

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	25 NOVEMBER 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	11
TITLE:	WATER SECURITY SCRUTINY REVIEW - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR T PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	BOROUGH WIDE
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 At the previous meeting of the SEPT Committee a task-and-finish group of Councillors was appointed to carry out a review of Water Security. The group held a meeting on 20 October to discuss the scope of the review, and has agreed that the review should look at the current condition of Reading's water supply and waste water infrastructure and the planned investments, and investigate how the impact of planned and emergency works can be minimised.

1.2 A proposed scope for the review is attached at Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 That the proposed scope of the Water Security review be approved.

2.2 That Thames Water be invited to a future SEPT meeting to discuss the review conclusions and provide an update on the investment programme for Reading.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service.

3.2 To make travel more secure, safe and comfortable for all users of the public highway.

4. THE REVIEW

- 4.1 This review builds on a previous scrutiny review of water security with Thames Water and other stakeholders in 2012, but has a more specific focus on the resilience of the water supply and waste water infrastructure in Reading and the impact of infrastructure failures and planned improvement works on the transport network. The reasons for the review and the objectives are set out in more detail in the attached scoping framework.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the Group and relevant officers now seek the relevant information from Thames Water and meet with their representatives to discuss these issues. The aim will be to submit a final report to the 1 April 2014 meeting of the SEPT committee meeting, and to invite Thames Water to that meeting to discuss the review findings and give a presentation on their planned programme of works in Reading.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Thames Water have proactively promoted improvement works to their infrastructure with a communications plan and direct contact with those immediately affected. This has been supplemented by the Reading Borough Council Network Management Team who have advertised works on the Variable Message Signs and have liaised directly with Public Transport Operators throughout this period.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission 29 November 2012.