

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

On 18 November 2022, the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny committee considered the Herefordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The committee resolved 'That the following be recommended to the executive:'				
Recommendation 1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan include flood risk measures and mitigations that are identified as needed even if not resourced. 			
Executive response	<p>Accepted</p> <p>HC is currently reviewing and refreshing the Herefordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and associated Action Plan, prior to them being finalised and published during 2023/24.</p>			
Action	Owner	By when	Target/success criteria	Progress
Herefordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan to be published	SH	March 2024	Action Plan published	Draft documents currently being prepared prior to consultation in summer 2023.
Recommendation 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Cabinet consider areas where there may be opportunities to "invest to save" (eg investment in drainage and drainage maintenance may save money on road maintenance). 			
Executive response	<p>This will be considered in line with the Highways Maintenance Plan (HMP), Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and Annexes 3 and 7 of the annual plan for the public realm services contract with BBLP.</p>			
Action	Owner	By when	Target/success criteria	Progress
Consideration to be given to any such "invest to save" drainage opportunities.	SH	December 2023	Review completed	
Recommendation 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Council work with parish councils and community groups to engage local communities and neighbourhoods in further initiatives they can do to mitigate and manage flood risk (eg proving local signage, flood risk mapping, local projects etc). 			
Executive response	<p>Accepted</p> <p>HC recognises the importance of working with communities on flooding and is currently considering the best way in which to do this.</p>			
Action	Owner	By when	Target/success criteria	Progress
Set out how Herefordshire communities can work together to manage the risk of flooding in the county	SH	December 2023	Arrangements in place	

Recommendation 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Cabinet ensure that flood risk modelling information work carried out by the Environment Agency and flood risk mapping information held by the Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue services is used in the Council's flood risk mapping. 				
Executive response	<p>Accepted</p> <p>The flood data we collect comes from a number of sources, including the Environment Agency and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service. We will continue to compare predicted flooding against historic flooding in order to improve the accuracy and reliability of predicted flood models.</p>				
Action	Owner	By when	Target/success criteria	Progress	
Continue to collate and analyse flood data	BBLP	Ongoing			
Recommendation 5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Cabinet make sure that the Local Plan is integrated and informed by new flood risk management strategy and up to date flood risk mapping data and analysis. 				
Executive response	<p>Partially accepted</p> <p>The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities has recently consulted on the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy. Whilst the timings of the outcome of this consultation are presently unknown, the documentation published to date suggests they will include development and flood-risk management as a national issue – applying a policy across England and as such there would not be scope for a similar policy to be included within the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Local Plan will still define the up-to-date extent of the land at risk of flooding which may well include sources of flooding other than just the Environment Agency Flood Zones, and this is the area where the national policy will apply. Strategic Flood Risk Assessments both at county and site level will be important in this process. As set out in the response to Recommendation 8, the Herefordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will provide part of the evidence base for the preparation of the policies of the local plan.</p>				
Action	Owner	By when	Target/success criteria	Progress	
Ensure that the evidence base supporting the preparation of the Local Plan is comprehensive and complete prior to the submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public.	Strategic Planning Manager	December 2024	Adopted Local Plan incorporating a sound set of planning policies and proposals.	Draft Local Plan currently being prepared for consultation in Autumn 2023.	
Recommendation 6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Council carry out habitat risk assessments for landscape mitigation measures being undertaken to protect wildlife environments and ecosystems. 				
Executive response	<p>Partially accepted</p> <p>Arrangements are in place around the production of HRAs and we will consider in conjunction with BBLP and the Ecology Team whether any amendments to these processes are required.</p>				
Action	Owner	By when	Target/success criteria	Progress	

Consider whether amendments required to processes around HRAs for flood works.	SH	Summer 2023	Options considered	
Recommendation 7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Council introduce a forum for people who want to get involved in flood risk management and mitigation and need to know where to go to get involved. 			
Executive Response	Accepted – links to recommendation (3) and responses as above.			
Action	Owner	By when	Target/success criteria	Progress
Link to recommendation (3) above.	SH	December 2023	Arrangements in place	
Recommendation 8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Cabinet clarify how the Flood Risk Management Strategy will fit in with the new Local Plan. 			
Executive response	<p>Accepted</p> <p>The Herefordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out how we intend to work with partners to manage the risk of flooding. Whilst it is currently being reviewed and refreshed, before being finalised and published during 2023/24, it will seek to promote sustainable development and infrastructure that is resilient to flood risk, supports environmental improvement and responds to a changing climate.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will form an element of the evidence base which will be drawn upon in the preparation of the Local Plan, together with other key evidence base studies, such as the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study.</p>			
Action	Owner	By when	Target/success criteria	Progress
Consider relevant land use implications set out in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and include suitable references and development requirements within the policies and proposals of the Local Plan (subject to compliance with the scope and content of national planning policy).	Strategic Planning Manager	December 2024	Adopted Local Plan incorporating a sound set of planning policies and proposals.	
Recommendation 9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan include any relevant actions being taken by our partners in this area. 			
Executive Response	Accepted – links to recommendation (1) and responses as above.			
Action	Owner	By when	Target/success criteria	Progress

Herefordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan to be published.	SH	March 2024	Action Plan published	Draft documents currently being prepared prior to consultation in summer 2023.
Recommendation 10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herefordshire Council reviews the water course consent form and involves the ecology team and looks at the connections and linkages between the flood risk management and the nature strategy and the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). 			
Executive response	Partially accepted Applications for Ordinary Watercourse Flood Defence Consent are processed on our behalf by BBLP. The Guidance Notes were last updated in September 2022 and we will consider in conjunction with BBLP and the Ecology Team whether any further updates to the process are required.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/success criteria	Progress
Consider whether further updates required to processes around Ordinary Watercourse Flood Defence Consent.	SH	Summer 2023	Options considered	