



## Mayor and Cabinet

### **Report title: Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on flood risk**

**Date:** 16 September 2020.

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1.

**Ward(s) affected:** All.

**Contributors:** Sustainable Development Select Committee

### **Outline and recommendations**

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions on flood risk.

Mayor and Cabinet is asked to consider the Committee's comments and ask the relevant officers to provide a response.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. On Tuesday 10 March 2020, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered a report from officers on flood risk in Lewisham ([link to the agenda and reports for the meeting on 10 March 2020](#)) The Committee reflected on the contents of the report – and received a presentation from officers. Following questions to officers, the Committee agreed to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Mayor and Cabinet is asked to consider the Committee's comments and ask the relevant officers to provide a response.

## 3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views

- 3.1. The The Committee notes that there is frequent flooding in the vicinity of Verdant Lane and Hither Green Cemetery. In particular – it recognises local residents concerns about the flooding of the former Willow Tree riding stables site (adjacent to Northbrook Park) because of its ecological significance. As such - the Committee agreed it would refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet as follows –
- 3.2. The Committee recommends that the Council should carry out further investigations into the former Willow Tree riding stables site –as an important location for managing flood water runoff and of nature conservation.
- 3.3. The Committee believes that additional consideration has to be given to the capacity of the Thames Barrier to protect London from flooding. The Climate Emergency – and the impending melting of the Greenland ice shelf may result in rises in sea levels which are far beyond the Environment Agency's current projections. The Committee intends to carry out further scrutiny of the Environment Agency regarding this issue and it would welcome the support of Mayor and Cabinet in this regard.

## 4. Financial implications

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, there may be implications arising from them implementation of the Committee's recommendations. These will need to be considered as part of the response.

## 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. Equalities implications

- 6.1. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.2. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.

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- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.3. There may be equalities implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

## **7. Climate change and environmental implications**

7.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There will be climate change and environmental implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

## **8. Crime and disorder implications**

8.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

## **9. Health and wellbeing implications**

9.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

## **10. Report author and contact**

10.1. If you have any questions about this report then please contact: Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) 020 8314 7916 – [timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk)

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