

Open

# **Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

## **Additional Paper**

### **Agenda Item No. 5**

### **Consideration of the flooding motion from Council – Evidence Gathering**

### **Report from Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service**

To be held remotely  
6pm  
Thursday, 2nd July 2020



## **Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**

### **Consideration of the flooding motion from Council – Evidence Gathering from Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and Severn Trent**

#### **Nathan Travis, Chief Fire Officer, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS)**

In addition to the multi-agency activities highlighted by Superintendent Colquhoun, the Fire & Rescue Service had specific responsibility for the rescue of people from properties and vehicles, the pumping out of flooded properties (where appropriate and practical to do so) and the salvage of valuable possessions from flood-affected properties, in liaison with the occupiers.

Over the period in question, across the two counties, HWFRS attended 182 flooding and water rescue incidents, of which 127 involved flooded homes and over 50 were vehicles caught in flood water – many of which could have been avoided if the drivers had decided not to try and drive through the flooding in the first place. A number of those incidents occurred in and around Bewdley and across the Wyre Forest area. In total, across Herefordshire & Worcestershire, 132 people were rescued, although tragically, one person drowned in the Tenbury area after being swept into the flooded river together with their partner, who was rescued by the Service.

One of the biggest lessons to be learnt from this flood – on the back of the increasing frequency and severity of such extreme events nationally and globally - is the ability of the Service to use its existing skills and resources to undertake a much broader range of activities (together with its partners) to help protect and support vulnerable communities – particularly in where it comes to mitigating the impacts of such events on individuals and businesses when they occur and helping people to recover afterwards.