

Task and Finish Group Key Information	
Task and Finish Group Title	Flood Risk Preparation and Response
Area for Investigation: [Directorate and Service Area]	Resident Services
Chair of Task and Finish Group	TBC by Scrutiny Board
Members of Task and Finish Group [Confirm number of members involved. The membership of the TFG will be cross party].	TBC by Scrutiny Board
Scrutiny Clerk:	Earl Piggott-Smith
Service Lead Officers: [Lead and Support]	John Roseblade (Director of Resident Services)
Scoping form completed by:	John Roseblade, Laura Noonan, Martin Stevens
Scrutiny requested by:	Scrutiny Board
Background and Rationale [Consider: Why this needs a more detailed review and cannot be adequately reviewed in a scrutiny meeting. Also consider rationale against council plan priorities, importance to residents, value for money concerns, partnership working, cross cutting issues]	<p>The Chair of Scrutiny Board identified the need for Scrutiny to do more to monitor its formal recommendations to Cabinet, particularly with regards to the outcomes of task and finish groups.</p> <p>In 2019, Cabinet approved 16 recommendations from the Scrutiny Review Group on Flood Risk and Preparation Response.</p> <p>Flooding incidents are becoming more common.</p>
Purpose of the Review [Cover the key lines of questioning and Give a brief description of what we hope undertaking the review will achieve e.g., Improved performance, amended policy, efficiencies or increased footfall]	<p>It is timely to review this in light of recent flooding events across the city. The purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor progress against the 2019 recommendations in a proportionate way. • Scrutinise the effectiveness of current policies and procedures to mitigate effects of surface flooding. • To consider if there are more lessons that can be learned from recent flooding events to minimise the impact of flooding.

	<p>Line of questioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much land drainage and work on sewage systems has been done since 2018? • How has flooding across the city been dealt with since the 2018 floods, and with what success have the 2019 review recommendations been implemented? • Are the partnership arrangements better than they were? • What preventative work is taking place?
<p>Indicators of success</p> <p>[Include details of desired indicators of success and how these can be measured]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evaluation of how well the 2019 recommendations were implemented. • Clear recommendations to Cabinet which would be monitored by Scrutiny Board or Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel.
Scope	
<p>In-scope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole city, but particular focus on the areas of Wolverhampton that are at high risk of flooding as per Flood Risk Strategy. • Severn Trent Water update on Investment Strategy in replacement of pipes. • Surface water flooding (AKA Flash flooding) • Damage to residential and commercial properties • Communication across the city
<p>Excluded from scope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding event from 2023 that is currently subject to a legal review. This would be brought to a future scrutiny meeting and report can be used as part of the evidence.
Council and Partner Involvement	
<p>Who would need to be involved from the Council?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident Services - Strategic Regional Flood Risk Management Team - Regional Flooding Coastal Committee - Planning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insurance - Health and Safety - Resilience Team - Communications Team
Which of our partners, stakeholders and Members of the community should we discuss this with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Resilience Forum - Severn Trent Water - The Highways Agency - The Environment Agency - Wolverhampton Homes Landlord Service
Review resources	
Evidence: [Background Information and documents to look at]	Scrutiny Review of Flood Risk Preparation and Response, Cabinet, 27 March 2019. Scrutiny Board Minutes - 12 March 2019, Pre-decision of report to Cabinet. Scrutiny Board Report, “Surface Water Flooding Scrutiny Review Update” and associated Minutes– 10 September 2019 Maps of areas and buildings affected by flooding.
Witnesses: [Who to see and when]	Residents and businesses affected by flooding in 2023. Communications to promote the review
Site visits: [Details of site visits and when they will be held if appropriate]	To be considered by group on whether to visit a site frequently at risk of flooding.
Consultation: [Is there any consultation which needs to be undertaken to feed into the review?] [Do findings need to be published for consultation before making final recommendations?]	Not appropriate for this review as questionnaires have already been sent out as part of S.19 Review.
Expert Advice: [Do the Task & Finish Group require expert advice support due to the nature of the review.]	It may be useful to invite a lecturer from the university who contributed to the last review group to provide specialist advice on factors that contribute to the pattern of flooding in urban settings – particularly with any new research that has come to light since 2019. Dr Chris Bradley from University of Birmingham offered advice at the last review. Jamie Copper – Flood Risk Manager (Staffordshire County Council) Andrew Brett (Staffordshire County Council)

Risks	
What are the risks to the review?	There is currently a legal review underway in to the flooding events of 2023. This has not yet been concluded.
Timescales	
Anticipated review start date:	October 2023
Anticipated review end date:	January 2024
Frequency of meetings:	Every 2-3 weeks
Draft outline of meetings <i>[Outline draft agenda for each meeting]</i>	<p>Meeting 1: Scene setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of 2019 recommendations - Case studies on flooding events since 2018 review <p>Meeting 2: Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best practice advice from experts <p>Meeting 3:</p> <p>-To be determined after the first meeting</p> <p>Meeting 4: Moving forward</p> <p>-To be determined after the first meeting</p>
Date to evaluate impact:	Approximately six to twelve months after conclusion of the review.
[A review in six to twelve months (dependent on outcomes) at this point deciding to either re scrutinise this matter, with a different task and finish group, or sign it off as the indicators of success have been achieved]	