

**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE REPORT ENTITLED 'RESTORE OUR RIVERS'**

**CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT
(COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MICHAEL)**

AGENDA ITEM: 2

DIRECTOR OF CITY OPERATIONS

Reason for this Report

1. To respond to a report published by Environmental Scrutiny Committee in January 2017 entitled "Restore Our rivers"

Background

2. August 2016 a Task and Finish Group was established to consider a range of options and initiatives for improving the quality of rivers and water courses in Cardiff and the wider South East Wales River Basin.
3. To deliver this report partners were co-opted from Dwr Cymru, Natural Resources Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, South East Wales Rivers Trust, Cardiff Rivers Group, Glamorgan Anglers and Groundwork Wales. The group met on a regular basis between August and December to discuss a wide range of river issues, including pollution prevention, sustainable drainage, environmental improvement, delivering a united communications message, working with volunteer groups and building a regional or catchment based approach. At the end of the enquiry, the work was summarised to create the Restore Our Rivers report. The report makes 20 recommendations

Issues

4. The report has been compiled to detail how we can improve water quality in the Severn Estuary, notably the River Taff, River Ely and the River Rumney that discharge into the estuary in Cardiff. The quality of rivers are measured by standards set out within the Water Framework Directive.
5. Overall, many of the recommendations can be supported in principle. However, it is important to highlight the limited regulatory or operation controls that Cardiff Council possess on these matters. The primary role

for the coordination and communication of the approach in Wales rests with Natural Resources Wales, as the designated responsible body, through the development of the River Basin Management Plans. These three Main Rivers are the jurisdiction of Natural Resources Wales.

6. Nonetheless, there is already a significant amount of ongoing good work by the City of Cardiff Council through such schemes as Greener Grangetown and the production of the Sustainable Storm Water Management Guidance for developers, for example, and many of the recommendations are coincidentally implementing variations of the recommendations, within the report. Also, some are moving forward.
7. It should be noted that many of the recommendations however deal with the practical enforcement of landowners where pollution incidents arise. In such circumstances, Natural Resources Wales have the regulatory powers for discharge consents and enforcement capabilities.
8. The report made 20 recommendations under the following headings:
 - Measurement and benchmarking
 - Prevention opportunities
 - Educational opportunities
 - Improvement opportunities
 - Regional opportunities.
9. These 20 recommendations have been fully or partially accepted. Full details of the recommendation and response are contained in Appendix A.
10. It is agreed that the City of Cardiff Council will write Natural Resources Wales as the competent body to request their views on the Restore our Rivers report and identify any actions they intend to make.

Reason for Recommendations

11. To enable the Cabinet to respond to the report published by the Environmental Scrutiny Committee in January 2017 entitled “Restore Our rivers”

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

Legal Implications

13. There are no direct Legal implications arising from this report

HR Implications

14. There are no direct HR implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to agree the response to report of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee entitled Restore our Rivers (Appendix)

ANDREW GREGORY

Director

10 November 2017

The following appendix is attached:

Appendix A: Cabinet Response to the Report published by Environmental Scrutiny Committee in January 2017 entitled “Restore Our Rivers”