

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Thames Water Scrutiny Report	
Key Decision		Item No. X
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manger)	
Class	Part 1	Date: 22 November 2017

1. Summary

- 1.1 Council is asked to receive the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resulting from its, and other's, scrutiny of Thames Water. The recommendations have been provided to Thames Water and an initial response has been received. The report is attached at Appendix A.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council supports the campaign of the Fire Brigade Union for the Fire Brigade to become the statutory Emergency Response Service for flooding, as recommended by the Pitt Review in 2008¹, in view of the recent major bursts across the capital resulting in severe flooding and given the fact that such occurrences are more likely in the future due to the ageing Victorian trunk mains network across London.

3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee views

- 3.1 The major water mains bursts that occurred across London, including in Lewisham, in 2016 were incredibly disruptive to residents and businesses. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has held Thames Water to account in terms of the very significant impact the incidents had, both at the time and since. One of the recommendations made by the Committee, and by scrutiny bodies in other affected boroughs, is that the campaign of the Fire Brigade Union for the Fire Brigade to become the statutory Emergency Response Service for flooding, should be supported.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

¹ Recommendation 39:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100807034701/http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/pittreview/_media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/flooding_review/pitt_review_full%20pdf.pdf

6. Further Implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider.

Background papers

Appendix A – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report – Thames Water – November 2017

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Charlotte Dale, Overview and Scrutiny Manager (ext. 48286)

