

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	26 MARCH 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	WATER SECURITY SCRUTINY REVIEW		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR A 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 approval was obtained for the scope of the Water Security review to consider the current condition of Reading's water supply and waste water infrastructure and the planned investments, and look at how the impact of planned and emergency works can be minimised.
- 1.2 The councillor group met representatives of Thames Water on 12 March to discuss the questions raised by the review.
- 1.3 Thames Water will be giving a presentation at this meeting.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Committee note the response from Thames Water to the review and the investment programme for Reading.

3. THE REVIEW

- 3.1 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.

3.2 The review group met representatives of Thames Water on 12 March 2015 and the following issues were discussed:

- What are the reasons for infrastructure failures and how resilient is the current infrastructure?
- What investment in Reading is included in Thames Water's 2015-20 Business Plan and how was this decided?
- Will the planned investment be adequate to address the ongoing infrastructure failures and will the remaining Victorian mains and sewers be replaced before they become unfit for purpose?
- How can the level of disruption and the impact of both emergency and planned works be minimised, and how can the Council work pro-actively with Thames Water to help achieve this?
- How resilient is the current/planned infrastructure against flooding and drought events?

3.3 Thames Water will outline their response to these questions and present their planned investment programme in Reading in a presentation to this meeting.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

4.1 Corporate Plan Service priority: Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

5.1 Thames Water has 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.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None arising from this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising from this report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Report to the 29 November 2012 Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting.

8.2 Update report to 25 November 2014 Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee meeting.