



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Health and Environmental Services Committee
Subject:	Belfast Flooding
Date:	4 th February 2009
Reporting Officer:	Mrs. Suzanne Wylie, Head of Environmental Health, ext. 3281
Contact Officer:	Mrs. Suzanne Wylie, Head of Environmental Health, ext 3281

Relevant Background Information

The flooding emergency which took place in Belfast on 16 August 2008 has now been extensively reviewed using information obtained from the main responding organisations and from Belfast City Council elected members and staff who took part in the response to the event and recovery from it. The information was obtained using a series of structured focus group meetings and the main observations and recommendations have been summarised in the attached report.

The report sets out background information and a series of recommendations which were presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23rd January 2009 (reports attached as appendices).

It should be noted that the Emergency Coordination Officer has initiated work to analyse flooding data from recent emergencies with a view to:

- mapping the main hotspots in the City;
- establishing likely causes and;
- identifying preventative measures that can be put in place

This work should be completed within the next 3 months.

Key Issues

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting of 23rd January 2008 agreed to:

- Note and endorse the findings of the attached Flooding Report: and
- Endorse the proposal to set up a Member group, with representation from all political parties, to oversee the implementation of the recommendations detailed in the attached flooding report and the work with other agencies to put in place prevention measures to mitigate the risk of future flooding.

It is important that the Health and Environmental Services Committee is made aware of this decision and is apprised of progress with the implementation of the recommendations in due course.

Resource Implications

Financial

Work can be accommodated within current budgets.

Human Resources

Officer time can be accommodated within current workloads.

Asset and Other Implications

None

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the flooding report and the decisions of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Report to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd January 2009

Appendix 2: Report – Belfast Flooding – 16 August 2008