

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14th November 2024

Public Questions and Responses

From: Siobhan Connor on behalf of Shrewsbury Quarry Flood Action Group

Shropshire is experiencing more frequent floods and severe rainfall events due to climate change. Flooding from both rivers and streams and from surface water affects residents and businesses, sometimes repeatedly in recent years. Predictions are for this to get worse to the extent that 'Adapt or die' is now being heard.

Shropshire Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority has a legal obligation to provide a Local Flood Risk management Strategy (Flood and Water Management Act 2010 - para 9). The LLFA is charged with developing, maintaining, applying and monitoring this strategy.

Shropshire's Flood Risk Management Strategy was produced in 2015, It has not been reviewed or updated since. Many serious floods have been experienced by residents and businesses of Shropshire since this time.

When will an updated Strategy, that properly reflects the flood situation experienced in the last decade, particularly the last 4 years be available?

Please would the committee recognise the risk that not having an updated plan poses in preventing risks to property and people and also in obtaining necessary funding.

Please would the Committee agree to reinforce the need for the LLFA to receive the appropriate funding/additional resources to meet its legal obligations in managing flood risk.

Response:

Shropshire Councils Flood Risk Manager has been recently discussing the update to the Councils Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) with the Quarry Flood Action Group and other Flood Action Groups across the County. The update to this document is currently underway with the Councils Engineering Consultancy WSP assisting with this task.

The new strategy will look to focus on how the Council can better support communities before, during and after flood events, and the Council are currently working towards an initial draft of this document early in the new year. At this point the Flood Risk Manager will be engaging with the Shropshire Flood Action Group Forum (which is made up of the chairs of each of the flood action groups) to undertake an initial review before working towards a final version.

It should be noted that the LFRMS sets out how the Council responds to flooding but does not affect any funding bids or the allocation of recovery funding following a major flood event which is set at Government level.