

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Agenda Item No.

**2**

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2004 AT 10.00 AM**

## **REVIEW OF FLOODING**

### Report of the Director of Environment

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#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

This report sets out the findings of the Flooding Topic Group established by the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17 June, 2003.

#### **2. Summary**

For a number of environmental, social and economic reasons, there have been numerous, recent developments in approaches to managing the water environment.

As a result, flood control no longer stands on its own as an independent discipline but is increasingly included in a developing system of integrated water management.

#### **3. Conclusions**

The Topic Group suggests that:

- the Environment Agency is supported in its recently confirmed role as lead body with responsibility for implementing the European Union Water Framework Directive; and
- is encouraged to further the co-ordination of all relevant parties involved in flood risk management [including the water utility companies] through the newly introduced mechanism of River Basin District management plans; and that
- the Director of Environment write to the Environment Agency's Thames and Anglian Regions expressing the above and in response to a suggestion already made by the Environment Agency, provide them with a direct contact with whom they may explore issues relating to the implementation of the Water

Framework Directive. The Topic Group suggests that the Environment Department's officer nominated for water issues assumes this role together with responsibility for internal HCC liaison.

The report of the Topic Group is attached.