

Cabinet Member Responses

Response from Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change – Mrs Urquhart		
Agenda item	Environment & Communities Scrutiny Committee recommendations (30 September 2021)	Response
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	<p>1. Welcomes the improvements made to the strategy for 2021-2026 acknowledging the criteria for the 25 at risk areas, but requests that they be presented in prioritised order form.</p>	<p>Based on the number of properties at risk, the 25 areas in priority order (from highest to lowest) are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. East Preston Parish 2. Southwater Parish 3. Easebourne Parish 4. Washington Parish 5. Shoreham & Southwick (unparished area) 6. Lancing Parish 7. Linchmere Parish 8. Crawley Borough 9. Billingshurst Parish 10. Lindfield Parish 11. Itchingfield Parish 12. Worthing Borough 13. Haywards Heath Parish 14. Hassocks Parish 15. Littlehampton Parish 16. Westbourne Parish 17. Findon Parish 18. Burgess Hill Parish 19. Steyning Parish 20. Angmering Parish 21. Worth Parish 22. Horsham (unparished area) 23. Rustington Parish 24. Sompting Parish 25. Chichester Parish

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	<p>2. Welcomes a briefing note on who is responsible for what in managing flood risk.</p>	<p>Chapter 2 of the updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Risk Management Authorities, that is, the County Council (as both Lead Local Flood Authority and Local Highway Authority), the Environment Agency, the Water Companies, the District and Borough Councils, and National Highways. It also addresses the role of stakeholders and partners, including utility and infrastructure providers, riparian owners, parish and town councils, property owners and residents, and flood action groups.</p> <p>The 'Flooding' pages on the County Council's website will be revised, as necessary, to provide clarity about roles and responsibilities in relation to flood risk management. And a briefing note placed on the MINE and in members Bulletin (this is for the benefit of new members who weren't at the committee meeting).</p>
	<p>3. Acknowledges the challenge of accessing funding.</p>	<p>Noted. Appendix D of the LFRMS identifies potential sources of revenue and capital funding to implement the Strategy. These include WSCC funds, developer contributions (both S106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy), the Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) via the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC), the Local Levy via the RFCC, and one-off DEFRA grants. At this stage, the size of the funding challenge is not currently known because no specific projects/schemes are identified in the LFRMS. They will be identified during the life of the Strategy, mainly through the studies on the 25 priority areas.</p>

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	<p>4. Asks that consideration should be given to the deliverability of actions for the priority areas with the time and resources available and the resilience of the Council to deal with climate change rainfall events.</p>	<p>The focus for implementation of the LFRMS will be on undertaking studies of the 25 priority areas that will, where necessary, identify the need for physical works to address flood risk. Wherever possible, the studies will be undertaken using 'in-house' resources supplemented, as necessary, by the use of external consultants. Any infrastructure schemes identified through the studies will be taken forward for delivery through the Capital Programme. Resilience to climate change will be a key consideration in the development of any schemes that are identified.</p>
	<p>5. Encourages more proactive enforcement of repairs to degrading drainage systems.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, given resource constraints, it is not possible to take a proactive approach to the identification of problems across the County. However, where problems are reported (often by the parish and town councils), the County Council works in partnership with the District and Borough Councils to ensure that riparian owners undertake the necessary repairs to their infrastructure as quickly as possible.</p>
<p>Response from Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – Mrs Dennis</p>		
<p>Agenda item</p>	<p>Environment & Communities Scrutiny Committee recommendations (30 September 2021)</p>	<p>Response</p>
<p>Highways Maintenance Contracts</p>	<p>i. Acknowledges that very soon the whole process of</p>	<p>Noted – scrutiny will be engaged in the process.</p>

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	procuring highways maintenance contracts starts again and requests that the Committee is involved as and when appropriate.	
	ii. Would like to know more about what the impact may be over the winter of a shortage of HGV drivers and how that impacts on service delivery.	Following a number of operational discussions with our contractor Balfour Beatty, it has been confirmed that they have secured enough HGV drivers to deliver the Winter Service for 21/22. There are a total of 19 routes to be treated at any one time and a total of 31 drivers secured, which provides a good level of resource and resilience to successfully deliver the Winter Service. Obviously, this is subject to sickness and market conditions changing but ultimately it is their responsibility to deliver the service.
	iii. Would like a better understanding of the drainage infrastructure.	This will be covered in a future member Member Development Session.
	iv. Requests training on this subject when and where appropriate.	A programme is currently under development.