

# Environment and Sustainability Committee



5 September 2023

<b>Title</b>	<i>Rivers and Watercourses Update</i>
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To note
<b>Report Author</b>	<i>Tim Snook, Sustainability and Flood Risk Officer</i>
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Exemption Reason</b>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Community Environment
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Committee is asked to:</b>  <i>To note the update report.</i>
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	This is an update report on the state of rivers and watercourse within the borough and areas of riparian ownership by the council.

## 1. Summary of the report

1.1 This report seeks to update councillors of the state of rivers and watercourses within the borough as outlined in the detailed report within Appendix A.

## 2. Key issues

2.1 Councillors requested an update of the state of rivers and watercourse within Spelthorne. The report outlines details for each main river and ordinary watercourse within Spelthorne. Additionally, it outlined riparian responsibility of Spelthorne Borough Council, recent watercourse issues and images of watercourses for context.

2.2 This watercourses report is designed to be continually updated as events occur, meaning that Councillors will get sight of this update on a regular basis to remained informed on the happenings of watercourses within the Spelthorne.

## 3. Options analysis and proposal

3.1 N/A

#### **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1 The Sustainability budget of £5,500 annually is currently utilised for Riparian maintenance of watercourses owned by Spelthorne Borough Council (SBC) within the borough. In recent years, this budget has become a limiting factor as to the actions that Spelthorne Borough Council can take to properly maintain some watercourses. A single clearance of a stretch of ditch on moor lane, Staines was quoted between £4,000 and £6,000. This has meant that each year, prioritisation must be given to the highest risk watercourses over others for works to be conducted.
- 4.2 The total budget available for this year 2023 is £8,700 which also includes a carry forward agreed of £3,000 from previous financial year.

#### **5. Risk considerations**

- 5.1 Watercourses and flooding are at risk of impacts relating to climate change factors. This includes running low/dry in times of extreme drought and the risk of flooding during extreme rainfall events, exacerbated by climate change. Contamination or health hazards due to pollution within watercourses.

#### **6. Procurement considerations**

- 6.1 N/A

#### **7. Legal considerations**

- 7.1 Act on our riparian responsibilities along watercourses of which SBC is a land owner.

#### **8. Other considerations**

- 8.1 N/A

#### **9. Equality and Diversity**

- 9.1 N/A

#### **10. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications**

- 10.1 Watercourses and flooding are at risk of impacts relating to climate change factors. This includes running low/dry in times of extreme drought and the risk of flooding during extreme rainfall events, exacerbated by climate change.

#### **11. Timetable for implementation**

- 11.1 Set out a timetable, if required, showing when the proposal in the report will be implemented.

#### **12. Contact**

- 12.1 Tim Snook, [t.snook@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:t.snook@spelthorne.gov.uk)

**Background papers: There are none.**

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A** – The watercourses Master Document.

**Appendix B** – Flood Risk Map of Spelthorne