

**Chief Executive's announcements  
Full Council 4 March 2022**

Herefordshire has once again seen flooding across the county. Herefordshire Council has been part of the emergency response team supporting Herefordshire, as we saw the arrival of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. I took part in the Tactical Coordination Group (the TCG is a multi-agency group of tactical commanders that meets to determine, co-ordinate and deliver the tactical response to an emergency) and was both reassured and inspired by the work being done together with colleagues from the Police, Fire and Rescue, and Environment Agency along with other partners. A number of roads and bridges were affected across the county and Balfour Beatty Living Places did a great job of clearing the roads of fallen trees and debris, protecting our infrastructure and keeping the county moving. There were over a 1,000 calls requesting help and they attended 208 emergency jobs. I'd like to thank everyone who has been part of the effort to keep things going, and who have gone the extra mile to look after our residents.

As we move into recovery phase, we will be understanding the impact on our infrastructure and homes across the county. Work is underway to check the damage the flood water has done to our roads and bridges. If homes in your community were flooded, please do let us know so we can understand where support may be needed in future. More information is available on the [flooding pages of our website](#)

Herefordshire has a resilient, close-knit community and there are many local groups that took action during the flooding to help their communities. I also know many Parish Councils were out supporting the community in various ways during the flooding. It's precisely this type of relationship we're looking to enhance and grow through our Talk Community programme and we now have over 40 [Talk Community hubs](#) that offer a range of services. You can find out more about Talk Community and local support on the [Talk Community website](#).

While government has lifted the remaining COVID restrictions in England, there are still steps you can take to reduce the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19: Get vaccinated, let fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside and consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces. We're updating our Play Your Part campaign with some fresh imagery to reflect these changes and ask you to continue to 'Play Your Part'.

Finally, I'd like to pass on my sincerest thanks to Claire Ward, who is leaving us after 11 years with the Council. Officers and Members have all benefitted from Claire's support as Monitoring Officer and Solicitor to the Council over the years and we will miss her knowledge and experience at public meetings. We wish you the very best in your next venture, Claire.

Thank you for your support.