

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)****DATE:** 30 JUNE 2014**LEAD OFFICER:** SUSIE KEMP – ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**SUBJECT:** PETITION RESPONSE**DIVISION:** ALL

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| <b><u>SUMMARY OF ISSUE:</u></b>   |
| This report provides a response to a petition received for this meeting, asking for the Surrey County Council Local Committee in Spelthorne to make a public statement on the flooding in Greenlands Road and Leacroft, Staines-upon-Thames in the week beginning 10 February 2014. |
| <b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u></b>  |
| <b>The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to</b><br><br>(i) Note the contents of this report.  |
| <b><u>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</u></b>  |
| For information only.   |

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The Spelthorne Local Committee has received a petition with over 50 signatories, asking for the Surrey County Council Local Committee in Spelthorne to make a public statement on the flooding in Greenlands Road and Leacroft, Staines upon Thames in the week beginning 10 February 2014.
- 1.2 The Local Committee is asked what information did the County Council receive in advance of this flooding, from whom, and when? What action did the County Council take in response to this warning? What has the Council subsequently discovered about the causes of the flooding? What action is the Council taking to prevent further incidents like this happening again?
- 1.3 This petition follows the flooding of properties in proximity of the River Ash during the extensive flooding that occurred across the county of Surrey between December 2013 and March 2014.

**2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 It appears that the petition relates to flooding that is perceived locally as being associated with the operation of a sluice gate on the Staines Reservoir Aqueduct. Thames Water maintains the Staines-upon-Thames Reservoir Aqueduct and associated assets and Surrey County Council (SCC) has no direct responsibility for operating or maintaining this sluice gate or the Environment Agency owned gate on the River Colne. SCC received no information associated with the operation of these sluice gates in advance of or during any flooding taking place in February.
- 2.2 Both Leacroft and Greenlands Road in Staines-upon-Thames are roads in a known flood risk area as shown on the Environment Agency website. SCC were informed on 9 February that there was a high risk of flooding in the Lower Thames area. Nine Severe Flood Warnings and a number of Flood Warnings were issued for this area. Severe Flooding Warnings are issued when there is a risk to life and Flood Warnings when there is expected to be the flooding of properties. This information would have been sent to residents who have signed up to the Environment Agency Flood Warning Scheme and featured on the local and national news programmes. SCC would encourage all residents in flood risk areas to ensure they are signed up to the Flood Warning Scheme. The SCC 'Gold' was a member of the Surrey Strategic Coordinating Group. The Group were informed of the flooding in Leacroft and Greenlands Road which was raised by the Spelthorne representative, although at that stage the issue of the sluice gate was not raised or as a possible cause. During this time reports of flooding were being received for all communities along the Lower Thames and catchments.
- 2.3 In its role as Lead Local Flood Authority, SCC carries out investigations of significant flooding under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, in order to identify whether the relevant risk management authorities have carried out (or intend to carry out) their duties to manage flood risk. Additional information on the cause(s) of the flooding and potential solutions will also be included where this information is readily available. The findings of the Section 19 investigations will be written up in a report and published. These are due in autumn 2014.
- 2.4 The Chairman of the Spelthorne Local Committee has written to Surrey County Council, to particularly highlight the urgency for the Section 19 report relating to the flooding of properties in Leacroft and Greenlands Road. He has also written to both Thames Water and the Environment Agency urging their cooperation in the investigation.
- 2.5 In addition to the S19 investigations (detailed in section 2.2), Surrey County Council is producing a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which will contain an assessment of local flood risk as well as detailing objectives for managing this risk, including an action plan of measures to meet these objectives. Surrey County Council also chairs the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board to which provides strategic leadership on flood risk management in Surrey and facilitates greater multi-agency cooperation.

**3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 None at the present time

**4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 None at the present time.

**5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

**6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

**7. LOCALISM:**

7.1 None for the purposes of this report.

**8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

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| Crime and Disorder   | No significant implications arising from this report |
| Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)   | No significant implications arising from this report |
| Corporate Parenting / Looked After Children                      | No significant implications arising from this report |
| Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults | No significant implications arising from this report |
| Public Health  | No significant implications arising from this report |

**9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

9.1 The response is noted.

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

10.1 The petitioner will be advised of the outcome of their petition.

**Contact Officer:**

Ben Skipp (Programme Manager, Surrey County Council)

([ben.skipp@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:ben.skipp@surreycc.gov.uk))

Ian Good (Head of Emergency Management, Surrey County Council)

([ian.good@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:ian.good@surreycc.gov.uk))

**Annexes:** None

**Sources/background papers:** None

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