

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
5 December 2022**

**Officer:** Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

**RIVER SAFETY**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

To receive the recently published River Safety Report

### **Background**

Following a number of unfortunate incidents in the River Severn earlier in the year, the Town Council worked with colleagues at Shropshire Council to review and update the Risk Assessment carried out on the River Severn in 2010.

The Town Clerk worked with the Assistant Director of Homes & Communities and WSP to provide sufficient evidence to facilitate the review. Various officers and members were interviewed as part of the process, which also included a desktop exercise of other locations in which river deaths have occurred as well as both a daytime and night-time inspection of the river.

### **Report**

The report was published last week and identifies a number of recommendations, in particular the development of a Water Safety Action Group. This is something that the Team Shrewsbury Group has been considering from some time and given that the key partners all feature within that Group it would seem sensible for any Working Group to be embedded within that the existing umbrella group.

The Assistant Director of Homes & Communities & the Town Clerk took away an action from the group to develop Heads of Terms and membership for the Group. Whilst it is intended for this to be a Delivery Group members might wish to consider whether some member representation needs to be included within the Group.

Aside from the Recommendations within the Report, Team Shrewsbury Partners have been undertaking separate initiatives to promote the safe use in and around the river. These have previously been communicated to the Recreation & Leisure Committee.

This report is to be presented to the Shropshire Council Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> December with recommendations similar to those sought of this Committee below

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (i) That the Town Council notes the publication of the Report;**
- (ii) That the Town Council supports the establishment of a Water Safety Action Group under the auspices of Team Shrewsbury Group to coordinate all partners in the review, detailed design and delivery of the proposed actions to be set out in an Action Plan, to improve river safety in Shrewsbury.**
- (iii) That the Town Council considers any specific representation on the Water Safety Action Group**