

**London Surface Water Strategic Group
Wednesday 17 October 2024, 14:00-16:00
Kensington Town Hall / 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, Lambeth, 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 Group
- WSP

Meeting Items

1 Welcome (Item No. 1)

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

A video was shared with the group showing the 2021 flooding event in Waltham Forest.

2 Strategy Delivery / Areas for Decision

The draft strategy has now been received from the consultants. The final review of the draft strategy is currently in progress. Engagement sessions with each London borough will be conducted over the next few weeks.

The proposal for a London Strategic Surface Water Authority was discussed. It was agreed that a statutory Strategic Surface Water Authority will not be pursued at this stage. This group will continue in its current form and will focus on the strategic and leadership aspects of tackling surface water flooding. The group wants to oversee a substantial increase in delivery. This approach aims to avoid getting embedded in legislative processes and instead concentrate on actionable outcomes.

Funding and resource are potential blockers to the strategy's delivery. A London surface water funding vehicle was discussed. It was agreed that some options will be investigated and brought back to the Strategic Group.

The implications of boroughs being located in multiple hydrological catchments was discussed. It was noted that upcoming borough engagement sessions will be used to highlight the benefits of working in partnership.

The strategy includes a capture, control, adapt and respond process which should provide a pathway to resilience rather than stipulating a level of protection. The proposed capture, control and adapt approach would be a useful communication tool to emphasise that it wouldn't always be possible to provide protection against major flooding events. It would also show how important it is for Londoners that they can increase resilience to surface water flooding through their personal actions.

ACTION: Strategic Group to continue to function in its current form. Officers to discuss the future governance of the strategy within working groups.

ACTION: Officers to provide options to the Strategic Group regarding a funding model.

ACTION: London Surface Water Engagement Lead to use borough engagement sessions to highlight that catchment partnerships will not necessarily lead to a large number of meetings. The benefits of working in partnership should also be communicated to boroughs.

3 Budget and Risk Log Update, & Timeline (Item No. 3)

The funding of the strategy was discussed along with the risk log.

The Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC) budget is the main source of funding for the strategy. Later recruitment in the first year of the strategy's development that led to underspend. The Chair recommended that Strategic Group members share any thoughts in regard to how the underspend could be used.

4 Any other business and forward look (Item No. 4)

The next Strategic Group meeting will take place on 22nd January

5 Strategic Group Member Discussion

A closed minuted Strategic Group Member Discussion was held