

ITEM 6

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Joint Scrutiny Panel

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board is asked to:

1. Note the update on the recent SRA Joint Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Purpose of the item

To update the SRA Board on the recent SRA Joint Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Background and context

At its meeting on 8 July 2022, the SRA Joint Scrutiny Panel met for its 'looking back' meeting when it considers what the SRA and its partners have achieved in the past year.

At the meeting the Panel considered papers on:

- Draft SRA Annual Report
- 2021-22 Finance Update
- Review of the Somerset 20 Year Flood Action Plan

The reports pack for the meeting can be accessed online at www.somerset.gov.uk by using the following link: [SRA Joint Scrutiny Panel 8 July 2022](#)

Latest Status

The Joint Scrutiny Panel was not quorate on this occasion so was unable to make any formal recommendations. The minutes for the meeting are not yet available; the summary below has been approved by the Scrutiny Panel Chair as reflecting the discussion on the day.

Scrutiny Panel raised several points during the meeting to be shared with the SRA Board. The Panel commented that:

- The need for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) should be a high priority for local planning authorities (LPAs) and the SRA should encourage LPAs to do more to require this in new housing developments.
- The draft SRA funded Somerset Specific SuDs Guide is a very important piece of work and should be published and adopted by all councils. The Chair

recommended that SuDS requirements should be captured on Regulation 123 lists¹ and the SRA Board should encourage LPAs to do this.

- There is insufficient reference to the urgency of, and the need to address, the climate and ecological emergency within the draft SRA annual report. The Panel made the point that language is very important and opportunities for emphasising the climate emergency should always be taken.
- The Panel commented that more should be done to encourage Parish and Town Councils and local communities to contact the SRA directly with their recommendations for local projects to tackle flooding.
- The Chair reiterated the importance of securing the necessary legislation to make the SRA a Precepting Authority and advocated for a lobbying campaign to achieve this.

Summary

SRA Joint Scrutiny Panel was not quorate so unfortunately were unable to make formal recommendations to the SRA Board. However, the panel requested that the points above were shared with the Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board is asked to:

1. Note the update on the recent SRA Joint Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Date: 12 July 2022

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¹ Regulation 123 List provides for a Council to set out a list of those projects or types of infrastructure that it intends will be, or may be, wholly or partly funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)