



Hampshire County Council

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Councillor Sharyn Wheale
Chairman
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Dear Sharyn

Thank you for your letter dated 12 May, enclosing a copy of the Select Committee's report following its scrutiny of flood risk management in Hampshire. I very much appreciate the work the Committee has applied to this important subject.

The Committee's recommendations highlight many of the crucial elements to flood risk management, particularly the need to continue to work with partners and encourage community action in order to minimise flood risk and improve local resilience. I think we all have a role to play in raising awareness about responsibilities, although I particularly welcome the recommendation to DEFRA that they bring an end to the mixed messages riparian landowners receive (such as from Natural England and the Environment Agency) so as to ensure the maintenance of ordinary watercourses is paramount at all times.

Much has happened since our joint event last December. The County Council is working closely with partners and local communities to learn the lessons from the 2013/14 floods. Although there is still much to do, we are beginning to make progress and this is reflected in my detailed response to your recommendations (**see attached**). Not only do we need to continually encourage local action but also harness support for our Pathfinder proposal, which requires the Government to devolve a modest capital fund (that would be match funded by the County Council) in order for Hampshire to deliver a three to five year program of activities, locally devised and based on the latest evidence, to alleviate flood risk and improve resilience in critical catchment areas.

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*Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Councillor Seán DT Woodward*

In the meantime, I have written to Councillors Chapman and Bolton, drawing your report to their attention and asking that they liaise with you directly about how best to keep the Committee informed of the progress they are able to make on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seán Woodward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Councillor Seán Woodward
Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment