

Report for: ACTION



<b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>	NO - Part I
<b>Title</b>	<b>Flood Risk Management: Monitoring Report</b>
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<b>Member reporting</b>	Councillor Rayner, Lead Member for Highways & Transport
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date to be Considered</b>	26 November 2015
<b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Affected Wards</b>	All
<b>Keywords/Index</b>	Flooding; risk; management; Environment Agency

## Report Summary

1. Flood risk management is a key priority for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead with a strong focus on scheme delivery

This is combined with partnership working with Parish Councils, Environment Agency and the emergency service to reduce the dangers of flood risk.

*'...Ensure flood schemes and maintenance are delivered on time to better protect homes and highways...'* is a commitment within the Council's manifesto.

This focus is reflected by Cabinet receiving a report on a 6-monthly basis which provides an update on flood risk management activity.

This report offers the next update in this series focussing on performance and the River Thames Scheme.

2. This report recommends that:

- the positive progress in delivering the manifesto commitment be noted
- a 'River Thames Scheme' Member / officer project team be established to support, develop and maximise benefits to residents, business and visitors.

3. This recommendation is being made as it reflects the Royal Boroughs commitment to reducing the risk and impact of flooding.

Additionally a strong performance management focus has been adopted to

deliver outcomes for residents, business and visitors helping to ensure that in the times of flood we are well placed to help our residents and work in partnership with other agency to reduce the impact of flooding.

4. The approved budget for 2015/16 includes a financial commitment of approximately £475k (revenue and capital).
5. Additional points to note are that the Environment Agency and Thames Water are primary stakeholders in managing flooding and the associated impacts. Strong relationships are in place enabling collaborative working to support residents, business and visitors.
6. Headlines from this period:
  - Scheme delivery: we are on track to meet, or exceed, agreed outcomes by the 31 March 2016.
  - A Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) service has been established as a formal consultee on major planning applications.
  - Members and officers have been working with partners to develop and deliver the 'River Thames Scheme'.
  - Cabinet approval of a 3-year investment programme in flood prevention and highway drainage schemes.

<b>If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?</b>	
Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which they can expect to notice a difference
1. Maintaining the focus and approach outlined in this report seeks to deliver reduced levels of flooding and increased protection for residents	November 2015 and ongoing
2. Residents will benefit from an improved response to future flood events as good practice is embedded; lessons are learnt and improvements are identified for future events	Commenced Summer 2014

## 1. Details of Recommendations

### RECOMMENDED: That:

- (i) **the positive progress in delivering the manifesto commitment ('...Ensure flood schemes and maintenance are delivered on time to better protect homes and highways...') be noted.**
- (ii) **a 'River Thames Scheme' Member / officer project team be established to support, develop and maximise benefits to residents, business and visitors.**

**This will help to ensure that in the times of flood we are well placed to help our residents and work in partnership with other agency to reduce the impact of flooding.**

## 2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

- 2.1 Flood risk management is a key priority for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead with a strong focus on scheme delivery.

This is reinforced in the Council’s manifesto with a commitment to ‘...*Ensure flood schemes and maintenance are delivered on time to better protect homes and highways...*’

2.2 This commitment is reflected by Cabinet receiving a report on flood risk management activity on a 6-monthly basis.

In times of flooding the reporting period is significantly increased.

2.3 This report offers the next update in this series of reports focussing on:

- performance for the first 6-months of the current financial year
- River Thames Scheme

## 2.4 Performance Headlines

- Scheme delivery: we are on track to meet, or exceed, agreed outcomes by 31 March 2016. A full breakdown of the status of each scheme is available in Appendix A.

The performance target of 85-89% was achieved in 2014/15 – outturn 88%

### Summary table

Year	Total Schemes	Scheme Status					Performance Target: 85–89% by 31 <sup>st</sup> March
		Complete	On Site	Start date agreed	Design Phase	Not Started	
2014-15	49*	43 (88%)	1 (2%)	4 (8%)	1 (2%)	0	Target Met
2015-16	15	2 (13%)	2 (13%)	4 (27%)	6 (40%)	1 (7%)	On Target

\* Scheme numbers include projects carried forward from previous years

- A Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) service has been established as a formal consultee on major planning applications.

In the period April to November 2015, comments have been provided on 48 applications. We are on track to achieve the performance target of 85-89% of responses provided on time.

- On 28 May 2015, Cabinet approved a £300k capital investment programme for flooding and highway drainage schemes.

Additionally, Cabinet approved indicative programmes on 30 July 2015 for a further 2 years. A 3-year commitment is now in place enabling longer-term planning; transparency and confidence to residents and opportunities to increase the pace of delivery.

- We have successfully recruited to a long-standing vacancy for a flood risk engineer. This appointment increases capacity, resilience and underpins the strong focus on scheme delivery.
- The Borough Flood Group (which includes representatives from the Environment Agency; Thames Water; Parish Councils and community

groups) meets on a quarterly basis with the most recent meeting on 5 October 2015.

## 2.5 **'River Thames Scheme'** (refer to Appendix B for background information)

The River Thames Scheme is a large programme that will reduce flood risk to all communities between Datchet and Teddington, including Datchet, Wraysbury, Egham, Staines, Chertsey, Shepperton, Weybridge, Sunbury, Molesey, Thames Ditton, Kingston and Teddington.

The scheme consists of:

- major engineering work to construct a new flood channel between 30 to 60 metres wide and 17 kilometres long, built in three sections:
  - Section 1: Datchet to Hythe End flood channel
  - Section 2: Egham Hythe to Chertsey flood channel
  - Section 3: Shepperton flood channel
- improving the flow capacity of three existing weirs on the River Thames
- installing property level products for up to 1,200 homes to make them more resistant to flooding
- improving multi-agency flood incident response
- creating over 40 hectares of wildlife habitat
- working with communities to raise flood awareness and support them in flood preparedness, response and recovery

The following organisations are working together to develop the scheme: Environment Agency (Lead Authority); Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames; Elmbridge Borough Council; London Borough of Richmond upon Thames; Runnymede Borough Council; Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead; Spelthorne Borough Council Surrey County Council

This project is complex and challenging to develop and deliver and impacts upon a number of disciplines across the Royal Borough, including planning; finance; leisure and economic development.

In addition to the direct flood related benefits the project will seek to identify opportunities which support economic and social objectives.

In order to ensure that the we are fully engaged; sighted on issues and represented to secure and maximise benefits for residents, business and visitors it is recommended that a Member / officer project team be established.

## 2.6 In summary, the following is recommended to Cabinet:

- (i) the positive progress in delivering the manifesto commitment ('...*Ensure flood schemes and maintenance are delivered on time to better protect homes and highways...*') be noted.
- (ii) a 'River Thames Scheme' Member / officer project team be established to support, develop and maximise benefits to residents, business and visitors.

It is proposed that the River Thames project team, be chaired by the Lead M Member for Highways and Transport with the Lead Member for Planning being the Vice Chairman. Members of the group will include the Chairs of

Wraysbury, Horton, Datchet Parish Council and senior Environment Agency representation.

This recommendation is being made as it reflects the Royal Boroughs commitment to reducing the risk and impact of flooding.

Additionally a strong performance management focus has been adopted to deliver outcomes for residents, business and visitors helping to ensure that in the times of flood we are well placed to help our residents and work in partnership with other agency to reduce the impact of flooding.

2.7 The focus for the next period will be based on:

- continued local scheme delivery.
- implementation of prioritised actions arising from the Horton and Wraysbury Drain assessment and the area studies in Fifield/ Oakley Green and White Waltham/Waltham St Lawrence.
- partnership support for the River Thames Scheme ensuring that quality; programme and financial targets are achieved.
- influencing and ensuring that partner agencies (primarily the Environment Agency and Thames Water) develop and deliver commitments which benefit Royal Borough residents, business and visitors.
- partnership working with Parish Councils and community groups to ensure that plans are develop and adopted in preparedness for future flood events

Option	Comments
The governance model and performance management approach be maintained and positive progress be noted	This approach will enable priorities to be identified; resources to be allocated and progress to be monitored effectively preparing the Royal Borough for further flooding in advance of delivery of the River Thames flood alleviation scheme. <b>This option is recommended.</b>
Consider an alternative approach to flood risk management	Alternative models / working practice could be developed to deliver reduced flood risk and protection for residents.
Withdraw partnership support for the River Thames Scheme	This is not recommended as reduced flood risk and increased protection for residents will not be achieved until an alternative proposal is developed and implemented

### 3. Key Implications

Defined Outcomes	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date they should be delivered by
Investment of the approved capital and revenue budgets to	< 85%	85 – 89%	90 – 95%	>95%	31 March 2016

deliver benefits for residents, business and visitors					
Delivery of approved flood related schemes to deliver benefits for residents, business and visitors	< 85%	85 – 89%	90 – 95%	>95%	31 March 2016
Creation of a Sustainable Urban Drainage process which responds to major planning applications within the statutory timescale	< 85%	85 – 89%	90 – 95%	>95%	31 March 2016

#### 4. Financial Details

##### 4.1 Revenue Funding

Approved revenue budget 2015/16 for flood management is as follows:

	<i>Budget</i>
Flood Management (PS25) / Land Drainage (PS30)	£118k

##### 4.2 Capital Funding

Approved capital budget 2015/16 includes the following capital schemes:

	<i>Budget</i>
Highway Drainage (CD18,CD19)	£150k
Flood Prevention (CD43)	£150k
River Thames Scheme (CD54)	£285k
Total	£585k

Cabinet (30 July 2015) agreed to accelerate the flood / drainage scheme in Shepherds Lane, Hurley to enable delivery in Winter 2015/16. Funding of £55k was advanced accordingly.

#### 5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Royal Borough has the following statutory duties:

- Adopt and publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Section 9, Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Complete)
- Develop a Register of Structures and Features with a significant effect on flooding (Section 21, Flood and Water Management Act 2010) (In progress)

- Adopt a consenting policy relating to S.23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (Complete)
- Provide comment on the drainage implications of major planning applications

5.2 The Council is charged with a legal duty to maintain highways maintainable at the public expense within the Borough under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980. The duty extends to the proper drainage of the highway.

## **6. Value for Money**

6.1 Schemes will be investigated to identify cost-effective solutions which will be prioritised and delivered in a manner which delivers the best value for money.

## **7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal**

7.1 The sustainability impacts will be embedded within each scheme, policy or strategy adopted.

## **8. Risk Management**

8.1 The Corporate Risk Register includes a risk entitled 'Impact of Flooding'.

The risk of failing to satisfactorily mitigate the impact of flooding is one of the key risks contained in the Operations Directorate key risk register. The risk is therefore reviewed quarterly by the Operations Directorate DMT (last review 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015) and the Lead Member briefed on the content.

The uncontrolled risk – arising if all our mitigations fail - is assessed as high with likely extreme impacts for the council in terms of service delivery and finance with associated major reputational damage.

In the light of the current progress with the mitigation measures, the current risk rating is medium which means the risk is unlikely to occur, but if it does, major service and financial impacts are expected. This risk rating is as low as it could be in terms of the practical mitigations undertaken and the prevailing appetite for this risk.

## **9. Links to Strategic Objectives**

**Our Strategic Objectives are:**

### **Residents First**

- Improve the Environment, Economy and Transport
- Work for safer and stronger communities

### **Delivering Together**

- Strengthen Partnerships

### **Equipping Ourselves for the Future**

- Developing our systems and structures

## **10. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion**

None

## 11. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

11. Resource implications with respect to capacity and capability are regularly reviewed and adjusted to ensure that performance targets are achieved.

## 12. Property and Assets

12.1 Drainage assets form part of the overall highway asset and are incorporated within the Highways Asset Management Plan.

## 13. Any other implications:

None.

## 14. Consultation

14.1 This report will be considered by members of the Highways, Transport and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 25 November 2015 with comments reported to Cabinet for consideration.

14.2 With respect to the River Thames Scheme, the project team are working closely with communities to help them plan and prepare for flood events and engaging with them directly in the longer-term development of the scheme. A “Berkshire Design Working Group” has been established which is showing signs of positive support in terms of consultation and engagement.

## 15. Timetable for Implementation

Stages	Timescale
Delivery of schemes and area studies	In line with each individual commission.  Overall delivery of approved capital programme schemes by 31 March 2016

## 16. Background Information

16.1 Appendix A offers a performance update with respect to flood risk activity. The following offers detailed examples of activity in the last reporting period,

- Prides Crossing and Sainsbury Pumping Stations refurbished
- New modular storage / soakaway system installed to improve highway drainage at Blackmoor Lane, Maidenhead
- Installation of trash screen grill on the watercourse upstream of Francis Chichester Close (Oliver Road), Sunninghill
- Installation of trash screen grill on the Battle Bourne, Datchet Road, Old Windsor
- Upgrade of telemetry system at Tinkers Lane
- Ditch clearance works
- Grant funding (match-funded by residents) provided to support residents with flood repairs in private road (including Wraysbury, Windsor, Datchet, Fifield, Sunninghill and Cookham Dean) – all schemes complete
- Clearance works commenced on the Horton and Wraysbury Drains in September, ongoing until December 2015
- Highway drainage improvements at Straight Road Old Windsor
- Appointment of a flood risk engineer to increase capacity and resilience
- Ongoing flood risk input into major planning applications



- Cabinet approval of 3-year programme
- Continuing multi-agency engagement through the Eton Wick Flood Forum
- Borough Flood Group meetings
- Engagement with Parish Councils on flood resilience plans (including the recommendation to create a River Thames project team to help reduce the risk and impact of flooding)

## 17. Consultation (Mandatory)

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
<b>Internal</b>				
Cllr Rayner	Lead Member for Highways & Transport	23.10.15	30.10.15	Comments throughout the report
Cllr David Burbage	Leader of the Council	30.10.15	03.11.15	Report approved
Michael Llewelyn	Cabinet Policy Office	23.10.15	26.10.15	Summary of performance targets included / minor amendments to text
Gareth Rees	Shared Legal Solutions	23.10.15	30.10.15	Approved with no further comment
Dave Perkins	Neighbourhood and Streetscene Services	23.10.15	26.10.15	Report approved
Craig Miller	Community Protection and Enforcement	23.10.15	Comments awaited	
Mark Lampard	Finance Partner	23.10.15	30.10.15	Financial Implications updated to include commitment to River Thames Scheme
Sue Fox	Strategic Assets	23.10.15	23.10.15	Appendix A updated
Simon Lavin	Strategic Assets	23.10.15	27.10.15	Updates to scheme details and SUDs
Steve Mapple	Insurance and Risk Manager	23.10.15	29.10.15	Paragraph 8.1 updated

## Report History

<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Urgency item?</b>
	No

Full name of report author	Job title	Full contact no:
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# River Thames Scheme (Datchet to Teddington)

## Key Facts for Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead



**2015**

Thames Valley LRF signed new emergency flood response plan



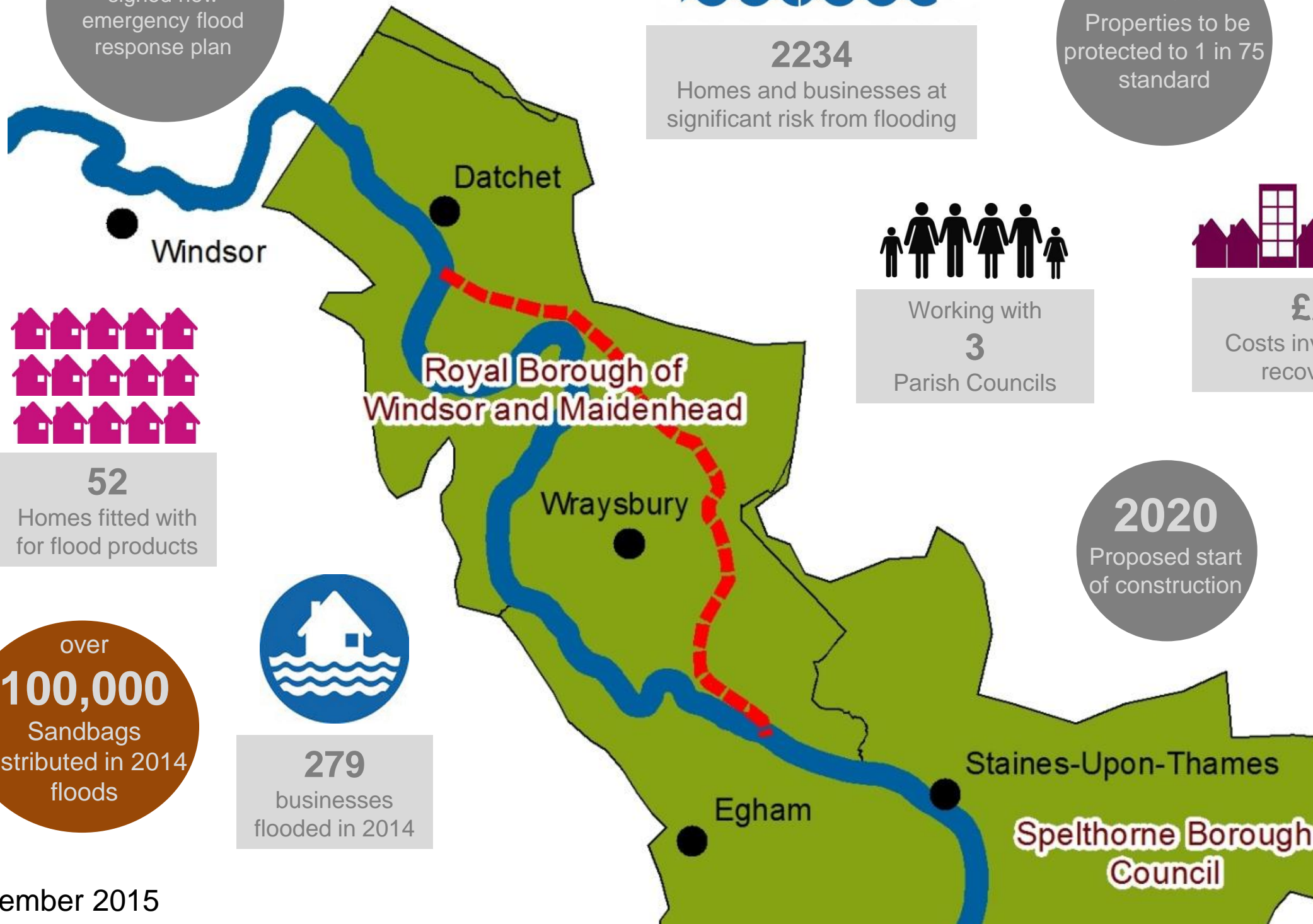
**2234**

Homes and businesses at significant risk from flooding

**1736**

Properties to be protected to 1 in 75 standard

**60km**  
of roads flooded in 2014



Windsor

Datchet

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Wrybury

Egham

Staines-Upon-Thames

Spelthorne Borough Council



**52**

Homes fitted with for flood products



Working with  
**3**  
Parish Councils



**£2.1m**

Costs invested in flood recovery (2014)

**2020**

Proposed start of construction



**150**

homes flooded in 2014

over  
**100,000**  
Sandbags distributed in 2014 floods



**279**

businesses flooded in 2014

