

Summary of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations to Cabinet and the Cabinet responses

Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting date: 14 November 2024

Topic: Strategic developments on water management and water quality

[Table to be completed for each recommendation]

Recommendation [1]:	Use Developer Contributions, in line with the related specific requirements, to enable investment in/funding of initiatives that can help to mitigate and reduce flooding and water quality risks, resulting from or increased by the development.				
Cabinet response:	Whilst the principle of avoiding new development in areas of flood risk and to avoid adverse impact on water quality are established in both national and local planning policy, there remains the potential to seek developer contributions from development to support further investment if mitigation measures are necessary. To reflect this, the latest iteration of the Council's Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement, approved by Cabinet in December 2024, includes the following potential area of future CIL investment... "Provision of flood and drainage management infrastructure that is appropriate to local conditions, including both surface water and flood risk linked to supporting development." The same principle would also apply to S106 contributions where any impact is directly related to the development proposals and meets the relevant national tests for including such a contribution.				
Action: [Planned actions, new actions in progress required to deliver the recommendations, further actions identified to deliver the recommendations]	Owner [Portfolio Holder and Lead Officer]	Timescales	Expected impact [e.g. target/success criteria]	Progress [e.g. updates on work completed and underway, impacts observed, new actions required, any slippage from plan etc]	
Continue to reflect the provision of flood and drainage management infrastructure within the Council's Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement.	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services, Planning Policy and Strategy Manager	Ongoing	Number of new developments where a S106 contribution for either flood risk mitigation or water quality mitigation are sought. Number and type of schemes for flood risk mitigation / water quality mitigation where a CIL	Monitored through the Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR) and the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement.	

			contribution is agreed.	
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Recommendation [3]:	That the Council should ensure that Flood Risk Management and Water Quality is incorporated in ‘High Quality design’ requirements to ensure that these feature strongly in the design and planning of developments.			
Cabinet response:	<p>Both the current and draft Local Plans have specific policies on mitigating flood risk as part of new development and ensuring new development does not adversely impact on water quality.</p> <p>It is agreed that additional guidance on these issues can be provided within a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). An SPD on ensuring High Quality Design is currently in preparation and opportunities to incorporate guidance into this document will be explored.</p>			
Action: <i>[Planned actions, new actions in progress required to deliver the recommendations, further actions identified to deliver the recommendations]</i>	Owner <i>[Portfolio Holder and Lead Officer]</i>	Timescales	Expected impact <i>[e.g. target/success criteria]</i>	Progress <i>[e.g. updates on work completed and underway, impacts observed, new actions required, any slippage from plan etc]</i>
Preparation of either SPD on High Quality Design	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services, Planning Policy and Strategy Manager	<p>Consultation – Autumn 2025 (dependent upon wider priorities).</p> <p>Adoption Mid 2026 (dependent upon wider priorities)</p>	Number of Development Management decisions using the Local Plan policy and SPD.	Monitor as part of the Council’s Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR)

Recommendation [5]:	That the Council should review how street scene activities are delivered and identify whether the council’s own team needs to be invested in and/or whether there are opportunities for town and parish councils and community groups to be involved in helping to reduce flood risk in their area e.g. by keeping drains and gulleys clear of leaves and other seasonal debris.
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Cabinet response:	Yes in principle, devolve responsibility to the Andy Wilde (Growth and Infrastructure???) and Portfolio Holder.				
Action: <i>[Planned actions, new actions in progress required to deliver the recommendations, further actions identified to deliver the recommendations]</i>	Owner <i>[Portfolio Holder and Lead Officer]</i>	Timescales	Expected impact <i>[e.g. target/success criteria]</i>	Progress <i>[e.g. updates on work completed and underway, impacts observed, new actions required, any slippage from plan etc]</i>	

Recommendation [6]:	That the Council (and its partners) needs to provide clear communication and awareness of the importance of slowing the flow of water in the river catchment, whether in rural areas using farmland with the involvement of the farmer, or in urban areas requiring more ‘greening’ and less hardstanding and more permeable surfaces through de-paving.				
Cabinet response:	<i>Cabinet notes this recommendation.</i>				

Topic: Follow-up on progress and impact in the delivery of the recommendations of the River Water Quality Task and Finish Group

Recommendation [1]:	That the Council, as a place leader and in its role in the River Severn Partnership, Severn Valley Water Management Scheme and the Marches Forward Partnership and Infrastructure Group, should work with Severn Trent Water to promote and ensure that local councils (Town and Parish Councils) and communities are engaged with proactively and meaningfully to enable them to identify need and opportunity to influence the investment being made over the coming years.				
Cabinet response:	Yes in principle, devolve responsibility to the Chief Executive, Leader and Portfolio Holder.				
Action: <i>[Planned actions, new actions in progress required to deliver the recommendations, further actions identified to deliver the recommendations]</i>	Owner <i>[Portfolio Holder and Lead Officer]</i>	Timescales	Expected impact <i>[e.g. target/success criteria]</i>	Progress <i>[e.g. updates on work completed and underway, impacts observed, new actions required, any slippage from plan etc]</i>	

Recommendation [2]:	See recommendation 3 from the Strategic Developments Related to Water Management and Water Quality agenda item				
Cabinet response:	See response to recommendation 3 from the Strategic Developments Related to Water Management and Water Quality agenda item				