

## Report No. 1

### Report to MTC Planning and Environmental Issues Committee meeting 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

#### Flood Risk Management

##### 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Committee to seek clarification from the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council on the way forward re the Malmesbury Emergency Plan Working Group's recent proposals to Malmesbury Town Council.

##### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Malmesbury Emergency Plan Working Group (MEPWG) was established as a Working Group of the P&E Committee in January 2013. It comprises Town Councillors and volunteer members of the public and is chaired by Cllr Ray Sanderson.
- 2.2 In addition to meetings with residents and flood victims, the Group has met on a number of occasions with parties involved in Malmesbury flood risk management, including the Environment Agency (EA) and Wiltshire Council (WC).
- 2.3 One outcome from its work is the Group's attached document *A Plan For Short Term Measures To Reduce Flood Risk In Malmesbury — Recommendations Of The Malmesbury Emergency Plan Working Group To Malmesbury Town Council — September 2013* ("the MEPWG Plan").
- 2.4 The MEPWG Plan notes that:
  - There is no guarantee that the EA's mathematical modelling of the rivers surrounding the town would lead to the implementation of a flood protection scheme and any implementation is unlikely before 2016.
  - In the interim, MEPWG proposes "a set of relatively low-cost short-term works" for the Town Bridge area. These proposals arise principally from advice available to the Group from a local expert in flood risk management.
  - None of these works would prejudice any eventual decision by the EA whether or not to proceed with a full flood protection scheme.
  - Malmesbury Town Council (MTC) is urged to make a decision in principle whether to proceed with the short term plan proposals.
- 2.5 This Report considers that before any decision can be made by MTC regarding these proposals, MTC needs as a first step to understand its role, rights and responsibilities in relation to those of the EA and WC, as well as any financial implications for itself. It also needs to understand these re any longer-term flood protection for the town.

##### 3. Proposals

- 3.1 This Committee notes the contents of the MEPWG Plan.
- 3.2 This Committee works with the MEPWG to seek clarity from the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council on roles, rights and responsibilities and MTC's financial implications regarding the way forward in both the short and long term.

##### 4. Financial Implications and Risks

- 4.1 None arising from the above proposals, the aim of which is to scope financial implications and risk.

##### 5. Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree to the Proposals in 3.1 and 3.2 above

Cllr John Gundry  
Chair, MTC P&E Committee  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2013