

**LOCAL COMMITTEE IN RUNNYMEDE**

**Item under consideration:**                    **Lower Thames Strategy – flood relief proposals (Environment Agency consultation)**

**Date Considered:**                            **2 October 2009**

1.     The Local Committee (Runnymede) supported a motion proposed by Mr Chris Norman and seconded by Mrs Yvonna Lay, arising in response to presentations by the Environment Agency and by members of Runnymede Flood Forum on flood risk in Runnymede, at its meeting on 2 October 2009.
  
2.     Speakers from the Environment Agency had highlighted that in the Agency's report "Flooding in England" (published summer 2009) Runnymede was identified as one of the top ten areas in the UK with a significant number of properties at risk from flooding, stating that adjacent to the stretch of the river Thames from Datchet to Walton Bridge over 12,200 properties have an annual 1% risk of flooding. The Lower Thames Strategy proposes construction of flood relief channels to alleviate this risk by diverting excess water away from the Thames.
  
3.     Members of the Runnymede Flood Forum, Mr Malcolm Loveday and its chairman Councillor Derek Cotty (Runnymede Borough Council) expressed support for the Environment Agency proposals and highlighted the need to inform Surrey MPs of the urgency of implementing the costly proposals to safeguard local residents (the Environment Agency confirmed that a number of MPs from constituencies along the Thames had attended a briefing on the Strategy). Councillor Cotty noted the considerable expertise on flooding within the borough council which the County Council might draw upon.
  
4.     For these reasons, the Committee considered and resolved the following:  
  
      The Committee asks the Cabinet that:
  - a)     the Environment Agency proposals for flood channels are supported by the County Council;
  
  - b)     they recognise that Runnymede Flood Forum has those with the skills and knowledge to aid the County Council to lead on technical matters; and
  
  - c)     that they continue to apply pressure to central Government to accept the urgency of this issue, particularly in light of the fact Runnymede has been identified as one of the ten areas nationally at significant risk.

**Marisa Heath**  
**Chairman, Local Committee in Runnymede**