

<b>Title of Report:</b>	Severe weather, winter 2013/14
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 September 2014

**Purpose of Report:** **To introduce to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission the process to be followed for its review into the severe weather events of the winter of 2013/14.**

**Recommended Action:** It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission continues to examine the effect on and response to the severe winter weather events of the winter of 2013/14 by organisations other than the Council, in order to identify recommendations for consideration by the Executive.

**Key background documentation:** Winter Floods & Storms 2013/2014 Debrief Report

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# Executive Report

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting of 25 February 2014 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission (OSMC) agreed to carry out a review into the severe weather events experienced in West Berkshire over the winter of 2013/14.
- 1.2 This report reminds the members of the Commission of the Terms of Reference and methodology subsequently agreed by the Commission on 1 July 2014, sets out the broad review schedule and provides specific detail for the consideration of how the weather affected organisations other than the Council.

## 2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1 The Commission agreed that a review would be undertaken into the effects of and response to the severe weather that affected West Berkshire during the winter of 2013/2014, in order to ensure that the appropriate lessons are learnt and measures put in place to mitigate the effect of future severe weather events. In particular the review will seek to
- (1) Understand what happened and why
  - (2) Determine whether the plans in place prior to the flooding were effective
  - (3) Identify the lessons that should be learnt
  - (4) Assess the future severe weather risks to the District and the extent to which they might be managed
  - (5) Report to the Executive and others with recommendations as appropriate.

## 3. Methodology

- 3.1 The review is being undertaken by the full Commission over the course of a series of public meetings. In outline, the meetings have been structured as set out in the table below.

Date	Times	Meeting focus
1 September 2014	1100 – 1645	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Events overview</li><li>• Council response</li></ul>
5 September 2014	0900 – 1630	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response by other agencies</li></ul>
11 September 2014	1330 – 1745	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effect on and response by communities</li></ul>
15 September 2014	1400 – 1630	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drawing conclusions</li></ul>
30 September 2014	1830 – 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sign off of recommendations</li></ul>

- 3.2 Recommendations identified by the Commission will be included as part of a wider and composite debrief report, a working draft of which was provided to the Commission at its meeting of 1 September 2014, for consideration by the Executive in due course.

#### 4. Conduct of the 5 September meeting

4.1 The meeting of 1 September is structured as shown in the table below.

09:00 – 10:00	<p><b>Thames Valley Police</b></p> <p>Lindsey Finch – Inspector, Deputy Commander West Berkshire Police Area</p> <p>Sabine Furlong – Contingency Planning Officer</p>
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:15	<p><b>Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service</b></p> <p>Paul Jacques - Flooding Response Strategic Project Officer</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 13:00	<p><b>Environment Agency</b></p> <p>Barry Russell – Operations Manger North West Maria Herlihy – Operations Manager South East Katherine Dolman – Flood Resilience Team</p>
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Scottish and Southern Electric</b></p> <p>Alex Howison - Stakeholder Engagement Manager)</p> <p>John Wright - Local Depot Manager Duncan Macdonald - Corporate Affairs</p> <p><b>Thames Water</b> Hilary Murgatroyd - Local Regional Government Liaison Sarah Burchard - Emergency Risk Specialist, Business Resilience and Security Team</p>
15:00- 15:30	<p><b>Sovereign</b></p> <p>Matthew Hensby - Regional Housing Manager Simon Hall - Operations manager, Property Services Nick Gessey - Head of Health and Safety</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Wardens</b></p> <p>Andrew Cooch - Neighbourhood Warden Manager</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Break

15:45 – 16:30	<p><b>Military Joint Regional Liaison Officer (JRLO)</b></p> <p>Philip Milham - Lieutenant Colonel PCE Mileham RA</p>
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4.2 All organisations will provide evidence on their

- Preparedness
- Response
- Business continuity
- Recovery
- Learning for future events.

4.3 Brief reports from these organisations are available at Appendices A to G. As outlined in the table above, representatives will be in attendance at the meeting to provide amplification on these reports.

## 5. Recommendation

5.1 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission examines the effect on and response to the severe winter weather events of the winter of 2013/14 by organisations outside the Council, in order to identify recommendations for consideration by the Executive.

## Appendices

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- Appendix A Thames Valley Police
- Appendix B Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Appendix C Environment Agency
- Appendix D Scottish and Southern Electric
- Appendix E Thames Water
- Appendix F Sovereign Housing
- Appendix G Neighbourhood Wardens
- Appendix H Military