

London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee

Flood Partnerships Update

Item no: 12

Report by: Cllr Alan Smith **Title:** TEC Lead for the TRFCC
Date: 18 June 2015
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Summary: As part of the TEC and Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC) Joint Working Arrangements, TEC receives a 6-monthly update on the work of the seven sub-regional flood partnerships, the TRFCC and the Environment Agency.

Recommendations: The Committee is asked to:

- Note and comment on the report.

Flood partnerships update

1. The Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC) is one of twelve Committees established in England that bring together the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs; each borough and the City of London). Their role is to ensure plans are in place for identifying, communicating and managing flood risk across catchments; and for promoting efficient and targeted investment in flood risk management.
2. The TRFCC is based around the Thames catchment and so extends beyond London to encompass Essex, Surrey, Oxfordshire and the unitary authorities that were previously Berkshire. London has seven sub-regional partnerships which are each represented on the TRFCC by a lead member. They are:
 - North West (covers Hillingdon, Hounslow, Ealing, Brent, Harrow and Barnet).
 - South West (covers Richmond upon Thames, Kingston upon Thames, Sutton, Merton, Wandsworth and Croydon).
 - South East (covers Bromley, Lewisham, Greenwich and Bexley).
 - North East (covers Havering, Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge).
 - Central North (covers Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, City of Westminster, City of London, Camden and Islington).
 - Central South (covers by Lambeth and Southwark).
 - North (covers Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Haringey, Enfield, Waltham Forest and Newham).
3. The Joint Working Arrangements signed by TEC and the TRFCC state that TEC will receive an update on the work of the TRFCC, the sub-regional partnerships and the Environment Agency every six months.

Update on the six-year programme for London and the Thames catchment

1. The TRFCC is responsible for prioritising flooding investment in its catchment area, and has for many years taken a long-term approach. Since 2014, the twelve RFCCs submit proposals for six yearly investments to Defra, and the Chancellor decides where to target this investment. London has secured a significant amount of funding but also benefits from schemes being built in Essex, Hertfordshire and Windsor & Maidenhead and Surrey.
2. In summary, within London the six year plan comprises:
 - £21m of investment at the Thames Barrier.
 - £43m of investment in the walls and embankments along the Thames to ensure that all of London is protected from tidal flooding. This is the first phase of £1.2bn of investment over the next 25 years in the tidal defences.
 - £15m of investment to start to reduce the risks from surface water flooding in London.
 - £42m of investment to reduce the risk of flooding from rivers including large scale schemes for Bromley, Kingston, Ealing, Hillingdon, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, Brent and Harrow. These are areas at high risk of river flooding where there is the opportunity to reduce the risk of flooding to property, businesses and infrastructure before a serious flood happens.
3. Year 1 of the six year programme has now been launched and all local authority Chief Executives should recently have been notified of their 2015/16 Flood and Coastal Risk Management allocations by letter. This sets out the approved 2015/16 allocations of Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid funding.

4. The table below sets out the investment in the Thames catchment for 2015/16, in comparison with 2014/15.

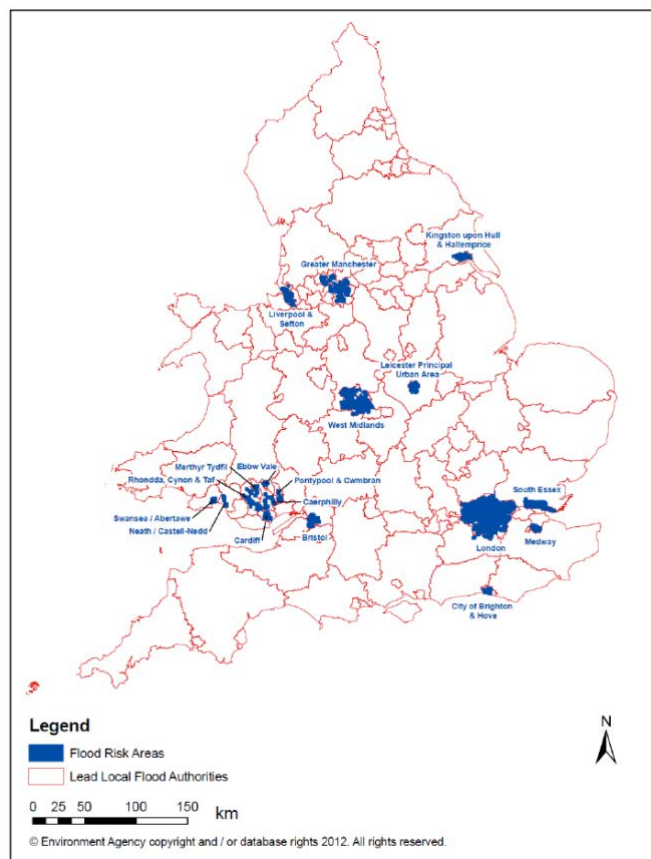
Thames RFCC	2014/15 Indicative Allocation (subject to securing additional partnership funding)			2015/16 Indicative Allocation (subject to securing additional partnership funding)		
<u>Type</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Environment Agency	£21.4m	£27.4m	£48.8m	£33.0m	£29.2m	£62.2m
Local authorities	£3.4m	£0.0m	£3.4m	£3.8m	£0.0m	£3.8m

4. Lead Local Flood Authorities continue to be encouraged to submit flood management projects for consideration by the TRFCC. The Committee is keen to continue growing the programme of work, and it is important to have a pipeline of schemes in the event of timescales slipping on a particular project, to ensure that investment is not lost.
5. The TRFCC is also proposing that a common risk register and progress tracker is used by all partners as a tool for scrutiny panels to monitor projects. This follows discussions by a member and officer sub-group of the TRFCC who identified the indicators they wanted to see. Sub-regional partnerships are discussing this at their meetings.
6. The TRFCC has discussed capacity and skill needs and this is also being considered by the seven sub-regional partnerships in their regular meetings, for reporting back to the next TRFCC meeting in July. TEC members are encouraged to give their views on whether there is a case for a shared resource (and at what level this would sit) and how this can promote more efficient and effective working.
7. The TRFCC are also pleased that closer working with Thames Water has been achieved after considerable effort and that the TRFCC and Thames Water are now looking for synergies between Thames Water's sewer investment programme and the TRFCC/ LLFA/ Environment Agency six-year programme.

Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs)

Local Flood Risk Management Strategies

8. Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) lead on the delivery of surface and groundwater flooding projects and schemes on smaller watercourses.
9. LLFAs are ultimately responsible for producing Local Flood Risk Management Strategies which identify the risks and measures which could be taken. These strategies inform Flood Risk Management Plans which must be produced for all Flood Risk Areas. Almost all of London is designated a Flood Risk Area, and every borough and the City of London has at least some of its area within the Flood Risk Area (see map below).
10. The deadline for Flood Risk Management Plans is December 2015. The previous Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Water Dan Rogerson recently wrote to Cllr Julian Bell, Chair of TEC, expressing concern that 23 boroughs were yet to consult on their Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.
11. Members are asked to encourage progress on these Strategies if their borough has not already consulted on it.



Map of national
flood risk
Source:
Environment
Agency

Sub-regional flood partnership updates

12. In London, LLFAs are grouped into seven sub-regional flood partnerships based on river catchment and flooding risk. The seven partnerships were asked for an update on their work over the six months. Six responded by 11 June and their updates are reproduced below.

South East – Update (covers Bromley, Lewisham, Greenwich and Bexley)

*S.18 reports*¹ – have all been submitted to the Environment Agency

Local Strategy – All four boroughs have completed their strategies and associated documents. Currently Lewisham and Bromley have consulted and both Bexley and Greenwich expect to be consulting on their Local Strategies in June 2015.

SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) Statutory Consultee Role:

Bexley	Business as usual – Had already been commenting on planning applications prior to the introduction of the role.
Bromley	Business as usual – Had already been commenting on planning applications prior to the introduction of the role.
Lewisham	To be updated

¹ A requirement on the Environment Agency to report to the Secretary of State about flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Greenwich Commenting on applications, additional member of staff trained on SuDS to cover leave/busy periods. Developer's guidance written, to be made available on website.

South West – Update (covers Richmond upon Thames, Kingston upon Thames, Sutton, Merton, Wandsworth and Croydon)

In the last 6 months, we have completed/continued to work on the following:

- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. All 6 London's boroughs carried out a joint procurement in order to appoint a consultant to develop our local strategies.
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. 4 of the 6 London boroughs (Merton, Croydon, Wandsworth and Sutton) carried out a joint procurement in order to appoint a consultant to carry out updates to our SFRA's.
- SuDS role. In conjunction with the new statutory role whereby LLFA's are consulted on major planning applications, the 6 London Boroughs are working on a procurement to provide the boroughs with shared SuDS Consultancy support.

North West (covers Hillingdon, Hounslow, Ealing, Brent, Harrow, Barnet)

13. Flood Risk Management Strategies have been drafted by Brent, Hillingdon and Harrow and in Hounslow and Ealing published for consultation.
14. All of the authorities within the group have been working together and sharing best practices and implementing changes to adapt to the changing role of LLFA in responding to planning consultations on Major application on surface water instead of the Environment Agency.
15. Hillingdon and Harrow have undertaken and published section 19 flood investigations².

Projects to manage risk

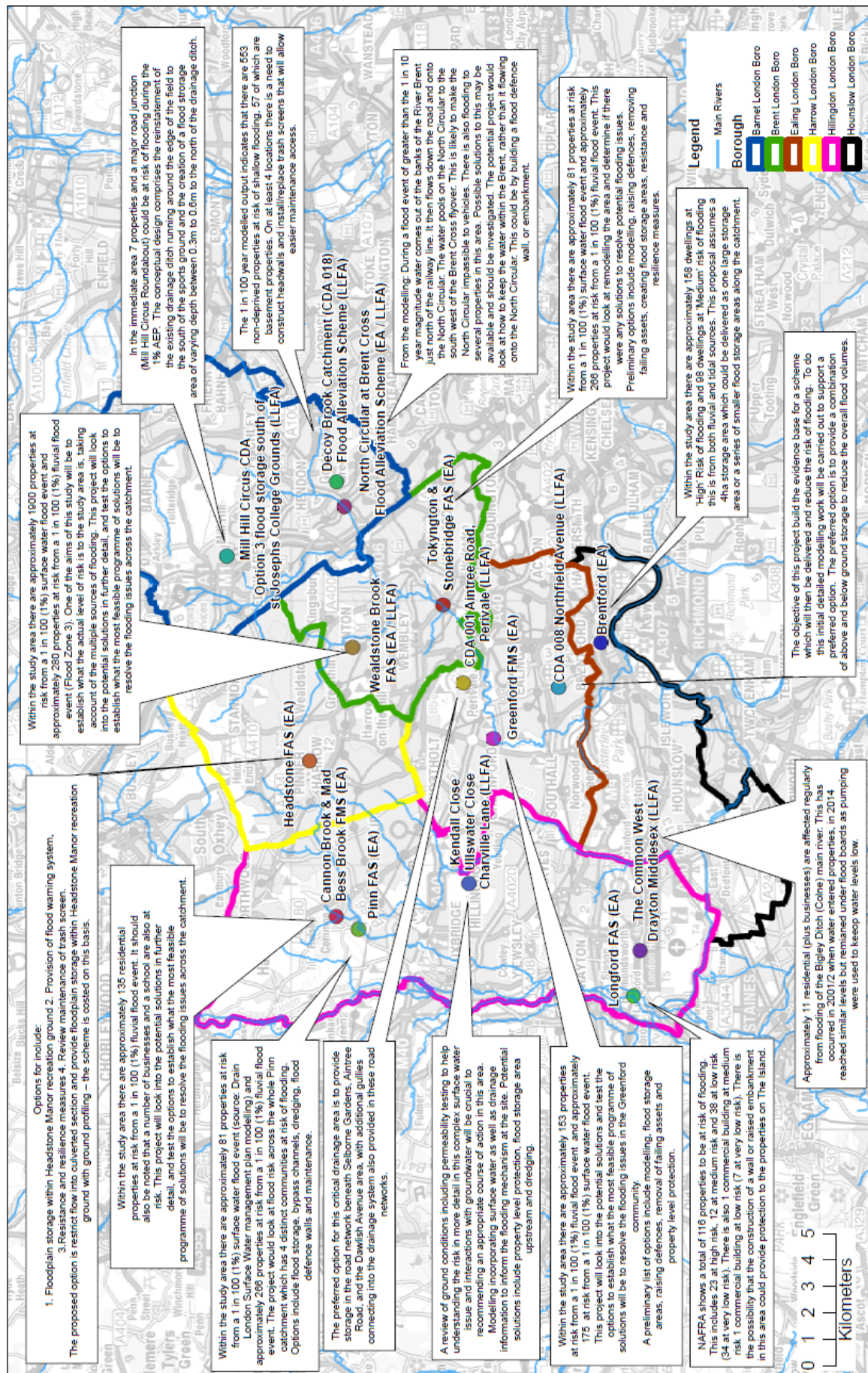
16. Within the published six year programme, there are 26 projects within the North West London partnership.
17. 17 of these are being led by the Environment Agency. Eight of these are for maintenance of Flood Alleviation Schemes and not awarded funding within the programme.
18. There are also a further nine projects led by Local Authorities which aim to reduce the risk of flooding to properties from other sources of flood risk (surface water and ordinary watercourses). See map below for the locations and a summary of these projects.

Challenges and the next 6 months

19. Sufficient resources to Project manage these specialists' projects, and securing better working relationship with Thames Water in order to facilitate solving flood risk events.

² On becoming aware of a flood in its area, if appropriate, an LLFA must investigate which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and whether these functions have been, or will be, exercised. An LLFA has to publish the results of any investigation and notify any relevant risk management authorities.

Current and Future Schemes in the North West London Partnership



North East – Update (covers Havering, Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge)

General update from LLFA's

London Borough of Redbridge – The Flood Risk Management Strategy was approved in March and Redbridge plan to include the details on their website and the newspaper, Redbridge Life, in June. Flood Station is being used for asset data. Locating and plotting all the flap valves on the Roding is a priority.

London Borough of Havering – The 2015 Strategy is now on the authority website. Havering is also using Flood Station for its asset data. Planning applications are increasing Havering are going to have to buy in extra expertise to deal with SuDS, this is going to be a major issue regarding the funding available.

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham – staffing changes with regards to responsibility for flood risk.

Current projects

London Borough of Redbridge:

Mayes Brook – Modelling sent to the Environment Agency.

Clayhall Area – Waiting for the report from the consultants.

Woodford Area – Surface Water flooding, the Environment Agency to finish off the threshold study.

London Borough of Havering:

Jacobs are working on the SuDS design guide. The Ingrebourne is the biggest risk for Havering. Planning applications have been affected by the Blacks Brook in the past but the Environment Agency has now completed the modelling for this stretch of river. Issues with ground water flooding at Queens Road, Upminster.

Thames Water:

Asset management plan signed off and approved to 31 March 2020. Money for resolving flooding of properties is calculated on a cost benefit basis. Twenty for Twenty scheme set up and will be looking at the Environment Agency six year programme.

Environment Agency projects:

Upminster – the levels were set incorrectly and there is now no risk to properties so the project will be closed.

Mayes Brook park and Loxford Water – surface water and fluvial flooding issues.

Dovers Corner – assessing the structures and condition of the assets.

Shonks Mill – full business case required by the end of the year. Outcomes revolve around the Woodford Study.

The next meeting will focus on the capital programme rather than an update on the added burdens as a LLFA. It will also review strategic planning policy and site allocations matters for discussion with Thames Water; with a view to identifying opportunities for surface water reduction through planning and opportunities for partnership working.

Central North – Update (covers Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, City of Westminster, City of London, Camden and Islington)

The group meets 3-4 times per year and circulates relevant consultation/discussion documents as appropriate between meetings. The last meeting was held in March 2015 where the key issues discussed were:

- Thames River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan – Consultation. Members of the group have taken different approaches to completion of the Thames River Basin

District Flood Risk Management Plan. Timing of the deadlines for contributing to the collective plan has resulted in some authorities being unable to contribute and needing to carry out their own consultation.

- Local Flood Risk Management Strategies – Camden and City of London have adopted theirs. Other authorities are working towards adoption with consultations taking place for Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster during this six month period.
- Lead Local Flooding Authority (LLFA) Project Updates: Hammersmith and Fulham has a number of SuDS schemes in progress, Westminster has identified 17 hotspots for which funding has been sought through the Flood Defence Grant in Aid to undertake further investigations in these areas. Additional flood risk modelling is being carried out by some authorities.
- LLFA Resources Update – Resourcing of Flood Risk is undertaken differently in each authority with officers from Planning, Environment or Highways Departments taking on flood risk duties alongside other responsibilities.
- SuDS approvals process – all authorities are gearing up to undertake SuDS assessments as part of the planning application process from April 2015. There is concern about ongoing funding for SuDS assessments.

Central South (covers Southwark and Lambeth)

Southwark

- Herne Hill Scheme: completed on 03/02/15. Arrangements with maintenance agreed so that Southwark now maintain the scheme. The scheme won the Environment Agency's Project Excellence Awards in the partnership category, the ICE London Civil Engineering Award for community contribution and has been shortlisted for the British Construction Industry Award.
- Scheme Development: The Environment Agency has approved Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Flood and Coastal Risk Management funding for the development of East Camberwell and Peckham Rye Schemes.
- Pocket Parks Schemes: Two pocket parks schemes jointly funded by Southwark and the GLA are under construction.
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy: Consultation for the strategy has now closed and an adoption report has been prepared for cabinet member approval in July.
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: We are in the process of updating this to incorporate current information on flood risk in the borough. The document will incorporate all sources of flooding. This is due for completion in autumn 2015.
- SuDS/Drainage consultee role: Southwark already commenting on applications particularly in critical drainage areas. Expecting to receive 100 major applications a year.

Lambeth

- Delivered SuDS schemes in Parks, on the Public Highway and in partnership with Risk Management Authorities on private land.
- Published the Lambeth Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and flooding leaflets to raise awareness of flooding and what to do in an emergency.
- Developed a flood guide for businesses due to be published in June 2015.
- Implemented the role of statutory consultee on all major planning applications.
- Three SuDS schemes in progress. All the schemes are funded through the Flood Grant and due for completion in April.
 - i. Norwood Park a series of swales/bunds and detention area to alleviate flooding to properties.
 - ii. Tivoli Park remedial works to paths and walls and a swale and bund to stop surface water flooding Tivoli Road.

- iii. Stockport Road playing fields swale and detention area to alleviate flooding to properties.
- Community flood projects
 - i. Rosendale allotments de-pave.
 - ii. Southwell Road de-pave.
 - iii. Cressingham Gardens - rainwater harvesting and rain gardens.
 - iv. Norwood green roofs.

Environment Agency-led schemes update

20. The Environment Agency leads on the delivery of river and tidal schemes.
21. Within London the six year programme includes 69 Environment Agency led schemes which represent a total investment of circa £120 million. Of these, 34 have funding allocated within the six year funding window, whilst the others are pipeline projects which will be developed.
22. Progress on these schemes is reported to the TRFCC. A table for the seven projects in construction in 2015/16 is included below.
23. The Thames Estuary 2100 Plan covers the Thames estuary from Teddington in the west to the mouth of the estuary at Shoeburyness (north bank) and Sheerness (south bank). It provides a plan for improving the tidal flood defence system for the period to 2100 so that current standards of flood protection are maintained or improved taking account of sea level rise. The Environment Agency is running an event for boroughs on 15 July 2015 which will cover what the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan means for boroughs and will enable boroughs to specify what further support they require from the Environment Agency in order to successfully deliver the actions required in their area.
24. London also benefits from schemes taking place outside its boundaries; for example:
 - The River Thames Scheme will benefit Windsor & Maidenhead, Surrey and the London Boroughs of Richmond and Kingston. Specific measures to protect individual properties from flooding are currently being installed on those properties which will remain at a high risk of flooding once the scheme is completed. This is being carried out in advance of any construction on the scheme itself and 180 properties will have been completed by the end of June.
 - The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme is likely to make the mainline rail connection to London more resilient against flooding in the future. The Strategic Outline Business Case for Oxford is likely to be forwarded to HM Treasury for approval this summer.

Project Name	Location	Project Type	Total in-year allocation	Total lifetime project cost	Partnership Funding (all years)		
					Local Levy Funding	Publicly Funded Contributions	Privately Funded Contributions
Thames Estuary Phase 1 Programme (Thames Tidal Defences)	Thames Estuary	Capital Maintenance	6,815,739	933,125,397	0	0	0
TBAG Drive Equipment	Thames Barrier, Woolwich	Capital Maintenance	1,400,000	25,879,969	0	0	0
Salmons Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	Enfield, London	New Defences	1,475,000	15,083,156	4,126,000	0	0
Thames Tidal Frontages Programme 1 (construction on this is complete)	Thames Estuary	Capital Maintenance	10,000	8,414,384	0	0	300,000
Anton Crescent Flood Storage Area	Anton Crescent, Sutton	New Defences	122,500	250,000	221,000	0	0
Thames Barrier Store & Depot	Thames Barrier, Woolwich	Improvements to barrier area	3,150,000	3,150,000	0	0	0
Thames Estuary Phase 1 Programme Thames Tideway Defences Operational Area Works	Thames Estuary	Capital Maintenance	1,442,000	4,167,000	0	0	0

Programme Refresh – forward look to 2016/17 and onwards

25. The six year programme enables LLFAs and water companies to move from an annual request for funding to one where funding change requests can be submitted at any time, without any prior formal notification from the Environment Agency. It will use updates submitted to understand future programme needs and include them when it refreshes the programme.
26. There is now an opportunity for Local Authorities to update current schemes with new profiles or better information, and submit new schemes for consideration into the six year programme in readiness for the July round of TRFCC meetings.
27. The Environment Agency has written to LLFAs and water companies to inform them of this opportunity and asking them to submit returns to this request through Partnership and Strategic Overview contacts by 19 June 2015. They will have access to all relevant guidance for this exercise, which can also be found at <https://www.gov.uk/flood-and-coastal-defence-funding-submit-a-project>.
28. Business planning for 2016/17 will be a 'light touch' approach to refresh the programme already approved by the TRFCC. The vast majority of potential new schemes submitted for consideration into the programme will be assessed on their merits in terms of partnership funding score and their likely contribution towards important outcome, efficiency and contributions targets.

Update on the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

29. In the autumn, the government is due to continue their 5-year review of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and consider the future of local flood risk management. TEC members are asked for any comments they have which can inform the TRFCC and London Councils' responses to this review.

Recommendations

30. The Committee is asked to:
 - Note and comment on the report.

Financial Implications

31. There are no financial implications to London Councils arising from this report.

Legal Implications

32. There are no legal implications to London Councils arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

33. There are no equalities implications to London Councils arising from this report.