

Briefing Paper

Emergency Planning Shared Service Joint Committee – Rotherham and Sheffield

2pm, 6 December 2012

Rotherham Town Hall

Purpose of paper: Item 5

To update Committee Members of the current position in respect of planning for Reservoir Emergencies

Background information:

Members will be aware that under new DEFRA criteria in relation to Reservoir Plans and grant monies, one hundred reservoirs across the country were to have their own site-specific Emergency Plan. This would detail actions to be put in place following a reservoir being compromised or breaking. SCC received a grant of nearly £100k to develop plans for its nine reservoirs that fitted the criteria.

Approximately £40K has already been spent on Warning & Informing issues, such as updating the Local Resilience website and agreement has now been reached that a further £58k will be carried forward into the 2013/14 financial as required.

Key issues:

A draft plan has been prepared by a member of the EPSS, with support from colleagues, but other areas of work have been postponed to facilitate this work. Some of the remaining monies can be utilised to fund a 6 month temporary contact for an Emergency Planning Assistant post to take forward this work, as well as providing additional capacity to pick up the postponed work. A selection process is underway and we are confident that this post can be filled by early January.

The key areas of the reservoir work to be completed are as follows:

- Consultation with multi-agency colleagues on finalising the plan
- Development of a training and exercising strategy to verify the plan, including a major multi-agency exercise in Autumn 2013. The latter will be developed with the support of a specialist emergency planning provider.
- Development of a comprehensive Warning & Informing strategy to inform all members of the public at potential risk from a reservoir inundation.

Conclusion:

The DEFRA requirement is for all Local Authorities to have met their responsibilities for reservoir planning by 2014 and the EPSS is currently on track to meet this requirement.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.