

London Surface Water Strategic Group

Friday 13 October 2023, 10am-12pm

Microsoft Teams/London Councils

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

Advisors of the London Surface Water Strategic Group

Representatives from:

- London Councils
- London Environmental Directors Network (LEDNET)
- Greater London Authority
- London Climate Change Partnership
- Metropolitan Police
- London Resilience Partnership
- Consumer Council for Water
- Flood Re
- National Flood Forum
- Defra
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
- Environment Agency/Flood Forecasting Centre

Meeting Items

1 Welcome and Introductions (Item No. 1)

The Chair welcomed those in attendance, including WSP and the Advisors' Group who were attending for the first time. To provide support and advise this group, the Advisors' Group is present at this meeting to observe what is discussed.

2 Updates Paper (Item No. 2)

Regarding the above topic, the following was discussed:

Chair Recruitment

Since the initial round of chair recruitment was unsuccessful, the candidate pack has been amended and the post readvertised. Everyone was asked to share this advertisement widely.

Working Groups

A brief update was given by the Evidence, Funding and Resilience Working Group.

ACTION: A more thorough update of the working group's accomplishments and milestones with a RAG report to be given at the December Strategic Group meeting.

ACTION: Funding Workshop outcomes to be included in December meeting.

3 Strategy Update by WSP (Item No. 3)

WSP provided an update on the development of the Strategy thus far.

- The approach to Strategy Development and the Project Timeline was reviewed and endorsed.
- There was no agreement on the project identity name, but feedback was given.
- The update on the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan was noted.
- The progress on the Strategy (to-date) was noted.
- The 2024/25 Business Planning Draft Actions has been reviewed but more action is needed.

ACTION: The Business Planning Draft Actions document is to be reviewed and sent to the Strategic Group.

4 Communications Paper (Item No. 4)

An update was given by the communications Working Group. Since the project identity could not be decided upon, the asks of the Strategic Group changed. It was agreed to debut the Strategic Group without any special branding during Flood Awareness Week, but the plan must be authorised by the Strategic Group in advance of this week.

ACTION: Identify the baseline and where the gap is in public awareness.

ACTION: Before Flood Awareness Week begins, the plan must be approved by the Strategic Group.

ACTION: The Communications Working Group should have messaging prepared ahead of the Climate Resilience Review outputs.

5 Thames Water Drainage Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) (Item No. 5)

A summary of Thames Waters Drainage Wastewater Management Plan was given.

6 Any other business and forward look (Item No. 6)

At the next meeting on 8th of December, members would like to see:

- A more thorough report on the working groups' progress and the Annual Monitoring Report's recommendations, especially those with deadlines.
- Schedule of strategic group meetings in 2024 (avoiding Fridays).
- The new Chair should be in place or an update to be provided.

The chair concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their contributions and acknowledged the efforts that have been made.

7 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 8th December 2023