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| London Councils’ Transport & Environment Committee |
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| Flood Partnerships Update  | Item no: | 05 |
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| Report by: | Cllr Alan Smith | Title: | TEC Lead for the TRFCC |
| Date: | 23 March 2016 |
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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-montly 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.
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**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 River 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) represented by Cllr Dean Cohen.
	* South West (covers Richmond upon Thames, Kingston upon Thames, Sutton, Merton, Wandsworth and Croydon) represented by Cllr Nick Draper.
	* South East (covers Bromley, Lewisham, Greenwich and Bexley) represented by Cllr Alan Smith.
	* North East (covers Havering, Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge) represented by Cllr Lynda Rice.
	* North Central (covers Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, City of Westminster, City of London, Camden and Islington) represented by Cllr Timothy Coleridge.
	* South Central (covers Lambeth and Southwark) represented by Cllr Darren Merrill.
	* London Lee (covers Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Haringey, Enfield, Waltham Forest and Newham) represented by Cllr Daniel Anderson.
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.
4. The last update was received on 15 October 2015, when TEC was asked to give a steer on the proposals for local levy (paid annually by the LLFAs).

**Update from the Thames RFCC 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 based on the outcomes likely to be achieved.
2. In January 2015, the Thames RFCC consented a capital programme of work over the next 6 year spending period (2015/16 – 2020/21). In this programme, a commitment to £75m of Local Levy secures £302 million of Grant in Aid (GiA) capital investment from government over the spending period. The table below sets out the investment allocated to the Thames catchment for 2016/17, in comparison with the last two years.

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| **Thames RFCC** | **2014/15 Indicative Capital Allocation1**  | **2015/16 Indicative Capital Allocation1**  | **2016/17 Indicative Capital Allocation1** |
| Environment Agency | £21.4m | £33.0m | £31m |
| Local authorities | £3.4m | £3.8m | £4.4m |

1 subject to securing additional partnership funding

1. In the 2015 programme refresh, an additional 43 potential schemes were included in the programme, 37 of which are LLFA led. As a result 69 per cent of LLFAs in the Thames RFCC now have either a surface or groundwater scheme within the programme. The Thames RFCC is interested in hearing from and working with those LLFAs which do not yet have a scheme in the programme. In the event of timescales slipping on one particular project, having a pipeline of schemes is important to ensure that investment is not lost.
2. In 2015/16, the programme is forecast to see approximately 4,700 properties at reduced risk of flooding which, if realised, will exceed the target of 2,265 for the Thames RFCC for 2015/16.
3. The Thames RFCC also secured extra funding after the acceleration of schemes and efficiencies achieved elsewhere by other RFCCs in England, meant that at a national level, funding was reallocated to ensure the allocated amounts are spent in any given year. This year (2015/16), some examples of where this additional funding in London has been used are given below:
	* approximately £200k of work on the Thames Barrier;
	* £20k at Brockwell Park (led by London Borough of Lambeth);
	* £45k on Wickham Valley Water Course Flood Storage Scheme.
4. Looking forward to the remainder of the current spending period (2016/17 – 2020/21) the planned investment in London comprises:
* £86m of investment at the Thames Barrier and walls and embankments along the Thames to ensure that the risk of tidal flooding in London remains at current levels;
* £16.5m of investment in reducing the risks from surface water flooding in London;
* £41m of investment to reduce the risk of flooding from rivers including large scale schemes in 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.
1. The Thames RFCC is also looking to identifying the priorities in managing flood risk for the next 25 years and held a workshop with LLFA portfolio holders to initiate this.
2. The Thames RFCC identified a lack of capacity and skills within LLFAs as a key risk to successfully delivering the six year programme. The committee has therefore agreed to use local levy to recruit 12 officers to support and build LLFA capacity to deliver the programme and ensure a sustainable flood defence project programme over the long term. Recruitment of these officers is due to commence in April/May of this year.
3. Closer working between Thames Water and the Thames RFCC continues to be made. Thames Water has identified 7 projects in the current programme which are of interest to them and have made contact with the project teams to assess the opportunities for an integrated solution.

**Environment Agency-led schemes update**

1. The Environment Agency leads on the delivery of schemes that reduce the risk of flooding from the sea (tidal flooding in London) and main rivers.
2. Within London the programme includes 71 Environment Agency-led schemes (across both the Thames and Southern RFCC). Of these, 36 have approximately £126 million of funding allocated within the remainder of the spending period (2016/17 – 2020/21). Nine projects were completed in 2015/16 and the others are pipeline projects which will be developed during this period.
3. The Thames Estuary 2100 Plan is a strategic flood risk plan to manage the tidal flood risk in 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
4. Thames Estuary Asset Management programme (part of the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan) is moving into the second year of its 10 year programme. In year 1 initial appraisals on over 400 assets across the tidal Thames and reliability studies of the major flood barriers were completed. In addition, a world class asset management system is being developed to further optimise investment across the entire flood defence system. In year 2 more detailed appraisals, design and construction work will commence across London, Kent and Essex, delivering improved protection to over 1,500 properties in Greater London. In London a number of construction works to further increase the reliability of the major barriers will be undertaken as well as to flood walls in central London to extend their asset life.
5. March 2016 saw the opening of the Salmons Brook flood alleviation schemes in Enfield. This was a major, multi-location scheme worth £15.3m, which will reduce the risk of flooding to 2,587 homes.
6. In addition, in 2016/17 the following schemes are planned to begin construction;
	1. Brockwell Park Flood Alleviation Scheme, Lambeth
	2. Lower Mole safety booms to be located upstream of each of the gates on the Lower Mole including Viaduct, Island Barn and Molember, Elmbridge
	3. Beckenham Hill trash screen, Lewisham
	4. Lower Mole Flood Alleviation Scheme Asset Management Plan & Weir Inspections, Elmbridge
7. London also benefits from schemes taking place outside its boundaries; for example:
	1. 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 being installed on properties which will remain at a high risk of flooding once the scheme is completed.  This is being carried out in advance of construction on the scheme itself. 310 properties will have been fitted with a full suite of property level protection products by the end of June 2016, of which 25 are in the London Borough of Richmond and the Royal Borough of Kingston.
	2. The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme aims to make the mainline rail connection between Oxford and London more resilient against flooding. The Strategic Outline Business Case has been approved by HM Treasury and work is progressing on the Outline Business Case.

**Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) – sub-regional flood partnership updates**

1. As referenced in paragraph 2, in London LLFAs are grouped into seven sub-regional flood partnerships based on river catchment and flooding risk. The seven partnerships were asked to provide an update of their work over the last twelve months. Six fully responded and a partial response was received from the seventh.
2. LLFAs lead on the delivery of surface and groundwater flooding projects and schemes on smaller watercourses.
3. LLFAs are responsible for producing Local Flood Risk Management Strategies which identify the risks of funding and the measures which could be taken to reduce this risk. 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. There is a push from government to publish Local Flood Risk Management Strategies by the end of March 2016 (at least for publication).
4. LLFAs must produce asset registers which identify significant assets and their risk of flooding.
5. They are statutory consultees as part of the planning process, where they consider the impact of a planning application on surface water flooding risk. This is a relatively new role, since April 2015.
6. They investigate flooding incidents, and where appropriate complete flood investigations. These are known as section 19 (s.19) flood investigations as this is the legislative basis for such investigations.
7. All LLFAs in London are eligible to put forward projects to the Thames RFCC to consider funding. The three boroughs that have a proportion of their area in the Southern RFCC catchment (Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley) are eligible to put forward projects in that catchment area to the Southern RFCC for funding.

South East London

1. *Progress by each LLFA towards Flood Risk Management Strategies:*
* Bexley: anticipates consultation in February, and publishing by April 2016.
* Lewisham: strategy published in June 2015.
* Bromley: strategy consulted upon and published 2015
* Greenwich: strategy has been consulted on and will be available on the website soon.
1. *Progress by each LLFA towards asset risk registers:*
* Bexley has produced a Drainage Asset Management Plan, and holds a basic asset register. Plans to populate this further as and when opportunities to capture asset data occur.
* Lewisham holds information on gulley assets with plans to extend the range of asset information in 2016.
* Bromley uses GIS data base to record historic and recent surface water asset data.
* Work on Greenwich’s Asset register is underway; it has the Ordinary Watercourse data and will be waiting for the outputs of the London Drainage Engineers Group London Asset Framework before finalising.
1. *Flood investigations carried out:*
* Bexley: two S.19 investigations have taken place.  Both have been published by means of letter to residents.
1. *Feedback on the sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) statutory consultee role:*
* Bexley already carried out this role prior to the introduction of the statutory consultee role in April 2015.  We comment on both major applications, and critical minor applications.
* Lewisham: Comments have been provided on major applications but this is restricted by capacity in terms of the numbers it has been possible to engage with.
* Bromley had always provided drainage advice to planners.
* Greenwich: applications are commented on.
1. *Projects happening in the partnership – brief update:*
* Danson Dam, work is now complete on the stabilisation of the dam.
* Crayford Integrated Drainage Survey, awaiting final report from the consultants with a further feasibility assessment planned.
* Wyncham Study, surveys of both the watercourse and the sewers to commence within the next couple of weeks, this will provide the data necessary to build and run the integrated drainage model.
* Beckenham Place Park is awaiting final approvals.
* Wickham Valley Watercourse Flood Storage Area: consultants commissioned and study underway.
* Greenwich groundwater study: consultants commissioned and study underway.

South Central

1. *Progress by each LLFA towards Flood Risk Management Strategies*
* Lambeth - published in January 2015.
* Southwark - adopted and published in August 2015.

1. *Progress by each LLFA towards asset risk registers*
* Lambeth – asset register exists but needs reviewing.
* Southwark – a basic register exists which is regularly reviewed.
1. *Flood investigations carried out*
* None
1. *Feedback on the sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) statutory consultee role*
* Lambeth - The role is going well.  Long term funding will be needed to ensure this continues.
* Southwark - A process has been set in place which ensures all relevant planning applications are reviewed by the drainage team.

1. *Projects happening in the partnership – brief update*
* Streatham Vale: currently at the initial scoping stage, moving into implementation of works in 2016/17.
* Brockwell Park: at the design stage with construction planned for 2016/17.
* Peckham Rye – seeking to work closely with Thames Water as they have sewer flood risk in the area particularly on Barry Road. Need to establish first that the joint effort will be mutually beneficial, which is ongoing.
* East Camberwell – sustainable drainage proposals previously developed did not yield the much needed benefit to merit funding application. Currently looking at property level protection.

London Lee

1. *Progress by each LLFA towards Flood Risk Management Strategies*
* Waltham Forest has already published.
* Other boroughs on track to publish before 31 March 2016.
1. *Progress by each LLFA towards asset risk registers*
* All boroughs have some form of Asset Register. Most use FloodStation, others use GIS software or spreadsheets.
1. *Flood investigations carried out*
* Enfield has carried out one investigation in the last 12 months (still ongoing).
* Other boroughs have experienced minor surface water flooding and cellar groundwater flooding incidents in the last 12 months.
1. *Feedback on the sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) statutory consultee role*
* All boroughs review SuDS/surface water for major planning applications. Some also aim to review minor applications where resources allow.
* Enfield has established a SuDS ‘pre-application’ service for a fee of £500. Other boroughs including Newham and Waltham Forest are looking at establishing a similar system.
* Developers’ understanding of the need for SuDS is improving and most have incorporated the requirements of the London Plan within their initial planning submissions. Engaging with developers at an early stage is key in ensuring that the best SuDS outcomes are achieved.
* Defra funding for the planning consultee role underestimates the amount of time and number of meetings and design changes that are needed before SuDS schemes are satisfactory. It is also difficult for flood engineers to visit sites to carry out inspections.
1. *Projects happening in the partnership – brief update:*
* Projects in Enfield:
* Firs Farm Wetlands – works to create a flood storage area that reduces risk to >100 properties are on site and due to be completed in 2016.
* Bury Lodge Wetlands – the main aim of this scheme is to mitigate urban pollution entering Salmons Brook, it also involves the creation of offline fluvial and surface water flood storage features, works are on site and due to be completed in 2016.
* Enfield Town Flood Alleviation Scheme – Project Appraisal Report being prepared.
* East Enfield Flood Alleviation Scheme – Project Appraisal Report being prepared.
* Green Lanes, Bullsmoor Lane and Hertford Road – initial assessments are underway for these surface water schemes.
* Turkey Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme – an initial assessment is underway for this fluvial scheme.
* Projects in Waltham Forest - local levy funding for three flooding investigations to be carried out by consultants and prepare scheme proposals for the following projects:
* Fillebrook Surface Water Investigation
* South Chingford Surface Water Investigation
* Chestnuts Showground Surface Water Investigation

North Central

1. *Progress by each LLFA towards Flood Risk Management Strategies*
* Kensington and Chelsea – adopted last year.
* Hammersmith & Fulham – at the preliminary stages of developing the Strategy, as focus has been on implementing SuDS. Working to make sure the Strategy aligns with Local Plan policies.
* City of London – adopted in September 2014; progress against the strategy is reviewed quarterly.
* Westminster – draft Strategy completed and awaiting adoption.
* Islington – starting to prepare Strategy.
* Camden – adopted a few years ago.
1. *Progress by each LLFA towards asset risk registers*
* Kensington and Chelsea – register in place and a flood risk assets map also published.
* Hammersmith & Fulham – risk register completed several years ago, currently being reviewed to include surface water flooding impacts.
* City of London – asset register is published on website. Details of ownership and state of repair are currently being collated.
* Westminster – asset register is available, now developing Flood Station as an asset register and flood risk asset management tool.
1. *Flood investigations carried out:*
* None or no response
1. *Feedback on the sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) statutory consultee role*
* Kensington and Chelsea – 33 applications reviewed since April 2015, commented on a Neighbourhood Plan and new policy adopted meaning basements now require SuDS schemes.
* Hammersmith & Fulham – 50 major planning applications reviewed since April 2015.
* City of London – currently only major developments are required to submit a SuDS and Drainage Plan. The Local Plan Review will consider whether this should be extended to smaller developments.
* Westminster – 100 major planning applications reviewed.
* Islington – have not received many major applications since April 2015.
1. *Projects happening in the partnership – brief update*
* Kensington and Chelsea – none currently, it is hoped studies of Critical Drainage Areas may lead to a future bid.
* Hammersmith and Fulham – no projects to date funded by TRFCC as projects have been funded by TfL and GLA.
* City of London – working on flood resilience planning for Walbrook Wharf which is the City’s riverside waste transfer station; not currently seeking any TRFCC funding.
* Westminster – Impact Assessments for North West Westminster, Central and South Westminster Complete. Three Project Appraisal Reports being prepared for submission in March 2016 to the EA.

South West

1. *Progress by each LLFA towards Flood Risk Management Strategies.*
* Sutton: Approved by committee in summer 2015, available on website. Work on the action plan is ongoing.
* Kingston: Approved by Residents Committee in December 2015 and published on the Council’s webpages. All actions have been started and will be annually updated.
* Merton: Approved by the Cabinet Member in May 2015 following public consultation and published on the council website.
* Richmond: Adopted in Sept 2015 and is on the council’s webpages.
* Wandsworth: Due to be approved in March 2016.
1. *Progress by each LLFA towards asset risk registers*
* Sutton: Asset Register has been compiled over recent years and was uploaded onto LoDEG's FloodStation in 2015. Now continuing to build on the records held and carry out the required maintenance.
* Kingston: An interactive map of flood risk and highway drainage assets has been developed over the past few years for internal use only. This data has been added to LoDEG’s FloodStation. It is planned for further review as part of the 2016/17 flood risk management programme of works.
* Merton: Have produced a flood risk asset register which is updated regularly but not published.
* Richmond: risk registers have not yet been prepared.
* Wandsworth: risk register has been compiled and is available upon request.
1. *Flood investigations carried out*
* Wandsworth: two investigations and two reports have been finalised.
1. *Feedback on the sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) statutory consultee role*
* Sutton: Receive around 5 applications a week, and use consultants to manage the volume when needed. The role is going well with the only real issue coming from unresponsive applicants.
* Kingston: 40 applications since April 2015, with the aim of achieving 50% betterment in the drainage from what was achieved before.
* Merton: Receive on average 10 consultations a week, including major and minor (mostly basements) and the review/approval process is carried out in-house. We have seen the delivery of some good SuDS proposals, as a result of negotiation with developers and are generally getting improvements in runoff rates in accordance with local and regional policy. Discussions with developers and technical review is time consuming (resulting in several comments and submissions back and forth) and responding to planning applications is now approaching nearly 70% of an LLFA officer’s time, before other duties/responsibilities are considered.
* Richmond: 8 major applications have been assessed since April 2015 with a ninth recently received. Most of the required data is available but it can come through in stages and takes 3 or 4 requests to get enough data to assess the application. Every application has been approved so far.
* Wandsworth: Consideration of approximately two major planning applications per week over the past year. Other applications, in particular basement development require input from the planning policy team on guidance regarding surface, ground and river flooding.
1. *Projects happening in the partnership – brief update*
* Sutton: progressing one flood alleviation scheme – currently carrying out engagement, feasibility studies and concept designs.
* Kingston: Acre Road flood alleviation scheme; awaiting final appraisal report from consultants with list of feasible options. New Malden North and Hook, Kelvin Grove flood alleviation schemes; consultants have long and short listed options and modelling benefits. Surbiton Stream Refurbishment; original works complete and now requesting additional funding to complete maintenance works on a ‘poor’ section of the embankment wall. Replacement of trash screen at Robinhood Way has been completed.
* Merton: Undertaking two funded surface water feasibility schemes at Cottenham Park and Seely Road.
* Richmond: consultants appointed to advise on strategic policies and devise outline proposals for schemes at eight specific problem sites.  Final report is due in March 2016.
* Wandsworth: Clapham Junction flood alleviation scheme progressing and will be complete by April 2016.

North West

1. *Progress by each LLFA towards Flood Risk Management Strategies*
* Brent – strategy completed and awaiting approval by Cabinet.
* Harrow - Consultation ends 8th Feb, it will then go to Cabinet for approval.
* Ealing – strategy awaiting sign off.
* Hillingdon – strategy out for consultation.
1. *Progress by each LLFA towards asset risk registers*
* Brent – has been using Floodstation since 2013 and all data is recorded.
* Harrow – currently using Floodstation but will be migrating onto our asset register and a GIS layer is provided on website.
* Ealing – ongoing work with Parks team to identify maintenance and asset information for watercourses. Looking to compile a list of landowners with riparian responsibilities within the borough.
1. *Whether any flood investigations have been carried out*
* Brent – all flooding incidents are investigated and recorded on FloodStation. No s.19 investigations.
* Harrow – three s.19 flood investigations completed since 2013 and one from August 2015 is in progress.
* Ealing – two s.19 reports in progress – awaiting Thames Water response for Trumpers Way.
* Hillingdon – several s.19 reports required for August 2015 floods and two more for January 2016 flooding events.
1. *Feedback on the sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) statutory consultee role:*
* Brent – managing but struggling with resources.
* Harrow – provide a consultancy on all planning applications that have an impact on drainage.
* Ealing – approximately 40-50 major applications received since April 2015, but no success with attendance of pre-application meetings.
* Hillingdon – 74 major applications and 110 minor applications reviewed since April 2015 (minor applications are those in areas with predicted/known surface water drainage issues).
* Hounslow – 79 major applications, 15 minor and 7 pre-applications reviewed since April 2015
1. *Projects happening in the partnership – brief update:*
* No projects in progress in Brent.
* Harrow – working with Thames Water, Environment Agency and LB Brent on an Integrated Catchment Model for flooding along the Wealdstone Brook. Part-GLA & section 106 funded project at Stanmore Marsh (Edgware Brook-River Brent Catchment), which is river and marsh restoration. Two projects funded by the Thames RFCC; a river restoration scheme on Roxbourne Stream at Newton Park, a sedimentation and reed bed scheme on Yeading Brook, both of which will be delivered during 2016/17.
* Ealing – Greenford project led by the Environment Agency delayed by consultants using an unsuitable model. Feasibility assessments drafted for three areas; Perivale and Northfields Critical Drainage Areas will have detailed modelling undertaken following validation of flood risks with historic records. Acton High Street Critical Drainage Area will have a public consultation exercise first.
* Hillingdon – Ruislip Road: Further delays with additional data collection being recommended. Also Canons Brook which is Environment Agency led.

North East

1. *Progress by each LLFA towards Flood Risk Management Strategies*
* Havering – Flood Risk Management Strategy was completed in spring 2015 and updated for 2016.
* Barking & Dagenham – consultants appointed and strategy expected to be complete in April 2016.
1. *Progress by each LLFA towards asset risk registers*
* Havering – has a full risk register along which takes into account all risks including flooding and the identification of flood risk management.
* Barking & Dagenham – this work is progressing as part of the Strategy as current records are inadequate. It is expected that additional resources will be needed to complete the asset risk register.
1. *Feedback on the sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) statutory consultee role*
* Havering – SuDS guide introduced for planners and developers which is available on the website.
1. *Flood investigations carried out*
* Havering – flood investigations are carried out by the flood risk engineer and any remedial works required are dealt with to lessen or reduce future risk.
* Barking & Dagenham – none completed to date.
1. *Projects happening in the partnership – brief update:*
* Barking & Dagenham – five studies have been submitted for initial exploratory works to identify the sources of the flooding and potential solutions.
	+ Renwick Road: Localised flooding of the carriage way and nearby properties; cause is thought to be an in-filled or collapsed drainage ditch.
	+ Thames View Dyke: Localised flooding and insect infestations due to poor water flow; looking to increase the capacity of the dyke and maximise its flood management potential.
	+ Parsloes Park and Gores Brook:Sections of the park and residential streets flood annually; cause is thought to be poor condition of the culvert. De-culverting Gores Brook may be a solution as part of an overall master plan for the site.
	+ Heath Way Industrial Estate: Large area of the industrial estate is at high risk of surface water flooding; improving condition and increasing capacity of rivers and culverts in the area may help reduce the flood risk.
	+ Park Avenue: Periodic localised flooding affects residential properties and gardens.

**Challenges facing the sub-regional partnerships going forward**

1. The responses received from borough officers referenced reducing financial resources in their own authorities but also within the Environment Agency. There continues to be concern about the funding for the sustainable drainage consultee role as it is not ring-fenced (it is part of the revenue support grant).
2. Officers are keen to see effective sustainable drainage schemes in their area, but comment that enforcement of agreed schemes and designs is difficult due to a lack of resources. Some boroughs were looking at alternative ways to achieve this (for example, requiring the developer to provide visual evidence). It was also felt that retrofitting existing buildings to achieve the reduction in surface water run-off proposed by the Drain London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan would be challenging.
3. Officers referenced increased joining-up between boroughs, the Environment Agency and Thames Water to achieve collaboration in managing flood risk; with one partnership suggesting a Thames-region wide approach to sustainable drainage schemes. Mention was also made of the importance of planning policies to managing flood risk.

**Recommendations**

1. The Committee is asked to:
* Note and comment on the report.

**Financial Implications**

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

**Legal Implications**

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

**Equalities Implications**

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