



Community Services

Agenda Item No. 6

Briefing Paper

Report of: Phil Smith
Watercourse Officer
Date: Wednesday, 3rd December 2008
Open

Implications of Pitt Review on Flooding

1. Summary

1.1 The Council's response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of last summer's floods have been considered as part of the County Council's review and their recommendations, along with those of the Fire Service, have gone some way to prepare for these additional responsibilities, as well as meeting the demands arising out of the floods themselves. The Government has already signalled its broad support for the recommendations, so whilst the final detailed response from Government to the Pitt recommendations is still awaited, there is the need to plan ahead and be ready to meet the new responsibilities likely to be placed upon the Council.

2. Background

2.1 In June and July 2007 there were three severe weather occurrences in North Worcestershire. The high water table and intense periods of rainfall combined to produce localised severe flooding. These included the flooding of 260 individual properties, highways and industrial properties. The worst affected areas were around watercourses and brooks and these included properties adjacent to Dick Brook, Riddings Brook, Snuff Mill Brook and the River Stour. On the second and third occasions the effects were felt across the County and resulted in the local resilience forum calling on military assistance to aid rescues and defence of properties. The first instance was controlled by a localised Silver Control in North Worcestershire and the second and third, full Gold and Silver Controls for the events between 10th June and 1st July 2007.

2.2 The heavy rain in July also caused severe damage to the Severn Valley Railway, including a landslip at Northwood Lane in Bewdley which required the emergency evacuation of a number of properties. A further emergency evacuation relating to a highway collapse in Mill Street in Kidderminster was also triggered by the combined effects of the three periods of intense rain. All these emergencies were dealt with in accordance with the Council's Major Emergency Plan with the support of employees from Property & Operational Services working alongside the blue light services and the Environment Agency. In the main the type of

flooding that was seen in June and July 2007 was new to the County as it related to minor watercourses and surface water flooding rather than the well rehearsed response to main river flooding which occurs on a regular basis.

- 2.3 In addition to the immediate emergency response, there was a need to assist in the recovery phase. In particular the Council received £340,000 from the Government, £49,620 from the Red Cross and £44,000 from Advantage West Midlands. £260 was distributed to individual households to aid their immediate recovery. The remainder of the funds has gone into the purchase of aqua sacks, specialised equipment and watercourse management grants to make the District more resilient to the potential of further incidents of heavy rain. The Capital funding from Advantage West Midlands was used to reinstate the damaged infrastructure at Riverside Meadows and the like.
- 2.4 In the response and recovery phase there was the need to consider rehousing and Community Housing Group had to manage a significant programme of works to their affected properties with advice from the Housing Section on clean up and works needed. There was also a need for Environmental Health to advise and ensure hygiene in relation to businesses affected. There have been many individual homeowners helped with advice on clean up works and insurance issues by the temporary Watercourse Officer.
- 2.5 In light of last summer's national and local flooding issues the Government commissioned a full and independent review into the issues surrounding flooding and flood risk management. This resulted in one of the most wide ranging policy reviews ever undertaken, drawing from a variety of scientific, professional and social resources. The final review contains 92 specific recommendations aimed at the Environment Agency, Local Authorities, emergency services, utilities and the general public. The conclusions and recommendations within the review will be followed up by a complementary Floods and Water Bill to be published in spring 2009.
- 2.6 The Council has already acted in response to the local need regarding flooding, watercourse and land drainage issues through appointing a temporary post of Watercourse Officer for 2 years. This has enabled many immediate issues to be dealt with and also enabled participation in a county-wide Land Drainage Partnership Group. There are issues that cut across many Councils, Agencies, companies and organisations. The Land Drainage Partnership is helping to co-ordinate a response to the Pitt Review recommendations where appropriate and will be recommending targets and best practice. The Watercourse Officer has dealt with 85 separate cases of land drainage issues since the floods, up from an average of 4 cases a year in previous years. This has been a mixture of advice, enforcement liaising with Agencies and co-ordinating works. There is now a significant need to develop policy and respond to the recommendations of the Watercourse Management Plans provided

by consultants. There is also a significant role in relation to the provision of expertise in relation to significant new developments or major schemes. There is also work being done with local communities and residents, including through Parish Councils.

- 2.7 The Council is supporting a multi agency partnership bid to obtain funding for a pilot project to produce a Surface Water Management Plan for Wribbenhall.
- 2.8 Worcestershire County Council has conducted a Scrutiny exercise and will be presenting a Report on Flooding Issues.
- 2.9 In May 2008 the Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority also published its Flood Scrutiny report, see Appendix 2.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The general conclusion is that the country as a whole was, and is, under prepared for the type of flooding that occurred in June and July of last year. As climate change is expected to increase the frequency of such events, it is ever more essential to plan and adapt and be properly prepared.
- 3.2 Such preparation will undoubtedly require fundamental changes in the way the country as a whole prepares for flood risk and how the agencies and authorities involved deal with this threat.
- 3.3 Key areas that need addressing according to the Local Government Association are as follows:
 - a. Reduction of Flood Risk
 - b. Reduction of Flooding impact
 - c. Improving interaction with the planning system
 - d. Improving the emergency response
 - e. Informing and preparing the public
 - f. Ensuring a smooth transition from response to recovery
 - g. Ensuring effective recovery
- 3.4 In advance of the findings of the Pitt Report being published, Worcestershire, under the umbrella of the Local Resilience Forum, have established a standing "Silver Control Group" to review current and future responses and they in turn have set up a Severe Weather Sub Group. Both these groups are currently working on the collection of data to identify key infrastructure, produce surface water flooding maps and a district by district multi-agency flood plan. These will be supplemented by community plans which this Council is currently facilitating through Parish Councils and PACTS.
- 3.5 These will be dealt with via the implementation of the recommendations as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report scheduled to go to

December Cabinet. These recommendations both direct the current activities of the Council and also give additional responsibilities that have implications for ongoing capital and revenue expenditure. At present it is not clear how the range of local authority responsibilities will be divided between County and District Councils and the consequential division of funding.

- 3.6 Likely financial implications are indicated regarding each recommendation in the Appendices. Specifically, the Council is likely to face the need for continued staffing resources to carry out the production and subsequent overseeing of surface water management plans. There is a need to provide training to existing staff to ensure competency and meet the new and ongoing responsibilities of the Council. There will also be a need to bring in specialist consultants in due course to assist in higher level competency needed in specific cases.
- 3.7 Worcestershire County Council officers have advised that their technical highway engineering expertise will work with District Councils on joint issues of concern, However this will not replace the need for the Council to provide competent staff to cover our powers, duties and responsibilities.
- 3.8 The Council should ensure that it has access, in whatever form, to skilled personnel and expertise to deal efficiently with the new requirements.

4. Options

The Committee may wish to:

- 4.1 Recommend to Cabinet that the comments of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment and the Head of Property and Operational Services, as set out in Appendix 1 to the briefing paper, be endorsed.
- 4.2 Put forward alternative or additional comments for consideration by the Cabinet.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Corporate Management Team

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1 None

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 Wyre Forest District Council Flood Defence Policy
- 7.2 Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy 2008

8. Implications

8.1 Resources:

Government have yet to announce final figures for funding and or how funding is intended to be distributed. It is believed that at least £35 million is to be made available (from the £2.15 billion flood and coastal erosion budget for the next 3 years) to implement the recommendations of the report. Confirmation of Government funding, figures and structures is expected as part of their response.

- 8.2 The Pitt Review Report recommends that a pre-planned system to be set up for providing financial assistance to areas affected by floods.

- 8.3 It is clear Local Government's role in emergency planning and immediate relief to communities being affected by severe weather will increase. The current Bellwin Scheme is due for review and replacement however, to date, this Council has to fund the first £26,000 of any expenditure relating to an individual emergency. No direct provision is made within the budget for dealing with these events and this should be reviewed as part of the budget process.

- 8.4 The Watercourse Officer post was appointed on grade E, with salary costs of approximately £39,390 over the 2 years. Should the post be made permanent the grade will need to be reviewed in the light of the level of work and technical expertise being needed, using the Council's Job Evaluation Process.

- 8.5 Partnership Working: Significant partnership working has been and continues to be essential given the range of roles and responsibilities of the Council and partner agencies for example Worcestershire County Council, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, Residents Flood Committees and the Parish Councils.

9. Wards affected

- 9.1 All wards affected to varying degrees.

10. Appendices

- 1. Pitt Review Recommendations Table
- 2. Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority Flood Scrutiny Report

11. Background Papers

The Pitt Review: Implementation and Delivery Guide 07/08

LGA Briefing Flooding Lessons Learned Final Report – The Pitt Review
25/07/08

The Foresight Future Flooding 2004 qualitative risk analysis – An update
07/08

Wyre Forest District Watercourse Advisors, Watercourse Management
Plans April 2008

Contact Details:

Phil Smith
Watercourse Officer
Phil.smith@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
01562 732570

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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	Will affect: Planning, Forward Planning, Building Control, and Private Sector Housing. May necessitate policy review.

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
					flooding	
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 areas	By end 2008 Lead by Local Authority		Negligible. Capital funds already available in the form of Decent Homes Assistance sourced from Single Capital Pot for Private Sector Housing. Costs will be dependant on grant uptake.	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 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.

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
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 flood risk.	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 Watercourse Officer Post. 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

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
						Forest multi agency flood plan is due to be the first released in the County at the end of this calendar year.
15	Local authorities should positively tackle local problems of flooding by working with all relevant parties, establishing ownership and legal responsibility	Beginning Immediately. Lead by local authority	Environment Agency, Water Companies, IDB's Other asset owners	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	See above. This will also ensure that smaller, local food problems are not overlooked. 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.	Will Impact upon: County Council Highways Private Sector Housing, Emergency Planning, Forward Planning. 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 Officer post. Under the umbrella of the Local Resilience Forum, Worcestershire has established a severe

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
	to facilitate the management of flood risk.					will need to be implemented when required. DEFRA is leading on this recommendation, any outcome to be reported in due course if appropriate.
18	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.	Surface Water Management Plans to be completed by end 2010. Local Authority EA	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	Will affect: Planning, Forward Planning, Private Sector Housing. 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. Either way understanding of is initialled in surface water management plans must be further researched. This will require an ongoing staff commitment to carry out the review

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
					the SMWP's cost-beneficial.	and maintenance recommendations in the plans. 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 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.

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
						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 very likely.	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 at the earliest stage of development.	Could affect: Operations' Management, Private Sector Housing, Dependant on upcoming Government decisions
26	The Government should develop a single set of guidance for local authorities and the public on the use and usefulness of sandbags and	In place by end of 2009 Lead by Central Government.	Environment Agency CLG Cabinet Office Local Authorities	May potentially have a small impact upon cost in terms of sand bag distribution. Dependant on upcoming	Less resource diverted into ineffective sandbagging during emergencies.	Will affect: Emergency Planning, Operations' Management. Dependant on upcoming Government decisions.

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
	Other alternatives, rather than leaving the matter wholly to local discretion.			Government decisions.		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.
28	The forthcoming flooding legislation should be a single unifying Act that addresses all sources of flooding, clarifies responsibilities and facilitates flood risk management.	In place by end 2010 (see rec 58) Lead by Defra	All government departments.	(See rec 20) Dependant on upcoming Government decisions.	Ensures effective delivery of other recommendations.	Dependant on upcoming Government decisions.
38	Local authorities should establish mutual aid agreements in accordance with the	Guidance issued by the end 2008 Lead by Local Authorities and	LGA	(see rec 20) Dependant on upcoming Government	Enhanced mutual aid arrangements, leading to a more effective, coordinated multi-agency response and	Will affect: Emergency Planning. Mutual aid agreements exist between the County

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
	guidance currently being prepared by the Local Government Association and the Cabinet Office.	Cabinet Office		decisions.	more efficient use of assets nationally.	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	Developed by October 2008.	Local Resilience Forums, Voluntary sector, Cabinet Office.	Implementing door knocking should incur negligible costs as the scheme will be	Longer lead times for the public to take mitigation action, ensuring that venerable groups are	Will affect: The appropriate department charged with this responsibility. Currently some measures

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
	by local authorities, to enhance flood warnings before flooding and to provide information and assess welfare needs once flooding has receded.			voluntary. Will again draw on staff time/resources to implement co-ordinate.	identified.	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 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	Arrangements in place by end 2008 Lead by Local Authorities	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	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	Will affect: Emergency Planning, The Hub. Staff will require clear instruction/training as to directing the public to appropriate agencies. An emergency flood line

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
				county.	responder organisations – allowing responders to use their time and resources more effectively.	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 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-

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
						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 those out of their homes. Significant Public health advice role to property owners, occupiers, local businesses and others.	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 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,

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
						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 through the	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

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
				implementation of structure and policy and having a clear lead officer/Division on this role.		housing. This was undertaken for the 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

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
						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 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	Beginning immediately.	CLG, Voluntary Sector.		More emphasis on the recovery phase from	Will Affect: Emergency Planning

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
	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.	Lead by Local Authorities.			the outset of an emergency, leading to a more efficient handover from the emergency response phase and quicker return to normality after the events.	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 building exercises needed to explore this further once advice given by Government.	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>
85	Local Recovery Coordination Groups should make early recommendations to	Beginning Immediately. Lead by Local	BERR, CLG.		Potential opportunities for enhancement within affected communities.	<i>(Linda/LSP comments)</i>

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
	elected local authority members about longer-term regeneration and economic development opportunities.	Authorities.				
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 risk implement this Review, and these	Implemented June 2009	Local Authorities, Government Offices, Environment Agencies.	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 Committee(s). A report can be prepared

**Agenda Item No. 6
Appendix 1**

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
	reports should be public and reviewed by Government Offices and the Environment Agency.					annually to the Scrutiny Committee of Actions taken.