

Mayor & Cabinet		
Report Title	Response to referral by the Sustainable Development Select Committee on Flood and River Related Consultations	
Key Decision	No	Item No.
Ward	All	
Contributors	Executive Director of Resources and Regeneration	
Class	Part 1	Date: 9 December 2015

Reasons for Lateness and Urgency

This report was not available for the original dispatch because internal consultation was delayed and not all of those consulted could provide comments in time to meet the original deadline. The report is urgent and cannot wait until the next meeting of Mayor and Cabinet because the Lewisham constitution requires the Mayor to respond to referrals from Select Committees within a two month period.

Where a report is received less than 5 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the matter is being considered, then under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100(b)(4) the Chair of the Committee can take the matter as a matter of urgency if he is satisfied that there are special circumstances requiring it to be treated as a matter of urgency. These special circumstances have to be specified in the minutes of the meeting.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the Mayor's response to the referral from the Sustainable Development Select Committee on Flood and River Related Consultations.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Sustainable Development Select Committee held a meeting on 15th September 2015 and referred a report from that meeting to the Mayor on 30th September 2015. The committee report made a number of recommendations for the Mayor to consider. This report provides the detail of how officers have responded to these recommendations.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Mayor is recommended to:

Approve the responses from the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to the Sustainable Development Select Committees.

Agree that this report should be forwarded to the Sustainable Development Select Committee.

4. Policy Context

4.1 The contents of this report are consistent with the Council's policy framework.

5. Background

5.1 On 11th May 2015, the Sustainable Development Select Committee received a report on the preliminary results of the consultation on the Rivers Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Flood Risk Management Strategy. The select committee referred a report from that meeting to the Mayor and Cabinet meeting on 3rd June 2015. The Mayor agreed a response to the Select Committee at a meeting on 9th September 2015. The Select Committee considered the response from the Mayor at the meeting held on 15th September 2015 and resolved to recommend to the Mayor some further actions. This report responds to the further actions recommended by the Select Committee.

6. Further Issues raised by the Sustainable Development Select Committee in relation to Local Flood Risk

6.1 The referral report recommended at paragraph 3.3 that the Mayor be advised of a number of matters. These are set out below together with the officer response.

6.2 **SDSC recommendation** (a) ask officers to conduct a communications campaign promoting permeable paving for driveways that includes:
(i) providing information on the Council website; and
(ii) a public information campaign to promote permeable paving for driveways to residents.

6.3 **Officer Response.** With regards to recommendation (i) the Planning Service has updated its Development Management web pages by placing guidance on permeable paving on these pages. The guidance is from the Department of Communities and Local Government and titled; 'Guidance on permeable surfacing of front gardens'. This document provides detailed guidance on how to design and construct permeable surfaces.

6.4 In view of the ongoing reduction in Council resources any public information campaign needs to be proportionate and cost effective. It is therefore intended that an article explaining the cumulative impacts of surface water run off and the benefits of permeable paving for driveways be placed in a forthcoming edition of Lewisham Life.

6.5 **SDSC recommendation** (b) ask officers to write to local companies who provide permeable paving for driveways to be involved in the public information campaign.

- 6.6 **Officer Response.** Following the publication of the article in Lewisham Life officers will write to local companies highlighting the article and seeking their assistance in bringing to the attention of customers the role which they can play in seeking to reduce the risk of flooding.
- 6.7 **SDSC recommendation (c)** write to TfL and other agencies (as Lewisham is the Lead Local Flood Authority) to consider any potential relocation of Lower Sydenham station to the intersection with Southend Lane, taking into account both the development opportunities this would raise and any flood-risk related issues as a result.
- 6.8 **Officer Response.** Transport officers will write to TfL to raise this issue. Officers are in communication with TfL on many matters but in particular in relation to the Bakerloo line extension which is intended to include the Lower Sydenham Station and this might provide the opportunity for TfL to consider the advantages and disadvantages of moving lower Sydenham station. In the Council's formal response to TfL's consultation in December 2014, officers requested that an option be considered to relocate the station further north (near Southend Lane), closer to the heart of the existing local centre. Officers will follow up this request by letter, with reference to any potential benefits for local flood alleviation.
- 6.9 The relocation of Lower Sydenham Station has been considered previously by officers in 2005, and the feasibility work undertaken at that time indicated that significant modifications would be required to the gradient and curve of the railtracks, and concluded that the additional cost resulted in a very weak business case. Officers therefore consider that moving the station is unlikely to be achievable without the substantial investment linked to the Bakerloo Line Extension.

7 Legal implications

- 7.1 The Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority and Risk Management Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. As a lead Local Flood Authority it must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

9 Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

10 Equalities implications

- 10.1 Lewisham's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (CES) 2012-16 describes the Council's commitment to equality for citizens, service users and employees. The CES is underpinned by a set of high level strategic objectives which incorporate the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty:
- tackle victimisation, harassment and discrimination
 - to improve access to services
 - to close the gap in outcomes for citizens
 - to increase understanding and mutual respect between communities
 - to increase participation and engagement
- 10.2 Lewisham's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has sought to reflect and respond to the equalities implications of flooding for the borough and includes (Appendix F) an assessment on social vulnerability on climate change.

11 Environmental implications

- 11.1 Reducing, mitigating and effectively managing flood risk in the Borough will contribute significantly to our multi-agency approach to climate change adaptation, given projections of increased severe weather events.
- 11.2 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been subject to Strategic Environmental Screening Analysis and Scoping processes against sustainability objectives. The strategy is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental & Habitats Regulations Assessment which has been subject to public and statutory stakeholder consultation.

12 Conclusion

- 12.1 The recommendations referred to the Mayor from the Sustainable Development Select Committee have been answered in section 6 of this report and it is proposed that this response is referred back to the committee.

Background documents

Report to Mayor and Cabinet 3 June 2015 : "Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – Approval to Publish"

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s36760/Local%20Flood%20Risk%20Management%20Strategy.pdf>

Report to Mayor and Cabinet 3 June 2015: "Sustainable Development Select Committee, Comments of the Committee on Flood and River Related Consultations"

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s36857/SDSC%20Referral%20Flood%20and%20River%20Related%20Consultations%20-%20Preliminary%20Results.pdf>