

London Surface Water Strategic Group

Friday 9 June 2023, 10am-12pm

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Attendees

Members

Representatives from:

- Environment Agency
- Thames Water
- Transport for London
- London Fire Brigade
- Greater London Authority
- London Councils
- London Borough of Harrow, Ealing, Richmond Upon Thames and Hackney.
- Independent Members

Observers and members of the London Surface Water Officers Group

Representatives from:

- Environment Agency
- Thames Water
- Transport for London
- London Fire Brigade
- Greater London Authority
- Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
- London Councils
- London Resilience Group

Meeting Items

1 Welcome and Introductions (Item No. 1)

The interim chair greeted everyone and stated that this meeting was timely, not only because of the Flood and Coast conference, which featured the group prominently, but also because of the forecasted thunderstorms for the weekend. Already in a better place than years ago, so should be happy of the progress thus far and continue to make progress.

2 Updates Paper (Item No. 2)

Regarding the above topic, the following was discussed:

Procurement

- Meetings on who will be granted the contract will begin later this month. A contract should be signed by mid-July.

ACTION: Members must be informed of the winning bid ahead of engaging the consultants.

Resourcing

- A project officer has been appointed.
- The advertisement for the Chair position will go out in due course.

3 Communications Paper (Item No. 3)

Members approved the approach taken in the communications plan and briefing however changes are needed and would like to see broader messaging.

ACTION: To help engage with the larger community of councillors, holding an event was considered. In principle, this was agreed but to look at other events to tag this onto.

ACTION: Review Boroughs websites and ensure they are updated.

ACTION: The communications briefing to be revised to highlight the difference the group has made and what Londoners responsibility is.

4 Annual Monitoring Report (Item No. 4)

Under this item, each workstream was discussed and members approved the Annual Monitoring Report in principle but wanted to see more information about the progress status of each recommendation.

ACTION: Members agreed it would be useful to have a map of what the key actions are to achieve and in which sequence to gain clarity and manage time until the strategy is in place.

ACTION: Revise the report, addressing members comments.

5 Any Other Business (Item No. 5)

- At the end of May, the Thames Water Drainage Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) was published.
- Advisors of the group should be coming to the next meeting.

6 Forward Look (Item No. 5)

At the next meeting on 13th October, members would like to see:

- Thames Water to provide a more detailed update on the DWMP.
- By the next meeting, the consultants should have first outputs on the financial needs to be factored into business planning.
- Look at the branding of the London Surface Water Strategic Group.
- For the next intense flooding event, determine if there has been any change from the events in 2021.

7 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 13th October 2023