

Report to: Scrutiny Management Panel.
18 June 2009.

Report from: Anthony Quinn, Senior Local Democracy Officer
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MONITORING THE OUTCOMES FROM SCRUTINY REVIEWS.

THE REVIEW OF THE ADEQUACY OF SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLY IN THE CITY.

1. Purpose.

This report provides an opportunity for the Panel to receive an update on the progress made with the recommendations arising from the review of The Adequacy of Sewerage and Water Supply in the City.

2. Recommendations.

The Panel is asked to consider whether it wishes to make any further comments regarding the progress made with the implementation of the recommendations arising from this review.

3. Background.

3.1 At its meeting on 12 July 2006, the Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel agreed that it would review on a rolling basis the progress made with implementing recommendations arising from completed scrutiny reviews. On 25 November 2008 the Council agreed that the Scrutiny Management Panel should continue this role under the new scrutiny arrangements.

3.2 The review of The Adequacy of Sewerage and Water Supply in the City was undertaken by Topic Panel B between 9 December 2006 and 4 May 2007.

3.3 At the Council meeting on the 20 December 2005 a Notice of Motion regarding the sewerage and water supply in the city was referred to the Policy and Review (Oversight) Panel for consideration.

3.4 At a meeting on 10 January 2006, the Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel requested a briefing from officers to assist it with setting the scope of this review. This presentation was made on 15 February and the Panel then requested a scoping document for its review of Adequacy of Sewerage and Water Supply Systems in the City.

3.5. The Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel agreed the scope of the review and allocated it to Topic Panel B at it's meeting on 12 July 2006.

3.6 At its meeting on 9 November 2006, Topic Panel B agreed the suggested work programme as set out in the scoping document along with the following objectives for the review process:

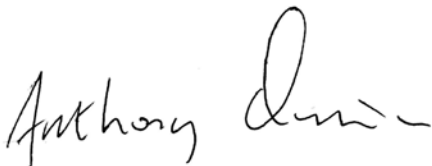
- To understand how water is supplied and wastewater dealt with in Portsmouth.
- To understand how future demand for water will be met.

- To understand the measures that are in place to prevent flooding and who has responsibility for these.
- To understand the role that the water companies play in the local and regional planning process and how this affects the City Council.
- To understand how the plans to increase the housing stock in the city will affect the present water infrastructure.
- To use the evidence obtained during the review process to recommend a clear way forward in the Council's policy on these matters.

3.7 The Panel heard evidence from key council officers and representatives from Portsmouth Water, Southern Water, the Environment Agency, South East England Regional Assembly, Ensign, Colas, the Executive Member for Environment & Transportation, Portsmouth Environmental Forum and Councillor Hugh Mason.

3.8 The Panel's principle recommendations are set out in appendix one along with the progress made to date on each one.

3.9 At its meeting on 9 July 2007, the Executive welcomed the Panel's report and endorsed the proposed actions against each of the Panel's recommendations set out in the officers' response report. The Executive also noted the responses from Southern Water and Portsmouth Water.



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Senior Local Democracy Officer.

Scrutiny Management Panel 18 June 2009.Monitoring Table showing the Progress Made on the Recommendations Arising From the Review of the review of The Adequacy of Sewerage and Water Supply in the City.

Recommendation	Action by	Resource Implications	Progress Update for Scrutiny Management Panel 18 June 2009.
1. That the City Council fully support in principle Southern Water's efforts to introduce a targeted dual drainage system in Portsmouth in order to improve capacity and that this support be communicated to Ofwat as part of the next periodic review process.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	<p>Southern Water has not proposed the introduction of a targeted dual drainage system in its new 5-year business plan.</p> <p>However, the following paragraph is included: Our proposals to modify the system in Portsmouth have been thoroughly modeled and we have designed a suite of investments totaling £90m (£51m of which is allocated here) which will work together to reduce sewer flooding to Portsmouth and enable us to accommodate growth in the area in the future. A new outfall and strategic surface water separation project will be able to reduce the risk of sewer flooding in Portsmouth and accommodate more growth in the future. We have the support of Portsmouth City Council and the Environment Agency for this Eastney resilience scheme.</p> <p>Portsmouth City Council has formally supported these proposals responding to Southern Water consultation.</p>
2. That the City Council, in its role as the Highways Authority, continue to explore ways in which it could assist Southern Water with its development of plans for a targeted dual drainage system.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	All as described in Section 7 below. PCC will be taking a lead role in the preparation of a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) for Portsmouth and is now working in partnership with Southern Water. This will include assisting Southern Water in preventing surface water from entering sewers.
3. That the City Council support Portsmouth Water's application to the Environment Agency to renew its Abstraction Licence for the River Itchen in order to safeguard future water supplies.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	No specific expression of support necessary as the Environment Agency did not object to the application. See separate sheet from Portsmouth Water.

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4. That, in light of the likely future increase in demand for water and the possibility that the above mentioned Abstraction License may not be renewed, Portsmouth Water be asked to urgently reconsider its current Water Resources Plan to ensure that it will be fit for purpose in the future.	Portsmouth Water		See separate sheet from Portsmouth Water.
5. That Portsmouth Water be asked to ensure that it keeps the City Council fully informed about its plans to build a winter storage reservoir at Havant Thicket.	Portsmouth Water		See separate sheet from Portsmouth Water.
6. That, in light of both future challenges to the demand and supply balance and the Government's review of metering in areas of water scarcity, Portsmouth Water also be asked to review its approach to metering existing households	Portsmouth Water		See separate sheet from Portsmouth Water.
7. That the City Council takes the lead in establishing a city-wide joint working group aimed at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the need to improve the city's water and sewerage infrastructure • Introducing measures to prevent flooding • Agreeing a partnership approach to respond to 	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	A formal joint working group has yet to be set up. The Pitt report and the government's response require local authorities to take a leadership role in terms of addressing these issues and a report is being prepared for Strategic Directors Board to consider how to progress. Meetings have been held with Southern Water, engineers and planners to address surface water drainage and capacity in the combined sewer system. A policy has been included in the draft Core Strategy (Portsmouth Plan) to define an area of search for a new pumping station in Southsea. A study is underway to seek to prevent seawater infiltration to the combined

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			sewer system at Spice Island. Studies are programmed to investigate separating surface water from the combined sewer and providing a connection between the eastern and western interceptor sewers. These 3 studies are funded through PUSH allocating government New Growth Point funding to Portsmouth.
8. That the working group be asked to investigate the possibility of introducing a single city wide number for residents to call in the event of a flooding emergency occurring.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	It has since been decided that this would not be an appropriate action for the Council, it would be better for residents to be signposted to the right agency.
9. That the working group provide a progress report to the City Council's Executive twice a year.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	Working group yet to be established.
10. That the City Council undertake to fully explore, in partnership with the water companies and the Environment Agency, how it could use its planning and building control powers to promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	A policy has been included in the draft Core Strategy (Portsmouth Plan) that requires that there be no increase in the flow to the combined sewer as a result of development. This will necessitate the use of sustainable drainage systems.
12. That the City Council investigates as a matter of urgency whether it could develop policies aimed at reducing the impact of hard surfacing	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Development of policies may require change to policy framework	The policy referred to in 11 above would assist in this respect. The government has recently changed the permitted development regulations so that impermeable surfacing falls under planning controls whereas permeable surfaces do not.

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13. That the City Council works in partnership with the water companies to promote water efficiency measures and the proper use of the wastewater system.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	<p>Policies have been included in the draft Core Strategy (Portsmouth Plan) to achieve this in new development.</p> <p>Southern Water is currently working in partnership with the City Council to supply and fit 15,000 water butts for the residents of Portsmouth on a first come, first served basis. This is despite the fact that Southern Water is not the company supplying the city with water. This project is in its initial stages and should this proceed as planned it will be advertised in the summer edition of Flagship.</p> <p>See separate sheet from Portsmouth Water.</p>
14. That Southern Water be asked to run the 'Bag it and Bin it' campaign on a yearly basis.	Southern Water		<p>Southern Water's response: 'Bag it and Bin It' is an ongoing publicity campaign, which will help to prevent sewer flooding. In Portsmouth, five thousand fat traps were given away free of charge, on a first come, first served basis, at libraries across the city. The campaign highlighted the fact that nearly two-thirds of sewer blockages are caused by items flushed down the loo or poured down the sink. The initiative was successful with the demand for the fat traps exhausting supply within days of the launch. While we will continue to increase awareness of appropriate disposal of fat and oil there are no immediate plans to hold another 'giveaway' campaign.</p>

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15. That Southern Water be asked to ensure that the local community is advised when there is a need to discharge screened storm water into Langstone Harbour and its connected environs.	Southern Water		As agreed, spill events into Langstone Harbour are reported to both the Harbour Master and the Environment Agency. We responded to the specific request of the Harbour Master to enable the Harbour Master's office to pass on this information to users of the harbour. A data retrieval for 2007 is currently being undertaken and we will supply the results to you shortly.
16. That the City Council actively encourage Colas to establish links with Southern Water in order to take a partnership approach to preventing highways and localised flooding.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	This is an ongoing exercise.
17. That the City Council's Building Control Section be integrated and co-located with the Planning Department in order to facilitate early input into the planning process.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	This has been achieved.
18. That the City Council contributes its views to the government's proposed review of Building Regulations.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	Portsmouth Building Control responds to consultation surveys on amendments to the Building Regulations. The Building Control Manager has attended a number of workshops recently on Sprinklers in High Risk Buildings and Risk assessment of Building Control site inspections.
19. That the above recommendations be considered, where appropriate, for inclusion in the City Council's Local Development Framework.	Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council	Within policy framework	References to the Core Strategy (Portsmouth Plan) that is part of the Local Development Framework have been included in the progress on individual recommendations above.