was also extended to authorities in the West Midlands, namely Dudley and Shropshire.
41	Upper tier local authorities should be the lead responders in relation to multi-agency planning for severe weather emergencies at the local level and for triggering multi-agency arrangements in response to severe weather warnings and local impact assessments.	By end 2008	Upper Tier Local Authorities	see rec 20) Dependant on upcoming Government decisions.	Better local emergency response to flooding, saving lives and property.	Will affect: County Council/District Council, Emergency Planning. This duty is already being discharged through the Local Resilience Forum Worcestershire Severe Weather Group which is well advanced in undertaking the impact studies and publication of plans.
64	Local Resilience Forums should continue to develop plans for door-knocking, coordinated by local authorities, to enhance flood warnings before flooding and to provide information and assess welfare needs once flooding has receded.	Developed by October 2008.	Local Resilience Forums, Voluntary sector, Cabinet Office.	Implementing door knocking should incur negligible costs as the scheme will be voluntary. Will again draw on staff time/resources to implement	Longer lead times for the public to take mitigation action, ensuring that vulnerable groups are identified.	Will affect: The appropriate department charged with this responsibility. Currently some measures and data in place in private sector housing. As part of the severe weather group it has been agreed that the County will roll out community plans

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			co-ordinate.		which will be based on parishes where they are small enough or PACTs in larger towns. Wyre Forest is running a trial scheme which should result in community plans identifying vulnerable properties and communication networks being established by the end of this calendar year.
66	Local authority contact centres should take the lead in dealing with general enquiries from the public during and after major flooding, redirecting calls to other organisations when appropriate	Local Resilience Forums,	Significant short term costs dependent upon events that occur. May include training or publication of contact sheets for hub. This may be distributed from county.	Provision of information to the public, ensuring they are better informed and can take appropriate mitigating actions. Improved call handling arrangements – by ensuring public are directed to relevant responder organisations – allowing responders to use their time and resources more effectively.	Will affect: Emergency Planning, The Hub. Staff will require clear instruction/training as to directing the public to appropriate agencies. An emergency flood line is available across the County and is activated at the request of the Worcestershire Silver Control Group. This is based at Worcestershire County Council call centre at Blackpole. Information is also disseminated through the Worcestershire Hub network. During the recovery phase additional Hub outlets are opened in

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						the worst affected areas to give specific help and recovery advice.
68	Council leaders and chief executives should play a prominent role in public reassurance and advice through the local media during a flooding emergency, as part of a coordinated effort overseen by Gold Commanders	Beginning Immediately, ongoing. Lead by Local Authorities	Local Resilience Forums.	As currently similar proceedings are already in place cost should be none or negligible.	Providing reassurance to the public, ensuring that they have the information required to enable them to take appropriate actions.	Will affect: Council Leader, Council Chief Exec Media and Marketing. Similar proceedings already take place. An emergency joint media protocol is in place for Worcestershire which involves all of the district media officers co-ordinating press releases and media and public information under the lead of the West Mercia Police Media Office.
72	Local response recovery co-ordinating groups should ensure that health and well being support is readily available to those affected by flooding based on advice developed by the Department of Health.	Support available by October 2008-07-09 Lead by Local Authorities Recovery Team and Local Resilience Forums.	CLG, Department of Health, HPA, Voluntary Sector	During last summers floods two housing grants were made available to those affected, as well maintenance grants for watercourses, red cross monies for local schemes, along side council tax exemptions to	Health and well being impacts will be reduced leading on to quicker recovery after flooding events.	Will affect: Emergency Planning, Recovery Team, Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing. Various grant aids have been made available to those householders affected by flooding. The District Council's Emergency Plan includes a recovery section which is led by the District Council's

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			those out of their homes. Significant Public health advice role to property owners, occupiers, local businesses and others.		Environmental Health team. General information is co-ordinated at county level and this resulted in the publication of leaflets post the June and July flooding, giving residents advice on insurance, health, repair and recovery matters. This is supplemented through the local hub networks which are open for a short duration in the worst affected areas.	
74	The monitoring of the impact of flooding on the health and wellbeing of people, and actions to mitigate and manage the effects, should form a systematic part of the work of Recovery Coordinating Groups.	Lead by Local Authorities Recovery Team and Local Resilience Forums.	CLG, Department of Health, HPA, Voluntary Sector	Officer time in Recovery Team	Health and well being impacts will be reduced leading on to quicker recovery after flooding events.	Will affect: Recovery Team, Environmental Health,
75	Local authorities should coordinate a systematic programme of community engagement in their area during the recovery phase.	Beginning immediately.	CGL, Government Offices, Local Authorities, Regional Resilience Forums.	Cost will be negligible, support structure already in place in terms of community engagement. This would benefit from enhancement	More efficient co-ordination of recovery operations, leading to quicker return to normality after emergency events and better targeting of recovery efforts.	Will affect: Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing. Follow up visits and regular contact is already carried out by Environmental Health/Private Sector housing. This was undertaken for the

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			through the implementation of structure and policy and having a clear lead officer/Division on this role.		June and July event by a series of public meetings led by the District Council which proved a useful method of communication and is now embodied in the recovery section of the Council's Major Emergency Plan. In addition, the local community plans also include an information dissemination network which will assist this process.	
76	For emergencies spanning more than a single local authority area, Government Offices should ensure coherence and coordination, if necessary, between recovery operations.	Program developed by end 2008. Lead by Local Authorities	CLG, Voluntary Sector.	Requires communication therefore cost to WFDC should be negligible. May draw upon staff time personnel.	Improved community cohesion And reduced impacts on health and wellbeing.	Again will draw upon cross departmental and inter authority working relations. Worcestershire has a standing Silver Control Group which plans and exercises for all emergencies across Worcestershire. The group includes all Category 1 responders and the voluntary sector. This is upgraded to an active group at times of severe flooding. This carries out the co-ordination of both the immediate response stage and then passes the recovery stage to the

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						Worcestershire Partnership who takes the lead on behalf of all the Worcestershire authorities.
77	National and local Recovery Co-ordinating Groups should be established from the outset of major emergencies and in due course there should be formal handover from the crisis machinery.	Beginning immediately.	CLG, Local Authorities.		More emphasis on the recovery phase from the outset of an emergency, leading to a more efficient handover from the emergency response phase and quicker return to normality after the events.	Should affect: Communications and relationships between emergency planning and those responsible for post crisis recovery. See 76 above.
78	Aims and objectives for the recovery phase should be agreed at the outset by Recovery Co-ordinating Groups to provide focus and enable orderly transition into mainstream programmes when multi-agency co-ordination of recovery from severe flooding.	Beginning immediately. Lead by Local Authorities.	CLG, Voluntary Sector.		More emphasis on the recovery phase from the outset of an emergency, leading to a more efficient handover from the emergency response phase and quicker return to normality after the events.	Will Affect: Emergency Planning See 76 above.
83	Local authorities should continue to make arrangements to bear the cost of recovery for all but the most exceptional emergencies, and should revisit their reserves and insurance arrangements in light of last summer's floods.	Arrangements in place by the end of 2008. Lead by Local Authorities	LGA	Possible cost incurred in the establishment of further emergency contingency funds. Emergency planning and Scenario	Certainty of funding arrangements allowing plans to be drawn up in advance of an emergency and resources to be deployed without delay.	<i>(David Buckland Finance comments)</i>

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				building exercises needed to explore this further once advice given by Government.		
85	Local Recovery Coordination Groups should make early recommendations to elected local authority members about longer-term regeneration and economic development opportunities.	Beginning Immediately. Lead by Local Authorities.	BERR, CLG.		Potential opportunities for enhancement within affected communities.	<i>(Linda/LSP comments)</i>
90	All upper tier local authorities should establish oversight and Scrutiny Committees to review work by public sector bodies and essential service providers in order to manage flood risk, underpinned by a legal requirement to cooperate and share information.	Established June 2009	Local Authorities and Cabinet Office.	Officer time to feed into these processes.	Will facilitate the delivery of other recommendations.	Worcestershire County Scrutiny Committee report is available and being reviewed by the appropriate Council Scrutiny Committee(s).
91	Each Oversight and Scrutiny Committee should prepare an annual summary of actions taken locally to manage flood	Implemented June 2009	Local Authorities, Government Offices, Environment	Monitoring time potential as well as officer time input.	Will facilitate the delivery of other recommendations.	Worcestershire County Scrutiny Committee report is available and being reviewed by the appropriate Council Scrutiny

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risk implement this Review, and these reports should be public and reviewed by Government Offices and the Environment Agency.		Agencies.			Committee(s). A report can be prepared annually to the Scrutiny Committee of Actions taken.