

Record of Decisions

Extreme Weather Resilience Report: Torbay 2013/14

Decision Taker

Mayor on Thursday, 30 October 2014

Decision

That the submitted report be approved and the following recommendations in the Extreme Weather Resilience Report: Torbay 2013/14 be adopted:

- (i) that Torbay Council continue to enhance partnership working through the Peninsular Rail Task Force and Network Rail to further develop resilience in the far South West and ensure that information from the events of 2013/14 are shared to reduce the impacts of future extreme weather events;
- (ii) that Network Rail be recommended to prioritise future funding to improve resilience and connectivity to the far South West ensuring future strategic plans include the need to improve resilience to this area. This should include plans to raise track heights and raise line-side equipment cabinets above track level on sections of track to reduce the vulnerability of the rail network, and additional passing places on the Waterloo Line to act as an alternative route should the need arise;
- (iii) in the event of major disruption to rail services, co-ordination arrangements over adjacent geographical areas are enhanced by Network Rail and Train Operating Companies;
- (iv) that Torbay Council continues to enhance partnership working with the Local Enterprise Partnership, South West Transport Authorities and the Highways Agency to develop a resilient strategic highway network funded with support from central government;
- (v) that Torbay Council acting as Lead Local Flood Authority facilitate new studies and undertake small scale flood risk management measures to tackle new recovery and resilience requirements, on top of the existing and planned programmes of work;
- (vi) that Government should consult Local Highway Authorities on a single set of criteria to be applied to emergency highway repair funding, to minimise the administrative burden when applying for funds at times of crisis;
- (vii) that Torbay Council develops a prioritised harbour repair programme with funding assistance from outside bodies;
- (viii) that Torbay Council further develop the resilience of Torbay's coastline using the Flood Steering Group to enhance partnership working with the Environment Agency (EA) and South West Water;
- (ix) that Torbay Council supports tourism businesses through increased publicity and media campaigns during extreme weather events. That Torbay Council also surveys the impact of future events on this sector;

- (x) that Torbay Council and the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust work in partnership to identify ways in which Torbay's green infrastructure can reduce and slow flooding during extreme weather events;
- (xi) that Torbay Council supports the development of the Environment Agency Flood Warden initiative; and
- (xii) that Torbay Council explores ways of sharing information in real time between emergency response teams during emergency events, for example using 'Resilience Direct'.

Reason for the Decision

To improve the Council's response to extreme weather events acting as a community leader, service provider and estate manager. To provide a documented evidence base of the impacts of the severe weather events of 2013/14 which can support requests to Government for greater investment and resilience on strategic and local networks.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 12 November 2014 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The submitted report provides an evidence base of the impacts of the 2013/14 winter storm period on Torbay and lays the foundations for greater resilience in the future. The report focuses on Torbay's highways, footpaths, rail network, coastal defences, harbours and green infrastructure.

The Council is working partnership with Devon County Council, Cornwall County Council, Somerset County Council, Plymouth City Council and the Isles of Scilly to gain a collective understanding of the extreme weather risks and develop projects that will help Torbay withstand the extremes of weather more robustly.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Alternative options are set out in the submitted report.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillor Doggett declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a member of the Torbay Rail Line Users Group.

Published

4 November 2014

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: 4 November 2014