

Appendix 1: Summary of recommendations to the executive and executive responses to the Fownhope Flood Works Review by General Scrutiny Committee

Between 28 September 2020 and 22 March 2021 a scrutiny review concerning to the Fownhope Flood Works was conducted.

The following was recommended to the executive:

Recommendation a)	The executive support and encourage the delivery by BBLP of projects for the benefit of the Fownhope and Woolhope communities;			
Executive Response	Agreed, the executive will support and encourage the delivery of projects for the benefit of the Fownhope and Woolhope communities by BBLP, and funded by BBLP directly.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Delivery of projects to the benefit of the Fownhope and Woolhope communities	BBLP	Ongoing	Projects identified and delivered	Projects being established between Parish Council's and BBLP
Recommendation b)	Repairs to restore roads in the locality damaged by their use as a diversion route during the closure of the Fownhope Road are prioritised;			
Executive Response	<p>Agreed, these works are being programmed, they will consist of three elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Routine clearance works – Emptying road gullies. 2. Patching and minor repairs – requiring traffic control and some road closure, but limited coordination with other planned works. 3. Surfacing and surface treatments – requiring road closures and coordination with other planned works to avoid conflict and the early excavation of the completed works by others. 			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Delivery of elements 1. 2 and 3	Head of Highways and Community Services	September 2021	Elements 1, 2 and 3 completed	Elements 1 and 2 completed. Element 3 planned.
Recommendation c)	The executive encourage Fownhope and Woolhope Parish Councils to make representations to local MPs to seek funding for highway maintenance, and highlight shortcomings in the Bellwin scheme that appear to have been revealed, and the need for			

	that scheme to be reviewed and for other funding sources to be provided if it is concluded that the Bellwin Scheme itself does not require revision				
Executive Response	Agreed, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport has written to Fownhope and Woolhope Parish Councils seeking their support.				
Action		Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Letter to Parish Councils		Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport	July 2021	Letter sent	Completed
Recommendation d)	The executive make further representations to local MPs to seek additional grant funding for highway maintenance, and highlight shortcomings in the Bellwin scheme that appear to have been revealed, and the need for that scheme to be reviewed and for other funding sources to be provided if it is concluded that the Bellwin Scheme itself does not require revision;				
Executive Response	Agreed, the leader of the Council plans to write again to Government highlighting the need for additional grant funding for highway maintenance, and highlighting the shortcomings in the Bellwin scheme, asking for its review and/or the provision of other funding sources.				
Action		Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Letter to Government		Leader of the Council	August 2021	Letter sent	Letter drafted.
Recommendation e)	Consideration be given to whether the situation could be presented to Government as a case study highlighting the adverse impact on the local community as a result of lack of funding.				
Executive Response	Agreed, a case study will be prepared and presented to the Department for Transport demonstrating the adverse impact on community. This for use in support of their case for further funding to invest in the resilience of local roads.				
Action		Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Prepare case study in consultation with Fownhope and Woolhope Parish Councils and submit to Department for Transport		Head of Highways and Community Services	September 2021	Case study submitted to DfT	First draft of case study in production.
Recommendation f)	A robust review of the risks to other lengths of the B4224 of similar topography be conducted to establish if there is a need for preventative measures;				

Executive Response	Agreed, The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport has asked the Director for Economy and Place to commission a network wide review of the resilience of the highway asset, focussing on the investment that would be needed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">secure its resilience to the current risk posed by severe weather; andfuture risk, confirming the level of investment that would be needed to adapt to climate change. The B4224 will be considered as part of this review. This will be an extensive and valuable piece of work.				
Action		Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Network wide review of the resilience of the highway asset		Director for Economy and Place	During 2022/23	Review concluded and presented to Cabinet	To be commissioned.
Recommendation g)	given the experiences on the B4224 consideration be given to whether there any other sites in the county that could be similarly problematic in the event of flooding with a view to adopting a more preventative approach to maintenance across the county;				
Executive Response	As f) above				
Action		Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
As f) above		As f) above	As f) above	As f) above	As f) above
Recommendation h)	Action be taken to progress broadband works in the county delayed as a result of the B4224 works;				
Executive Response	Agreed, these works will be enabled and coordinated with the surfacing and surface treatment works described in response to recommendation b).				
Action		Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Coordination of works		Head of Highways and Community Services	As b) above	Broadband works progressed, element 3 of b) above completed.	As b) above.
Recommendation i)	It be ensured that parish councils and communities concerns are recognised and taken into account by the Council and their partners when taking forward repairs to infrastructure;				

Executive Response	Agreed, the various needs of the community are recognised when undertaking repairs to infrastructure. In many cases the Council is duty bound to undertake maintenance works and the need to do so can conflict with the needs of many in the community. The Council is also duty bound to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, and having due regard for its various other duties, the expedient movement of traffic (of all types). It should be recognised that the works to the B4224 were in response to damage inflicted by a severe weather event, works of this scale were not pre planned. In such circumstances, the Council is required to progress the works needed to restore the integrity of the highway asset. Such works were substantial and no resources were identified for their progression at the point of need. Consequently the works took time that they did to complete.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Take account of community concerns when taking forward repairs to infrastructure, whilst meeting duty to maintain and network management duty.	Head of Highways and Community Services	Ongoing	Po-active community engagement when undertaking repairs to infrastructure. Duties met.	Ongoing
Recommendation j)	The independent review be welcomed; and the following matters be considered for inclusion and if they are not included in the review they be responded to in any event by the executive:			
	1. The issues that arose because of the nature of vehicles using the diversion routes;			
	2. The potential for weight restrictions on traffic in the locality and other traffic management measures;			
	3. Was enough priority given to ongoing repairs needed to the routes forming the diversions;			
	4. Pace of decision making particularly from April to August;			
	5. The focus be on identifying lessons learned that can be applied generally to future schemes, whilst noting that matters unique to the specific sites also need to be identified;			
	6. Fownhope and Woolhope Parish Councils be consulted on matters for inclusion in the review;			
	7. Project management and processes, the timeframes involved, for example the time between identifying work needed, specification, commissioning the contract, to commencing work, and the incremental nature of delays. The ability of the council to have oversight of such projects and whether additional technical and project management resource in-house is required;			
	8. The time taken to establish whether it was possible to proceed without going to open tender.			
	9. Has there been sufficient assessment of the risk of further failure in the highway network in the locality.			
	10. Were the solutions adopted appropriate and proportionate.			

	11.Managing working relationships with utility providers such as BT and gas providers and the approach to specifying works for them to undertake, including the potential benefit of a protocol for managing works in particular those of an emergency nature.			
	12.Clarification as to how the issue with the size of the crane required for the Stone Cottage works arose and assurance measures to avoid such occurrences in the future.			
	13.Review of the robustness of the effectiveness of the liaison between the Council and BBLP in managing projects.			
	14.Effectiveness of communication with the local community and speed thereof especially from the outset of an incident.			
	15.Review appropriateness of diversion routes and their signing and facilitating of road safety management.			
Executive Response	Agreed, The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport has asked that an independent review be commissioned and has asked that all 15 points be considered as part of that review.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Review commissioned and asked to consider all 15 points.	Deputy Solicitor Economy and Place	During 2021	Review concluded	Reviewer being identified.