

**Minutes of the meeting of Environment and Sustainability
Scrutiny Committee held at Herefordshire Council Offices,
Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Friday 18 November 2022 at
2.00 pm**

Present: Councillor Louis Stark (chairperson)
Councillor Trish Marsh (vice-chairperson)

Councillors: Jennie Hewitt, Elissa Swinglehurst, David Summers, Roger Phillips and William Wilding

In attendance: Councillor John Harrington (Cabinet Member Infrastructure and Transport and Councillor Ellie Chowns (Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment)
Jonathon Pryce - Chief Fire Officer, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
Ellie Misselbrook - Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
Joel Hockenhill - Senior Drainage Engineer at Balfour Beatty
Martin Quine - Assets and Waterways Manager, Environment Agency
Dan Trewin – Environment Planning Specialist, Environment Agency

Officers: Steve Hodges - Directorate Services Team Leader, Economy and Environment
Mark Averill – Interim Service Director, Highways and Transport
Toby Hanham – Emergency Planning Officer
Ian Baker – Emergency Planning Manager (Remote Attendee)
Michael Carr – Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Alfie Rees-Glinos – Technical Support

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Yolande Watson and Cllr Carole Gandy.

22. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Cllr David Summers substituted for Cllr Yolande Watson
Cllr Roger Phillips substituted for Cllr Carole Gandy.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Four members declared membership of the River Lugg Drainage Board.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions received from members of the public.

26. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no questions received from Councillors.

27. LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

A video recording of the discussion and debate on this item can be found at Herefordshire Council's website:

[Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee, 18th Nov, 2PM - YouTube](#)

commencing at 6:03 minutes into the recording.

Councillor Louis Stark (Committee Chair) outlined how he intended to approach the item, noting that a paper on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan along with 3 appendices had been received by the committee.

The Chair noted that Herefordshire Council was the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and that it was the Council's responsibility to lead in managing local flood risks.

The Chair also gave an overview of the Council's statutory responsibility to publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS), which provides a framework to enable the LLFA to lead and co-ordinate flood risk management across Herefordshire.

The Chair then provided a summary of the LFRM's five key objectives for flood risk management:

Objective 1: Understand flood risks throughout Herefordshire.

Objective 2: Manage the likelihood and impacts of flooding.

Objective 3: Help the community help themselves.

Objective 4: Manage flood warning, response and recovery.

Objective 5: Promote sustainable and appropriate development.

The Chair explained that the intention was to use the five objectives to structure the way the committee would scrutinise the action plan.

The committee went through the five objectives and discussed the plan with attendees and officers in great detail. A brief discussion on recommendations arising from the discussion took place, but due to time limitations the committee agreed that the Chair and the Statutory Scrutiny Officer (Michael Carr) would go away and produce a number of recommendations and findings for consideration at the next meeting on 19 January 2023.

It was resolved that:

A set of recommendations and findings relating to the flooding risk action plan be drafted by the Committee Chair and Statutory Scrutiny Officer (with input from the rest of the committee) for approval and submission at the next ESSC meeting of 19 January 2023.

28. PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee gave consideration to the report as set out on pages 29-40 of the agenda, which provided a brief summary update on issues previously considered.

The Committee unanimously took the report as read.

29. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee gave consideration to its Work Programme as set out on pages 41-48 of the agenda.

The Committee voted unanimously in favour of a circulated amendment to the waste management item scheduled for the Committee meeting of 19 January 2023

30. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted its next meeting date as 19 January 2023.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified

Chairperson