



## **Wyre Forest District**

### **Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan**

#### **Examination**

#### **Matter 3: Climate Change**

#### **WFDC Response**

14<sup>th</sup> January 2013

## **Matter 3 - Climate Change**

### **1. Do policies in this section have sufficient regard to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?**

1.1 Worcestershire County Council is currently in the process of producing a countywide Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for Worcestershire. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires the County Council to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a LFRMS, which will consider all sources of local flood risk and determine objectives to manage this risk. Therefore, through their representations to the District Council at publication stage of the plan, the County requested that the emerging LFRMS should be referenced in the policy framework so that there was clear consistency between the two statutory processes.

1.2 The correspondence set out in the Statement of Common Ground (SOCG5) between Wyre Forest District Council and Worcestershire County Council have suggested an additional modification to the plan (KCAPMOD16) to ensure greater reference to the emerging LFRMS.

1.3 Please see the response to question 2 below that provides further information on the proposed flood risk management policy for the KCAAP, which makes specific reference to the emerging LFRMS. This policy has been produced and agreed in conjunction with the Environment Agency through a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG3).

### **2. Does the strategy contained in the Plan have sufficient regard to the low lying nature of the town and the proximity of parts of the KCAAP site allocations to the Kidderminster Flood Alleviation Scheme reservoir?**

2.1 Since the publication of the KCAAP, the District Council has discussed at length with the Environment Agency the approach to development in the Central Area in relation to Flood Risk management. It has been agreed by both parties that a Flood Risk Management Policy should be included within the Plan to help manage the risk of flooding that is apparent. This would help to improve the effectiveness of the plan

and ensure that flood risk was considered in relation to the issues that specifically affect the central area of Kidderminster.

- 2.2 To this end, the Council and the Environment Agency have agreed a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG3) which introduces a proposed Water Management Policy for the central area of Kidderminster. This builds on the work included in the Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and has specific regard to the residual risk posed by a failure of the Kidderminster Flood Alleviation Scheme. The policy also addresses the requirements for safe, dry access and the need to ensure any Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) that are implemented reflect the sensitive hydrological setting that is apparent in the central area. Furthermore, the policy also requires development to have regard to the emerging Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, as outlined in the response to Question 1 of this Matter.
- 2.3 The proposed policy is included in the modifications table (KCAPMOD16)