

Title of report: Executive Response to the General Scrutiny Committee recommendations following the Fownhope Flood Repair Work Review

Decision maker: Cabinet member Infrastructure and transport

Decision date: Friday, 3 September 2021

Report by: Head of Highways and Community Services

Classification

Open

Decision type

Non-key

Wards affected

Backbury; Old Gore;

Purpose

To approve the executive response to the general scrutiny committee recommendations in respect of the Fownhope Flood Repair Work. The committee made 10 recommendations.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **The response to the General Scrutiny committee's recommendations regarding the Fownhope Flood Repair Work Review, as attached at appendix 1 is approved.**

Alternative options

1. None proposed. It is a statutory requirement to provide a response to recommendations made by general scrutiny committee. It is open to the executive to accept, partially accept or reject a recommendation from the general scrutiny committee, should a recommendation not be accepted an explanation should be provided.

Key considerations

2. The general scrutiny committee met on 22 March 2021 to review the Fownhope Flood Repair Works and made 10 recommendations.

3. Executive response to these recommendations are set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

Community impact

4. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts and encourages constructive challenge and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review.

Environmental Impact

5. The resulting improvements from these recommendations will contribute towards the 'Environment' ambition of our County Plan (2020 – 2024) and increasing the resilience of the highway network to damage from storm events.

Equality duty

6. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
7. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. This decision will have a positive impact on communities that have been impacted by damage to, or closure of, highways following storms.

Resource implications

8. The recommendations largely reflect actions that are already underway and will be managed from within existing resources within Highways and Transportation. Where further decisions are required upon completion of the recommendations, any resource requirements will be considered in future reports.

Legal implications

9. Any recommendations or proposals made by general scrutiny committee to cabinet on a matter require by statute a response from cabinet whether that be to accept, partially accept or reject a recommendation. This decision is an executive one and is a non key decision.
10. There are no legal problems in doing what is proposed.

Risk management

11. There are no risks associated with agreeing the content of this report as the Executive response provides information and indicates how the work is being taken forward.

Consultees

12. None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Executive response to the Fownhope Flood Works Review by General Scrutiny Committee

Background papers

None identified