

## Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Comments

1. Worcestershire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority has a statutory duty to produce the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which sets out our approach to the management of surface water, ground water and ordinary water courses, all of which are the responsibility of the LLFA.
2. Main rivers and sewer flood are the responsibility of respectively the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water Limited. Close working partnerships have been established with both of these organisations and a joint approach developed where ever possible.
3. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been subject to public consultation from 7 December 2015 - 29 February 2016.
4. An earlier targeted consultation on the Strategy took place during summer 2015, with partners and statutory agencies and the Strategy was revised accordingly.
5. A total of 26 responses were received in the public consultation including Parish and Town Councils, residents, statutory consultees and businesses promoting flood risk management products. The majority of responses were from Worcestershire residents.
6. All of the comments were supportive of the plan in principle, although comments were received on specific paragraphs. The specific issues raised:
  - a. A number of consultees commented on matters which are the responsibility of Environment Agency, including dredging, main rivers and management of their catchments. These are outside of the scope of the Strategy, which is concerned with LLFA responsibilities only.
  - b. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); supportive comments from a number of local residents on the need for SuDS and the importance of SuDS in new development as a method of managing surface water. Comments were received about the impact of SuDS further downstream in altering river levels was also raised as having the potential for detrimental impacts if not designed properly.
  - c. The greatest number of comments received related to land management and upstream or natural catchment management, with responses varying from strong support to mild concern and the need for caution. Given the media interest in this topic, particularly since events this winter, this is not surprising. The Strategy refers to upstream catchment management and land management as one of the suite of tools which can be used to manage flood risk both on a local scale and potentially on some of the larger catchments. However, this is a very complex issue and in the main river catchments will be outside of the responsibilities of Worcestershire County Council.
  - d. A number of local flooding issues were raised in the comments. Where these are too smaller scale for the Strategy and its action plan, they will be passed to the Local Flood Risk Management team, for further investigation and where appropriate added to the list of schemes to be addressed in the future. Some are already on this list.
  - e. A few inconsistencies with respect to definitions, use of language etc were identified through the consultation. These will be addressed in the final Strategy.
7. The attached table includes the detail of all of the consultation responses and a note on our proposed action, including where it is proposed to make changes to the Strategy where appropriate.
8. This work will commence immediately, to enable the final Strategy to be published by summer 2016.