

**To the Chair and Members of the
Cabinet**

**PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE REPORT - Trent Regional Flood and Coastal
Committee**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Chris McGuinness	Conisborough, Edlington and Warmsworth, Hexthorpe and Balby, Town, Wheatley and Intake, Stainforth and Barnby Dun and Thorne and Moorends, Rossington and Bawtry, Finningley, Bessacarr, Tickhill and Wadworth, Armthorpe, Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. As part of the Council's approach to monitoring and evaluating its relationship with external organisations and partnerships this report provides details on activities undertaken by the following organisations (s):

Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. To note the feedback and comments in respect of the Council's partnership arrangements with **Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee**.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Reviewing the activities of partnerships where the Council or Executive appoints representatives helps to ensure alignment with Borough wide priorities, improved stewardship of public funds and public confidence that effective controls are in place to manage any relevant risks. Effective governance also ensures partnerships' working contributes to the effective and efficient provision of services to the Public and the achievement of value for money.

BACKGROUND

5. At its meeting on 19 May 2017, Council agreed that where it made

appointments to external partnerships, a mechanism should be put in place to report back to the Council on the activities of that body in a consistent manner. As the Council increasingly works with partners to achieve common objectives and/or ensure effective stewardship of public funds this process will demonstrate greater transparency and accountability within partnership working.

6. Attached at Appendix A is a Partnership Governance template relating to **Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee**. This provides Members with an overview of key activities undertaken, any significant future activities and any significant governance or other issues.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7. Without consistent and effective information on their activities, it is more difficult for the Council to understand and register the effects of decisions made by partnerships and take action where appropriate on any decisions made/proposed. The option to do nothing, therefore, misses the opportunity/requirement to respond to the ever-growing incidence of partnerships working and strengthen the Council's control framework and its management of risks.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

8. To regularly report back on the activities of partnerships provides an opportunity to strengthen governance arrangements, monitor the effectiveness of those arrangements and raise awareness of wider partnership activities.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

9. Good partnerships governance has the following impacts on Council priorities.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	People in Doncaster benefit from	Flood Risk management

	<p>a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>throughout the borough reduces the flood risk to properties, businesses and infrastructure.</p>
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	<p>By providing robust partnership guidance ensures the stewardship of public funds.</p>
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	<p>Strengthening partnership working by identifying, managing and reducing risks in order to enable strategic and operational partnerships achieve all our objectives.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

10. Failure to review partnerships' and key internal groups' activities exposes the Council to risks that can impact on a number of levels as follows:
- Failing to ensure an effective strategic fit
 - Failing to identify and address the gaps and shortfalls in relationships
 - Failing to fully assess and plan for the Organisational Impact the changes will have
 - Failing to robustly develop and test the economic case for partnership working
 - Reputational damage to DMBC due to flawed partnerships
 - Conflicts of interest not being managed
 - Damaged relationships with partners.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. S 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a general power of competence which allows local authorities to do anything an individual can do, unless prohibited by law (and subject to public law principles). This power allows for the general oversight of the external organisation on which Council members and officers sit. It is important that where the Authority nominates officers or members to sit on external partnerships they do have an ongoing oversight of the governance standards of the partnerships. As a minimum, the partnerships should be aware and have policies reflecting the ethical standards of behaviour expected of public office holders as detailed in the Nolan principles.

12. It is essential that those the Council appoints to sit on outside bodies understand their duties and responsibilities in relation to their position on those bodies and the limit of any delegations they may enjoy. Further specific advice should be sought if they are in any doubt as to these matters.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. DMBC makes an annual contribution of £20,000 to the Local Levy. This amount is part of DMBC central budgets.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no human resource implications.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no technology implications

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no equality implications

CONSULTATION

16. Not required

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. Report to Council 19 May 2017 : Governance Arrangements: Oversight and Transparency of the Work of External Partnerships and Council Committees.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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**PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE – REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY
TEMPLATE AND GUIDANCE NOTES**

1. NAME OF PARTNER ORGANISATION:

Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION

The Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC) is a committee established by the Environment Agency under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that brings together members appointed by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and independent members with relevant experience for 3 purposes:

- to ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines
- to encourage efficient, targeted and risk-based investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management that represents value for money and benefits local communities
- to provide a link between the Environment Agency, LLFAs, other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to build understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in its area

3. NAME OF THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE(S) APPOINTED TO THE ORGANISATION AND THE CAPACITY IN WHICH THEY SERVE:

Committee Members
Councillor Chris McGuinness

4. NAME OF COUNCIL'S LEAD OFFICER:

Richard Ward – Senior Flood Risk Engineer (DMBC)

5. KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PERIOD April 2016 to April 2017

To ensure (to include formal approval of the programme expenditure) the Environment Agency's 6 year medium term capital programme continues to be delivered. £29 million pounds of Capital expenditure is forecast to be spent in 2016/17.

The overall settlement for the MTP up to the year 2020/21 is around £179 million pounds.

Setting of the Local Levy, of which Doncaster MBC contributes £20,000

6. KEY ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PERIOD April 2017 TO April 2018

To ensure (to include formal approval of the programme expenditure) the Environment Agency's 6 year medium term programme, continues to be delivered.

Setting of the Local Levy, of which Doncaster MBC contributes £20,000

7. DETAILS OF ANY SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

None

8. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

None

9. PLEASE STATE NAME OF RELEVANT DIRECTOR OR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Peter Dale, Director Regeneration and Environment
Gill Gillies, Assistant Director Environment

10. DATE:

3 October 2017

11. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED REPORT - 27 March 2018