

London Surface Water Strategic Group

Friday 8 December 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
- 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 acting chairs welcomed those in attendance and announced Elizabeth Rapoport as the new chair of the London Surface Water Group. Elizabeth Rapoport will start as Chair in the New Year.

2 Progress on Priority Actions and an update on Resourcing & Resilience workstream (Item No. 2)

Regarding the above topic, the following was discussed:

Priority Actions

In April 2023, the Strategic Group agreed on nine priority actions. Out of these, four have been completed, and the remaining five are still being worked on.

Resourcing

Over the next five years, the three positions of Chair, Project Officer and Secretariat will be funded by the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC).

Resilience Workstream

An update on the priority action which is still in progress was given alongside an update on the Surface Water Flood Forecasting Improvements Project.

Members noted and commented on the paper.

3 Strategy Update by WSP (Item No. 3)

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

- Members endorsed the Outline Framework for the Strategy.
- Members noted and commented on the approach to Defining Rainfall for the Strategy.
- Members endorsed the approach to Prioritising Action for Flood Impacts.
- Members endorsed the approach to deriving Community-Based Catchment Strategies.
- Members noted the Strategy Progress Update & Next Steps.

4 Communications Workstream Update (Item No. 4)

An update on the Communications Workstream was given alongside a discussion on approaches to take for Community Engagement.

- Members noted and commented on the paper.
- Members agreed an approach to community engagement.

5 Funding Workstream Update (Item No. 5)

An update on the Funding Workstream was given.

- Members noted and commented on the paper.
- Members agreed the Funding Working Group's proposed next steps and made some suggestions.

6 Evidence Workstream Update (Item No. 6)

An update on the Evidence Workstream was given.

- Members noted the progress being made for progressing a phased approach for a London wide flood reporting system.
- Members endorsed the first phase of action being taken to improve data sharing across London both during and after an incident.
- Members noted the progress being made in ways to identify critical infrastructure.
- Members noted the progress on the SuDS opportunity mapping.

7 London Surface Water Strategic Group 2024 Meeting Dates (Item No. 7)

Members approved the dates and times for the 2024 London Surface Water Strategic Group meetings.

8 The London Climate Resilience Review Update (Item No. 8)

An update of the London Climate Resilience Review was given.

9 Any other business and forward look (Item No. 9)

The meeting was concluded by the acting chairs, who noted the tremendous amount of work that had been done.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 22nd February 2024