

London Surface Water Strategic Group
Wednesday 22 January 2024, 14:00-16:00
London Councils / 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 Richmond Upon Thames, Southwark, Waltham Forest, and Kensington & Chelsea
- Independent Members

Observers and members of the London Surface Water Officers Group

Representatives from:

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

Meeting Items

1 Welcome (Item No. 1)

The Chair of the London Surface Water Strategic Group greeted the group and introduced new members.

2 Progress Update and Forward Look (Item No. 2)

An update on the progress made on over the last three months was provided, focusing on the transition from Strategy development to implementation.

The SuDS Opportunity Modelling project, which is separate from the Strategy, was out for tender using an EA framework. Bids have been received and are currently being evaluated. A decision is expected soon.

The Leadership Group also held an away day to reflect on progress and plan next steps, including reviewing the existing LSWS Working Groups.

The branding work for the Strategy is scheduled to be delivered by the end of February 2025.

ACTION: Officer Group to agree on revised way of working to enable a pre- and post- launch roadmap.

3 Strategy Updates: Review and Decisions (Item No. 3)

The LSWS Central Team has reviewed feedback on the Strategy documents and sought guidance from the Strategic Group in the following areas:

- The incorporation of NaFRA2 Data into the Strategy
- The position of the expansion of sewer capacity within the strategy
- How collaboration between the organisations is being highlighted
- When and how Non-Technical Strategy Documentation is being released
- How priority catchments are being selected

ACTION: Central Team Officers to perform a sense check to confirm that the Strategy's proposed flooding hotspot locations have not changed through a comparison with the new NaFRA2 data. (15th February 2025)

ACTION: The Strategy Working Group will provide an update to the Strategic Group once a sense check has been performed and will ask for input should any further direction be required based on the findings of the check. (31st March 2025)

ACTION: LSWS Central team and officers to follow the approach suggested in the *Strategy Updates: Review and Decisions* paper. (31st March 2025)

ACTION: London Councils and Central Team to discuss a presentation of the Surface Water Strategy at an upcoming TEC and / or LEDNet meeting, which will include discussion of the collaboration agreement to gain feedback. (22nd April 2025)

ACTION: LSW Central Team to ensure the Strategy indicates that a framework will be developed to support initiatives on the ground. (31st March 2025)

ACTION: Thames Water representatives to share their knowledge gained from experience working with partnership agreements similar to the potential collaboration agreement between LSWS partners (4th March 2025)

ACTION: LSWS Central team to rewrite the Non-Technical Strategy document to ensure it is tailored towards a public audience. (22nd April 2025)

ACTION: LSW Central Team to support the Strategic Group in producing a list of selection criteria to prioritise the implementation of Catchment Partnerships. (31st March 2025)

4 Communications and Engagement Update (Item No. 4)

Engagement sessions were recently held with each London borough, and the Strategy Action Plan is currently under review in preparation for the next round of engagement. Future engagement sessions will bring Catchment Partnerships together. Additionally, the Strategy aims to involve the general public and local communities through existing and new engagement sessions.

ACTION: LSW Central Team to request feedback from all boroughs during the next Catchment Partnership engagement exercise about potential landowners who may be engaged with. (22nd April 2025)

ACTION: The Engagement Working Group to provide an update to the Strategic Group on wider stakeholder engagement progress. (22nd April 2025)

5 Risk Log Update (Item No. 5)

The Strategic Group reviewed and commented on the risk log.

The highest overall risk in the risk log was the lack of a full-time communications staff member within the LSW partnership. The Environment Agency are currently proactively investigating whether Defra may be able to provide increased support.

ACTION: LSW Central Team to add procurement to the risk log (22nd April 2025)

ACTION: LSW Central Team to work with officers from Strategic Group member organisations to consider what external risks to add to the Strategy within the risk log. (22nd April 2025)

ACTION: Strategic Group members to ensure their officers update the LSW Central Team about risks going forwards. (ongoing, ahead of each Strategic Group meeting)

6 Forward Look – Discussion and Decision (Item No. 6)

A plan of activities that need to take place before and after the Strategy launch was shared with the Strategic Group. This was divided into separate areas including the Strategy documentation, engagement, roadmap planning, communications, and catchment partnership development.

A discussion took place surrounding the Strategy launch date along with the activities required before and after the launch.

ACTION: LSW Central Team will produce a launch plan for the Strategic Group to provide feedback on. (22nd April 2025)

7 Strategic Group Member Discussion (Item No. 7)

A closed Strategic Group Member Discussion was held.

8 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 22nd April 2025