



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

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**to  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
17 JULY 2019**

**WATER CYCLE STUDY UPDATE**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Members on the development of a Water Cycle Study and the proposed timescales for this going forward.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) That Members note the report.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 A Water Cycle Study is a technical background document that assesses the available physical and environmental capacity in water supply and wastewater infrastructure. It also identifies wider impacts relating to flooding and wildlife habitats, together with recommendations to resolve any constraints and an evaluation of the implications for future growth.
- 3.2 The Council commissioned a study of this nature namely Maldon & Heybridge Water Cycle Study in 2010 as an evidence based document for the submission of the 2014 Local Development Plan adopted in 2017.
- 3.3 The 2010 Study is limited in that it only considers the Maldon and Heybridge areas and is now somewhat out of date.
- 3.4 The Council's Local Development Plan is due to be reviewed by 2020 and should further growth be identified, a full Water Cycle Study will be required at this time.
- 3.5 The Council have been working with partners to identify the adequacy and suitability of existing water infrastructure particularly with regards to growth within the district and any constraints that the current infrastructure has identified.
- 3.6 Officers have been in discussion with Anglian Water as to whether a 'Position Statement' of their infrastructure can be developed. Early indications are that a summary document could be prepared that identifies areas where improvements are planned and the proposed timescales of any funding allocation where appropriate.

- 3.7 Preliminary discussions have also taken place with Essex County Council to explore whether they have the capability of potentially delivering a Water Cycle Study for the Council in view of the projects already undertaken in their role as Lead Local Flood Authority.
- 3.8 The outcome of these partnership discussions will be reported to this Committee at a later meeting when discussions are concluded. In the meantime, in **APPENDIX 1** is a recent presentation presented by Anglian Water to officers of the Council which gives an insight into their input into the planning process, constraints both in terms of regulatory and financial and next steps with regards to better communication and working with partners.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Officers are working closely with Anglian Water and Essex County Council to deliver meaningful information to support the continued prosperity of the district and any potential growth. Should it be necessary to commission a full Water Cycle Study these early discussions and any reports delivered as a result will be essential detail when scoping the work required for the wider Study and any gaps that will need to be considered as part of the process.

#### **5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES**

- 5.1 There is likely to be a positive impact on the Strategic Themes if the delivery of the evidence based information is forthcoming. Anglian Water are committed to improve their infrastructure and a Position Statement will help to target their funding towards improvements within the district. The improvements to their infrastructure will support the delivery of the outcomes within the Strategies particularly in Place and Prosperity. Essex County Council are in a good position to deliver significant parts of a Water Cycle Study, if commissioned, and have substantial information from the projects already undertaken in the Maldon District, i.e. modelling data which otherwise would need to be carried out separately at a cost to the commissioned work.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (ii) **Impact on Customers** – None
- (iii) **Impact on Equalities** – None
- (iv) **Impact on Risk** – None
- (v) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None
- (vi) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None
- (vii) **Impact on the Environment** – None
- (viii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** - None

Background Papers:

- **APPENDIX 1** - Presentation from Anglian Water.

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