

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
6 MARCH 2024**

Officer: Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

BATHING WATER STATUS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the Bathing Water Status application submitted via the Clean Rivers Working Group to DEFRA

BATHING WATER STATUS

This Committee is aware of the work of the Clean Rivers Working Group in bringing partners together to support the submission of an application to DEFRA for a stretch of the River Severn in Shrewsbury to be designated with Bathing Water Status. A comprehensive application was submitted in 2023 which detailed huge support for the designation from not just the public, but both Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council as well as many organisations with an interest in activities on the river.

The application was subsequently considered by DEFRA and following further information being submitted has now been included in the Government Department's public consultation to consider 27 different sites across the country. The Consultation has opened and closes on the 10th March. Details on the consultation are appended to this application.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Report be noted
- (ii) That the Committee congratulates those members of the Working Group who worked hard to submit the application
- (iii) That the Council submits representation to DEFRA supporting the Bathing Water Status designation of the River Severn in Shrewsbury