

# **Title of report: Executive response to the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan**

**Decision maker: Cabinet member Infrastructure and transport**

**Decision Date: 16 August 2023**

**Report by: Directorate services team leader**

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

Non-key

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose**

To approve the executive response to the recommendations from the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee. The Committee made 10 recommendations.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**That:**

- a) **The response to the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee recommendations regarding the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan, as attached appendix 1 is approved.**

## **Alternative options**

1. None proposed. It is a Constitutional requirement to provide a response to recommendations made by Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee. It is open to the Executive to accept, partially accept or reject a recommendation from Scrutiny Committee, should a recommendation not be accepted an explanation should be provided.

## Key considerations

2. In November 2022, the Council's Directorate Services Team Leader presented a report to the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee regarding the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan. The report can be seen in appendix 2.
3. At the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18 November 2022, the Committee agreed that the recommendations in appendix 1 were to be reported to Cabinet.

## Community impact

4. The resulting improvements from these recommendations will contribute towards the 'Environment' ambition of our County Plan (2020 – 2024) and the 'Increase flood resilience and reduce levels of phosphate pollution in the county's river' success measure.

## Environmental Impact

5. This decision seeks to deliver the council's [environmental policy commitments](#) and aligns to the following success measure in the County Plan – 'Increase flood resilience and reduce levels of phosphate pollution in the county's river'.
6. The Council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.

## Equality duty

7. 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.
8. 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 which have been impacted by flooding.
  9. The methodology for engagement with communities will be considered to maximise the range of audiences thereby minimising the risk of overlooking opinions of groups of the Herefordshire population with protected characteristics.

## Resource implications

10. There are no resource implications associated with agreeing the content of this report as the Executive response provides information and indicates how the work is being taken forward. Where further decisions are required upon completion of the recommendations, any resource requirements will be considered in future reports.

## Legal implications

11. This Council operates executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000. This enables overview and scrutiny committees to raise issues and recommendations for the Cabinet to consider.
12. Paragraphs 4.5.50 of the Constitution reflects this arrangement and this report includes the views of Cabinet to the Committee's recommendations.

## Risk management

13. 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

14. None.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Executive response to the Herefordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy by Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

Appendix 2 – Report to the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee regarding the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan

## Background papers

None identified.

## Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Governance	John Coleman	Date 20/03/2023
Finance	Louise Devlin	Date 20/03/2023
Legal	Sean O'Connor	Date 28/03/2023
Communications	Luenne Featherstone	Date 21/03/2023
Equality Duty	Harriet Yellin	Date 28/03/2023
Procurement	Carrie Deeley	Date 03/04/2023
Risk	Kevin Lloyd	Date 21/03/2023

Approved by

Ross Cook

Date 01/08/2023

**Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.**