

**ADJUSTMENT TO THE WORDING OF THE LAND DRAINAGE STRATEGY.**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Land Drainage Strategy sets the context within which the Council operates on land drainage issues. The Strategy document has been agreed and has operated successfully for some years. The Council operates permissive powers on land drainage, and it has been found that the wording of certain sections of the Strategy does not fully reflect the situation, as it now stands and has the danger of raising unrealistic expectations in the mind of the general public about the amount of help that the Council can, in practice, offer.
- 1.2 This issue was considered by the Environment Review Panel on 12 June 2008 and they agreed that the Portfolio Holder should be requested to amend the wording of the Strategy, as set out below.

**2.0 PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE WORDING OF THE STRATEGY DOCUMENT**

*Existing Clause 5.1 (i) – The Council will exercise its statutory powers to help alleviate or control flooding from ordinary watercourses of both public and private property, priority being given to where dwellings have been, or are at risk of being, flooded internally. Priority will be given to requiring riparian owners to undertake any necessary maintenance works and the Council will carry out any necessary minor watercourse improvement, or flood defence works or organise works funded by others.*

**Proposed Clause 5.1 (i) -** The Council will exercise its permissive statutory powers to help to alleviate flooding of domestic properties from ordinary watercourses, priority being given where dwellings have been, or are at risk from, flooding. Requiring riparian owners to undertake maintenance works to keep their watercourses clear will be a high priority

*Existing Clause 5.1 (ii) - Where the necessary works are inappropriate in scale and/or cost for riparian owners' action, and receive DEFRA approval having met their benefit/cost criteria, the Council will undertake such works directly in accordance with established programmes of work recognising resource limitations. Where appropriate, the Council will seek to recover costs on a proportional basis from riparian owners.*

**Proposed Clause 5.1 (ii) -** If the scale of work justifies it the Council may apply to the Environment Agency to include a flood alleviation scheme in its medium term programme. However, the justification for such a scheme will have to be assessed against national flood risk management priorities so the Council will only consider progressing an application in exceptional circumstances and if it can recover its full costs.

**Existing Clause 5.1 (iii) - The Council will not take direct remedial action in respect of non-watercourse land drainage problems.**

**Proposed Clause 5.1 (iii) - The Council will only take direct action to deal with watercourse related problems. The Council may investigate and provide advice about non-watercourse related surface water flooding problems, subject to resources being available.**

**3.0 CRIME AND DISORDER, ENVIRONMENTAL, EQUALITIES AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 None arising from this proposal. This is purely a change in wording to an existing strategy.

**4.0 OTHER OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED.**

4.1 The wording of the document could be left unaltered, pending a full review of the document in due course.

**5.0 DECISION.**

5.1 That the wording of the Land Drainage Strategy be amended as shown in Section 2 above.

Signed: &/ / 5 ( - + ( 5 2 1

Cllr E J Heron, Environment Portfolio Holder

Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Date on which notice given of this Decision - 20 June 2008

Last date for call-in - 30 June 2008