

Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 23rd February 2023

Subject: Thames Water's Independent Review of London's Summer Flooding of 2021

Lead officer: Interim Executive Director for Environment, Civic Pride & Climate - Adrian Ash

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change – Councillor Natasha Irons

Contact officer: Senior Flood Risk Engineers, Tom Sly and Selisa Fergus-Fleary

Recommendations:

A. That Members note the contents of this report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides an overview and update on Thames Water's published London-wide independent review of the summer flooding of 2021. The report will also set out the actions that have taken place in Merton since the flood events and following the review conclusion.

2 DETAILS

Summary of Thames Water's Independent London Flood Review :

- 2.1. Significant flooding occurred in Merton and across of large areas of London on both 12th and 25th of July 2021. This was due to heavy and high intensity thunderstorms resulting in flooding of roads and town centres and internal flooding of homes and businesses.
- 2.2. To establish why this flooding happened, and how similar events may be better planned for and managed in the future, Thames Water (TW) commissioned an Independent Expert Group (IEG) to lead an independent review into the flooding. The Review's objectives was to:
- better understand the extent and causes of the 2021 floods,
 - assess how the drainage systems performed,
 - and to recommend how the increasing risks of future flooding events can be managed.
- 2.3. The London Flood Review (LFR) was led by an independent expert group (IEG) of external specialists to ensure objectivity and impartiality, chaired by water strategist Mike Woolgar and supported by flood modelling expert Professor Roger Falconer and city resilience expert Lykke Leonardsen from Copenhagen.
- 2.4. A strategic stakeholder panel (SSP) assisted with the review and helped shape the objectives and provided input, guidance and feedback. This

group comprised senior representatives from the Greater London Authority, Transport for London, London Councils, the London Drainage Engineers Group (LoDEG), the Environment Agency, the Consumer Council for Water, the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Ofwat also joined the SSP to act as an observer throughout the process.

2.5. The Review was published by Thames Water on 12th July 2022. The review consisted of four stages, the ‘ What, Why, How and What Next’. The review was supported by a Non-Technical Summary which outlined the review findings and put forward a series of recommendations so that lessons can be learned and future impacts from climate change events are mitigated.

2.6. The website for the review is <https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/> and the Non-Technical Summary of the London Flood Review can be found here:

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/home/about-us/investing-in-our-region/flooding-review/london-flood-review-stage-4.pdf>

2.7. The Review found that the speed and severity of rainfall which fell during the two storms in July 2021 was the main cause of the flooding across London. Both rainfall events, on the 12th and 25th July, significantly exceeded the current design capacity of the below ground sewerage and wastewater and highway drainage systems. In summary:

- The review notes many parties manage flood risk in the capital and they must work together to identify solutions to ensure that the impacts of flooding are managed effectively
- The report presents recommendations based around five themes: governance, funding, evidence, communications and strategic planning,
- Thames Water and other stakeholders will now review the recommendations and work to implement them.

2.8. The volume of rain that fell in each event was around twice the monthly average rainfall and greater than any existing sewer systems are designed for.

2.9. Managing sewer flood risk is Thames Water’s (TW) responsibility, while surface water flood risk is managed by Merton as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The storms caused both sewer flooding and surface water flooding, which means the responsibility for managing flood preparation and responses for the July 2021 events was shared across several organisations.

2.10. The varied types of flooding – sewer flooding, surface flooding and combined surface and sewer flooding – and the extreme nature of the storms mean that it is not possible to identify a single solution that could have prevented the flooding or a single organisation that is responsible for managing the flooding. TW and the local authorities each have a role to play, and these roles are interconnected and interdependent.

- 2.11. The review identified some other factors that played a part in slightly worsening the impacts of flooding in some locations. These included the rainfall coinciding with high tide, and operational performance on the day. The review concluded that, even if these factors had not been present, there would still have been significant flooding of all types.

Summer 2021 Locations affected in Merton:

- 2.12. The worst of the rainfall occurred in the west and south west of the borough. Significant and internal flooding of properties occurred in Raynes Park, West Barnes, Lower Morden, Cannon Hill, Dundonald, Hillside and Wimbledon Park.
- 2.13. The sources of flooding experienced on these events were:
- sewer flooding on streets and within people's homes from Thames Water's sewer assets,
 - surface water flooding on the highway from heavy rain leading to the drains being full of water and not being able to drain away fast enough
 - river flooding from the Beverley Brook overtopping its banks.

Recommendations of the London Flood Review:

- 2.14. The review identified a number of local solutions that can be implemented by Thames Water (TW) in the short-term within each London Borough, as well as several longer-term strategic recommendations which will involve all parties with wider flood management responsibilities.
- 2.15. Merton's senior flood engineers were disappointed that the review did not specifically cover a number of outer London boroughs, including Merton, and was focused more so on central London catchment areas, although the IEG team felt that the outcomes of the review would not have changed if Merton was covered in detail.
- 2.16. Furthermore, our engineers also provided comments directly into the review and attended workshops raising our concerns. Merton would also like to see progress reporting being undertaken for each of the recommendations to ensure they are fulfilled. We would also like to see better data sharing of Thames Water's planned works with respect to sewer cleaning, surveys and investment plans in Merton.
- 2.17. The recommendations of the review included the following themes:
- (i) **Governance:**
- Establishing a body with a strategic view and governance with all parties contributing so that surface water and sewer systems can be assessed together, and investments designed to optimise outcome across different organisational boundaries.

(ii) **Funding:**

- Seek opportunities for partnership working in areas of known flood risk to spread the cost of potential schemes.

(iii) **Evidence:**

- Sharing data across multiple organisations relating to flood risk assets, the understanding of high-risk areas and vulnerable customers, including across Boroughs where flood risk may originate from other areas.
- Improving forecasting and monitoring of extreme events.
- Using data and digital tools to assess sewer network performance more rapidly and prioritise responses in extreme events.

(iv) **Communications:**

- Improving preparedness for emergencies and enabling cross-organisational collaboration at short notice, including establishing roles and responsibilities in advance so this is clear ahead of any emergency.
- Supporting homeowners and tenants to understand how they can protect their homes from flooding, including opportunities to build in resilience.

(v) **Strategic planning:**

- Protecting those at highest risk of flooding by installing anti-flood devices such as non-return valves, Flooding Local Improvement Projects (FLIPs) or flood gates where appropriate depending on careful assessment of the causes of flooding.
- Adopting a suite of flood risk measures, including a combination of green (i.e. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)) and grey/traditional engineering solutions, which can be installed in alignment with the planning policy, to provide an agreed level of service across all organisations.
- Influencing planning policy and working with developers to reduce flood risk to others from new developments and basement renovations.
- Encouraging asset owners to fully understand, develop and maintain their assets so they perform at their optimum level during high intensity events.
- Understanding how the combined above-ground and below-ground systems operate when capacities are exceeded, who will be affected and how the landscape can be altered to allow safe passage of flood waters to areas away from properties.

What has the council done following the review and since the summer 2021 floods?

3.1.1 The council has worked very hard both on its own and with partners such as Thames Water and other risk management organisation to help reduce flood risk from all sources and in particular, the occurrence of surface flooding incidents in Merton since the summer flooding of 2021 and since the conclusion of the review. This includes the following actions:

- Immediately following the floods, Merton's Senior Flood Risk Engineers organised a daily meeting with Thames Water's Operations specialists. At these meetings, we arranged for Thames Water to take action by checking the surface water sewer network and cleaning them, where required.
- Merton actioned high pressure jetting tankers to all of the significantly flooded locations to investigate the causes of flooding and to clear any blockages in the highway drainage.
- Undertaking the high-risk gully cleaning programme each winter to ensure the borough's own road highway drains and gullies are clear and unblocked. This includes an in-depth clean of gullies (total of 8953 gullies cleaned this winter) and pipework in higher risk areas, measuring the level of silt within the gully to accurately forecast future cleaning cycles and mapping the results to inform where defects are;
- Collaborative working with Thames Water on their sewer network across the areas of greatest surface water flooding risk in Merton and supporting Thames Water to use the council's planned road closures to remove over 21 tonnes of silt from the Thames Water sewer network in Raynes Park centre.
- Upgrades to the Raynes Park bridge pump station
- Collaborative drainage surface water modelling and mapping of the West Merton area to refine flood risk maps and to help support flood alleviation schemes and unlock central government funding.
- Installed 4G sensors which monitor silt and water levels in gullies in high risk locations and issue alerts when full.
- CCTV surveys of over 3km of drains and sewers across Merton to ensure pipework, sewers and culverts are free of defects and where they have found issues we have undertaken physical repairs such as installing new pipework, pipe lining or removing tree roots for example. We completed major works in Raynes Park town centre on Coombe Lane reconfiguring, installing new upsized and repairing historic drainage pipes runs.
- Developing the Raynes Park Flood Alleviation project with partners Thames Water, Network Rail and the Environment Agency to reduce flooding to homes, businesses and infrastructure in the area; this includes securing financial contributions from partner organisations.
- Invited the Thames Region Flood & Coastal Committee elected members and the Environment Agency to Merton and have shown them delivered schemes and planned projects in the borough such as Raynes Park with the

aim of gaining additional Flood Defense Grant in Aid (FDGiA) funding for flood alleviation.

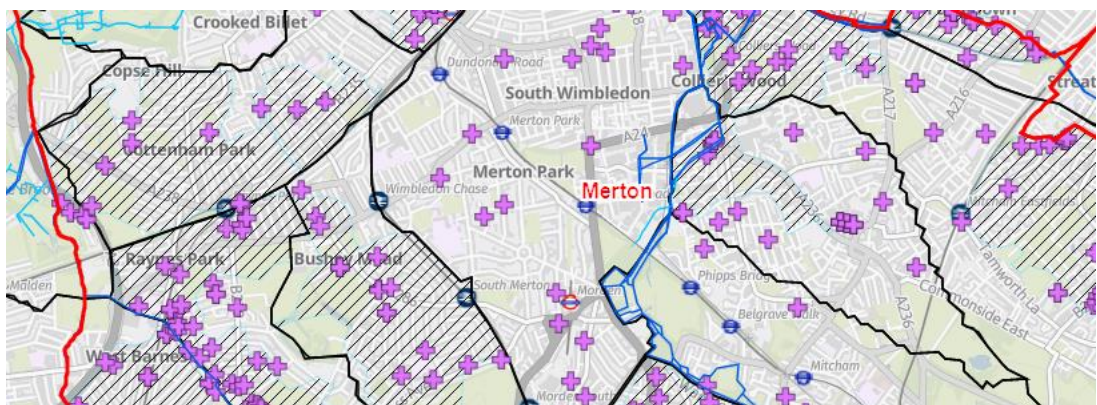
- Installing SuDS rain gardens on Wimbledon Hill Road, Wimbledon Chase and on The Path, South Wimbledon. We have designed a new SUDS rain garden which is programmed for construction in Raynes Park town centre in February 2023. Rain gardens are a type of SuDS or Green Infrastructure measures to help slow down and attenuate the flow of water into the underground sewer system as well as making the streetscene more attractive and having biodiversity, air quality and water quality benefits.
- Undertaking specialist independent flood risk investigations into the areas that significantly flooded in summer 2021 (known as Section 19 reports), to identify the sources and actions that can be taken to ensure the risk is minimized of it happening again. We undertook an online borough wide flood survey to ensure that residents and businesses had an opportunity to feed into this investigation and to capture all flooding incidents during summer 2021. The reports will soon be published in spring following detailed review by Thames Water and the Environment Agency.
- We successfully bid for and secured Thames Water Surface Water Management funding to aid the design and construction of a new pocket park in Kenilworth Green/Home Park Rd in Wimbledon Park.
- We successfully bid for and secured funding of £68,100 from the Environment Agency and DEFRA for Surface Water Modelling and Mapping for Mitcham.
- Completed the Wimbledon Park Lake Reservoir Safety Project to ensure the category A reservoir is compliant with national safety standards and to help better protect homes and businesses in Merton and Wandsworth from reservoir flooding. The major improvement scheme improved the Lake and dam by construction a new lake towpath, new spillways, capping and provided a new emergency drain down as well as delivering other benefits such as Eel Passes. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-recreation-grounds/wimbledon/wimbledon-park/wimbledon-park-lake-project>
- Successfully securing £204,000 from the Environment Agency and DEFRA to deculvert and restore the previously culverted Wimbledon Park Brook, reducing flood risk to residential properties and the park and maximising biodiversity potential and natural flood risk management. Having visited the site in January 2023 with councillors from other parts of the wider Thames Region flood committee, the Environment Agency and Thames Water are nominating this project for the Institute of Civil Engineers [Chris Binnie Medal](#), an award for work which has benefited society by improving the sustainability of water.
- Clearance of ditches and watercourses across the borough in December and January 2023, as well as working with Mitcham Common Conservators to maintain the ditches around the Common and elsewhere to ensure water can run through.

- Undertaking highway drainage soakaway chamber clearance and maintenance.
- Ensured the culverts and watercourses in Motspur Park, around Sir Joseph Hood are cleared of tree roots and are running clear to the Beverley Brook.
- Merton actively fed into the Pan-London Summer 2021 independent flood review by led by an expert panel.
- Inputted via workshops and provided consultation responses to Thames Water's 25 year Drainage & Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) to ensure Merton receives significant capital investment with regards to sewerage infrastructure upgrades.

2.18. As Lead Local Flood Authority, it is the council's duty to consider flood risk from all sources, not only from rivers but surface water flooding from heavy rain and groundwater flooding. The council has prepared a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment with neighbouring boroughs of Wandsworth, Sutton and Croydon for flooding from all sources in south London

2.19. We have prepared Merton's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as a GIS Storymap, to make it as easy as possible for residents, businesses, utilities companies and others to find out what parts of Merton are at risk from flooding. It also includes some historic records of flood incidences and the British Geological Survey's data on the underlying bedrock in Merton.

2.20. [Merton's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Storymap](#) is available on the council's website. Below is an extract of areas at risk of surface water flooding in Merton together with historic flood incidences reported to the council.



2.21. Merton's adopted and emerging planning policies require all development to consider and manage flood risk from all sources. The council has also provided specific planning guidance on Sustainable Drainage Systems and basement and subterranean developments to help development proposals manage flood risk.

Merton and Thames Water Collaborative Working

- 2.22. As set out above, council officers have been working closely with Thames Water for a long time towards getting additional investment into TW assets in Merton and to solving problems identified in previous flood events.
- 2.23. Merton's senior flood risk management engineers participated in all Thames Water's workshops on their Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan to try and ensure the conditions we are experiencing in Merton are reflected in TW's asset management plans for the future.
- 2.24. In July 2021 the previous Leader of the Council wrote to Thames Water (see appendix A) raising concerns about the flooding and particularly their assets and asking for their ongoing support for residents.
- 2.25. In August 2022, the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change, Councillor Natasha Irons wrote to Thames Water regarding the London Flood Review asking to ensure that actions identified in the report are implemented in Merton as a priority.
- 2.26. Subsequently, Merton's flooding engineers and the Cabinet members met with Thames Water to agree that action will be undertaken in hotspot flooding locations such as in Raynes Park.
- 2.27. Council officers are continuing to hold regular meetings with the head of operations of Thames Water, their asset managers and systems planners to ensure actions are being implemented by TW. These will continue indefinitely to ensure that blockages and problems with Thames Water assets do not continue to cause problems for Merton residents.
- 2.28. As a result, Thames Water have agreed to
- undertake CCTV surface water sewers that council officers have alerted them to, to repair their assets and remove silt, particularly around Raynes Park, West Barnes Lane, Wimbledon town centre, Garth Road and Wimbledon Park.
 - seek internal approval to embark on hydraulic modelling within Raynes Park and other areas.
 - Investigate why surface water is overloading their foul water network and causing sewage flooding on streets and in people's homes. In the Raynes Park catchment, Thames Water have a separate surface water (rainwater) and foul water (sewage) system, however in heavy rainfall rainwater is getting into Thames Water's foul water system somewhere, causing sewage overflows into people's properties and Thames Water do not know where this is happening.
- 2.29. As required by [Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#) , the council will be undertaking investigations into the specific causes of flooding of people's properties where five or more properties were flooded in an area. The reports will be published on the Council's website in spring 23.

Reporting flooding

- 2.30. It is extremely important that property owners and occupiers contact both the council **and** Thames Water when they experience flooding within their properties following heavy rainfall.
- 2.31. During periods of heavy rainfall, residents and businesses all over London are reporting flooding on roads and sometimes within properties. Thames Water will prioritise their resources on the basis of the number of calls. Images in the media, calls from councillors and council officers to Thames Water on behalf of property owners do not count towards prioritising Thames Water resources.
- 2.32. Following the 12th July 2021 flood events in Raynes Park and despite the extensive photo and video coverage on Sky News, BBC News and other online media and phone calls from council officers, on 19th July 2021 Thames Water told council officers that they had no records of flooding on roads such as Abbots Avenue aside from calls from council officers. Thames Water explained that they had records of +100 calls from other areas in west London at the same time so prioritised the immediate action to those locations.
- 2.33. Thames Water's long-term investment plans are based on the number of reported incidents of flooding, so by not reporting flooding to Thames Water not only are residents not able to get immediate help, Thames water do not prioritise Merton for future investment.
- 2.34. Despite the messages on the council's website and both Thames Water and council officers attending Raynes Park Community Forum to promote the need to contact both parties, residents are still calling the council on all flood matters, including sewage. This may be because:
- The council is far easier to get hold of – during the July 2021 flood events council officers spent 2 hours per call trying to get through to Thames Water's flood line.
 - Thames Water's website states "*problems with flooded roads should be reported to your local council*" and does not explain that it should also be reported to Thames Water if there is any doubt about what might be causing the flooding such as blocked Thames Water sewers preventing the water from draining away.
 - Thames Water call centre options divert callers to call their Local Authority
 - Thames Water's website requires callers with sewer flooding within or outside their homes to download a PDF, complete it and post it to Thames Water to report sewer flooding. This is not practical while someone's property is flooded with sewage.
- 2.35. Council officers have raised these issues with Thames Water and asked Thames Water to amend their website and the advice being given from TW's call centre. Council officers have also asked Thames Water to make it easier for residents to report flooding, particularly sewage flooding and have asked Thames Water to distribute paper copies of their online guidance "[what to do if sewer flooding affects your home](#)" and the [Thames Water foul water flooding report](#) to affected parts of Merton.

- 2.36. Thames Water will help clean up sewage flooding inside and outside people's properties and bill payers are able to claim money back from their Thames Water bill (see the guide on the [Thames Water website](#)) but Merton residents may not be receiving this help unless they have contacted Thames Water directly to report their sewage flooding – reports from council officers and councillors do not count towards this..

Next steps

- 2.37. The changing climate is leading to an increase in extreme weather globally and we are seeing an increase in heavy downpours and associated flash flooding in the summer months in London and the south east. The topography of south London means that some parts of Merton that are not near rivers remain susceptible to flash flooding from heavy rain (e.g. Raynes Park, as it lies at the bottom of a hill). It will not be possible to entirely prevent future flood events.
- 2.38. Merton Council will:
- Continue to encourage Thames Water to make it easier for residents and other property owners to contact them and get help, both during a flood event and afterwards.
 - Progress with an integrated flood risk alleviation project for Raynes Park in partnership with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and Network Rail.
 - Continue to roll out and implement Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) and Green Infrastructure measures in areas of public realm across Merton.
 - Ensure council gullies and assets are well maintained and clean; continuing the “smart cities” approach to get real-time data by increasing the amount of gully sensors within the borough.
 - Continue to work closely with Thames Water to ensure their assets are unblocked and repaired.
 - Finalise and publish our detailed Section 19 flood risk investigations from the Summer Flooding events on our website, following consultation with Thames Water and the Environment Agency.
 - Review Merton's gulley cleaning performance to ensure that both the high risk programme and the A-Z programme are performing at the optimum level.
 - Ensure that flood risk management services feed into the council's current review of its emergency planning.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None for the purposes of this report

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The council's website has been updated to give residents as much clarity as possible on who to contact in the event of a flood

4.2. As stated on the council's website and at community events such as the Raynes Park forum by both Thames Water and the council, it is very important that residents and businesses contact Thames Water directly in the event of a flood in their homes, particularly if sewage is present. This is because:

4.2.1 Thames Water will help clean foul water and sewage up from people's properties and streets if they receive a direct report from a resident

4.2.2 Thames Water will prioritise their resources to help the parts of London where they receive the most calls

4.2.3 Thames Water bill payers may be able to claim up to half their wastewater bill back from Thames Water but only if they contact Thames Water themselves

4.3. While Thames Water acknowledges calls from council officers and councillors, these calls do not count towards getting the residents this help.

4.4. [Thames Water's website](#) provides more details including:

- [What to do if sewer flooding affects your home?](#)
- [Thames Water - report sewer flooding](#)

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. None for the purposes of this report.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The level of financial impact will be updated when required work is identified and assessed.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. As a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Merton Council's, responsibilities relate to 'local' flood risk from surface water, groundwater and small rivers, streams and ditches, known as ordinary watercourses.

7.2. Merton is a Lead Local Flood Authority as defined in section 6(7) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and as such in the event of becoming aware of a flood in its area has a duty under section 19 of that Act, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, to investigate:

(a) which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and

(b) whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

7.3. 7.3 Where the Council carries out such an investigation it must publish the results of its investigation, and notify any relevant risk management authorities.

- 7.4. The following organisations are designated Risk Management Authorities and the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 have a number of legal responsibilities for managing flood risk in the London Borough of Merton:
- Merton Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority and Highways Authority,
 - Environment Agency,
 - Thames Water Utilities as the Sewerage Undertaker, and
 - Transport for London as the Highways Authority.
- 7.5. All Risk Management Authorities have a duty to cooperate with the LLFA, and other Risk Management Authorities when exercising their flood risk management functions.
- 7.6. Merton Council is responsible for:
- The drainage of surface water from the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and Local Distributor Roads, including Local Access roads (such as the A298, A236 and residential streets excluding private roads).
 - Maintaining the road drains on minor roads, including kerbs, road gullies, ditches and the pipe network which connects to the Thames Water sewers.
 - Developing and implementing an emergency plan, contingency plan and business continuity plan.
 - Ensuring flood risk is considered in the Local Plan.
 - Making decisions on planning applications which may be at risk of flooding or increase flooding elsewhere.
 - Agreeing any works to ordinary watercourses (i.e. streams, ditches) which may affect the flow or storage of water.
 - Maintaining Council owned assets, such as drainage ditches, gullies, trash screens/grills.
- 7.7. Merton Council as the Highways Authority:
- 7.8. The highway drainage system is integral in the management and behaviour of surface water during heavy rainfall events. As a Highways Authority, the Highways Act 1980 requires that Merton Council ensure that highways are drained of surface water and where necessary maintain the highway drainage system, up to the point of connection with the sewer network.
- 7.9. Merton Council is a Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and therefore has a responsibility, along with other organisations, for developing emergency plans, contingency plans and business continuity plans to help reduce, control or ease the effects of an emergency. The complex and diverse nature of flooding and the consequences that arise require a comprehensive and often sustained response from a wide range of organisations, and as such Merton Council has prepared a multi-agency flood plan¹⁸ to allow all responding parties to work together on an agreed coordinated response to severe flooding.
- 7.10. The Environment Agency is responsible for:

- Managing flooding from main rivers (e.g. River Thames, the Beverley Brook, the Pyl Brook and River Wandle), reservoirs, estuaries and the sea.
- Providing a strategic overview for all sources of flooding and coastal erosion.
- Regulation of third party works on main rivers.

7.11. Thames Water are responsible for:

The drainage of surface water from development via sewers adopted by Thames Water.

- Maintaining public sewers owned by Thames Water into which the vast majority of the highway drainage connects.
- Maintaining and improving its water mains and other pipes to reduce the risk of leaking or burst pipes.
- Reporting its performance each year to Ofwat (The Water Services Regulation Authority), including in respect of internal sewer flooding of properties.

7.12. Transport for London are responsible for:

The drainage of surface water from TfL adopted roads and red routes (major Strategic Routes including A24, A217 and A3).

Maintaining the drains on TfL adopted roads and red routes, including kerbs, road gullies, ditches and the pipe network which connects to the Thames Water sewers.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. As set out in the body of this report.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix A – Letter from the Leader of Merton Council to Thames Water (15th July 2021)
- Appendix B – Letter from the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change, Councillor Natasha Irons to Thames Water on the London Flood Review (dated 31st August 2022)

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. [Merton's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment including online Storymap](#)
- 12.2. [Merton's Local Plan including flood risk policies](#)

- 12.3. [Merton's Sustainable Drainage Systems supplementary planning document](#)
- 12.4. [Merton's basement and subterranean development supplementary planning document.](#)
- 12.5. <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/home/about-us/investing-in-our-region/flooding-review/london-flood-review-stage-4.pdf>
- 12.6. <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/newsroom/latest-news/2022/jul/london-flood-review-conclusion>
- 12.7. [Thames Water - What to do if sewer flooding affects your home?](#)
- 12.8. [Thames Water - report sewer flooding questionnaire](#)