

Mayor and Cabinet		
Title	Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Flood and River Related Consultations - Preliminary Results	
Contributor	Sustainable Development Select Committee	Item
Class	Part 1 (open)	3 June 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the Flood and River Related Consultations - Preliminary Results report, considered at its meeting on 11 May 2015.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the views of the Select Committee as set out in this report and ask the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to respond.

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views

- 3.1 On 11 May 2015, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered a report entitled 'Flood and River Related Consultations - Preliminary Results'.
- 3.2 The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- The Committee noted that organisations such as Thames 21 and the Environment Agency could be interested in obtaining some external funding to undertake river restoration work in Southend Park, which would include opening up the culvert and landscaping the river bank. This could also aid flood alleviation in the immediate area and downstream.
 - The Committee noted that new regulations remove the necessity to apply for planning permission to pave over a front garden as long as the surface is permeable. The intention is therefore to encourage permeable driveway surfaces, not prohibit off road parking completely.
 - There needed to be clarity about who had the responsibility for the small section of the River Quaggy which runs close to Lewisham Police Station. This is important as there is some concern about the proposal to move two of the bus stops that are presently located outside of the Police Station, and whether they could be relocated closer to the station than is currently proposed if the area could be developed.
 - The Committee heard that the Council does have an emergency contingency of sandbags, but the Council's policy does not include supplying sandbags to residents, who are expected to make the necessary arrangements to protect their own property.
 - The Committee were concerned that some of the key bodies that are listed as Risk Management Authorities have not responded to the consultation, and they would be interested in seeing their Flood Risk Management Strategies.

- The Committee heard of 'ground water' issues in Forest Hill, and Councillors have been liaising with Thames Water as they investigate the matter.
- The Committee were concerned that the possible extension of the Bakerloo Line to Lewisham, and the relocation of Lower Sydenham Station might be compromised if the land alongside the Pool River is not secured.

3.3 Therefore, the Select Committee recommends that Mayor and Cabinet:

- a) Support the opening of the culvert at Southend Park and naturalising the river to aid flood mitigation in the borough.
- b) Ensure that as part of the Council's planning policy guidance on home extensions and renovations, applicants are asked to consider permeable paving for their driveways and gardens. There should also be a borough-wide communications campaign that encourages the construction of permeable paving for driveways.
- c) Investigate who has responsibility for the section of the River Quaggy that runs close to Lewisham Police Station; and whether any development is possible to keep the bus stops in that location.
- d) Publicise to the borough's residents the Council's policy on mitigating flood risk, or any other assistance/help the Council may provide.
- e) The Mayor and Cabinet should assure themselves and the Council that the Local Authority and key partners, such as University Hospital Lewisham and commuter networks alongside utilities, have robust action plans in place for dealing with disasters; and for higher likelihood events such as flooding the Council should actively pursue their feedback and engagement with its policies, and the Mayor should allocate resource to seek a response from all of these key stakeholders, for this strategy and others as they arise.
- f) Investigate who is responsible for the 'ground water' issues that are affecting properties in some parts of the borough, and what the responsible authority is doing to tackle this on-going problem.
- g) Safeguard the land adjacent to the railway to the north of Lower Sydenham Station to ensure that there will be scope for development close to the Pool River, which could include the development and/or relocation of Lower Sydenham Rail Station.

4. Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there are financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

5. Legal implications

5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

6. Further implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Background papers

Sustainable Development Select Committee – Agenda of 11 May 2015

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&MIId=3903&Ver=4>

Flood and River Related Consultations - Preliminary Results

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s36513/04FloodAndRiverRelatedConsultationPreliminaryResults110515.pdf>

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s36514/04LFRMSQuestionnaireAnalysis110515.pdf>

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s36512/04SPDQuestionnaireAnalysis110515.pdf>

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