

Overview and Scrutiny Panel Recommendations	Cabinet Decision	Council decisions
<p>Summary of Overview and Scrutiny Panel Recommendations to Cabinet</p>		
<p>At the Extraordinary Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 20 December 2012:</p> <p>Thanet Beaches Contamination Review Task & Finish Group Final Report to OSP</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr W. Scobie and AGREED to recommend that Cabinet approves the following recommendations:</p> <p>A. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL, SOUTHERN WATER AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication: - Thanet District Council, Southern Water and Environment Agency should meet quarterly to look at the emergency response arrangements and ensure that these arrangements are appropriate and up to date; 2. In the event of an emergency, with regards to the initial contact between Thanet District Council and Southern Water; there should be confirmation of any communication between the agencies; so that if a telephone message is left, the call should be returned and if an email is sent, it should be replied to; 	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on 22 January 2013:</p> <p>Overview & Scrutiny Panel Recommendations to Cabinet - Thanet Beaches Contamination Review</p> <p>Councillor Poole proposed, Councillor C. Hart seconded and Members AGREED the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel with an amendment for recommendation 16 as detailed below:</p> <p>A. AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS TO THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL, SOUTHERN WATER AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication: - Thanet District Council, Southern Water and Environment Agency should meet quarterly to look at the emergency response arrangements and ensure that these arrangements are appropriate and up to date; 2. In the event of an emergency, with regards to the initial contact between Thanet District Council and Southern Water; there should be confirmation of any communication between the agencies; so that if a telephone message is left, the call should be returned and if an email is sent, it should be replied to; 	

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<p>3. There was a need to produce and adopt a Contingency Plan for the closure of Thanet Beaches which should be based on the best practice framework model for the South East Region to be developed by the Environment Agency;</p> <p>B. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> <p>4. Compensation: - Cabinet be asked to lobby local MPs to amend the legislation that governs the water industry (particularly the sewer management sub-sector) so that in cases whereby flooding caused by the overwhelming of sewer systems it becomes the responsibility of water companies;</p> <p>5. Thanet District Council should be responsible for signage and dissemination of information during emergencies;</p> <p>6. Generic large signage boards (AO size) should be in store; ready to be deployed at strategic points of public access only to the beaches affected by the emergency event. The response to emergencies should be measured and appropriate and ensure that beaches not affected are not closed;</p> <p>7. Social media (to include face book, twitter and local radio stations) should be used to alert the</p>	<p>3. There was a need to produce and adopt a Contingency Plan for the closure of Thanet Beaches which should be based on the best practice framework model for the South East Region to be developed by the Environment Agency;</p> <p>B. AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS TO THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> <p>4. Compensation: - To lobby local MPs to amend the legislation that governs the water industry (particularly the sewer management sub-sector) so that in cases whereby flooding caused by the overwhelming of sewer systems it becomes the responsibility of water companies;</p> <p>5. Thanet District Council should be responsible for signage and dissemination of information during emergencies;</p> <p>6. Generic large signage boards (AO size) should be in store; ready to be deployed at strategic points of public access only to the beaches affected by the emergency event. The response to emergencies should be measured and appropriate and ensure that beaches not affected are not closed;</p> <p>7. Social media (to include face book, twitter and local radio stations) should be used to alert the</p>	

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<p>public about the contamination on the beaches;</p> <p>8. After the beaches have been cleaned, signage should be put up to let visitors and the public know that the beaches are now clean and open. Appropriate signage, including social media should be used to advertise that the beaches have been cleaned and are safe;</p> <p>9. Cabinet be asked to lobby local MPs to amend the legislation that governs the funding of the Environment Agency to enable them to carry out random sampling of bathing water on beaches during the off season (in winter);</p> <p>10. Cabinet be asked to lobby Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to provide extra funding for off-season sampling of bathing water on beaches;</p> <p>C. RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOUTHERN WATER</p> <p>11. The response time between alarm action and the physical presence of staff to an emergency site should be 20 minutes and Monitoring CCTV facility should be installed at strategic points at Foreness Point Pumping Station in order to enable early response to emergencies;</p> <p>12. After a prolonged period of drought, there should be more frequent jet washing of the sewer</p>	<p>public about the contamination on the beaches;</p> <p>8. After the beaches have been cleaned, signage should be put up to let visitors and the public know that the beaches are now clean and open. Appropriate signage, including social media should be used to advertise that the beaches have been cleaned and are safe;</p> <p>9. To lobby local MPs to amend the legislation that governs the funding of the Environment Agency to enable them to carry out random sampling of bathing water on beaches during the off season (in winter);</p> <p>10. To lobby Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to provide extra funding for off-season sampling of bathing water on beaches;</p> <p>C. AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOUTHERN WATER</p> <p>11. The response time between alarm action and the physical presence of staff to an emergency site should be 20 minutes and Monitoring CCTV facility should be installed at strategic points at Foreness Point Pumping Station in order to enable early response to emergencies;</p> <p>12. After a prolonged period of drought, there should be more frequent jet washing of the sewer system particularly along known pinch points;</p>	

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<p>system particularly along known pinch points;</p> <p>13. Southern Water communication/compensation procedures should be more responsive and more sympathetic discretion should be used to compensate residents whose properties are affected by sewage flooding;</p> <p>14. In the event of future emergencies, an ad hoc 'Incident Dedicated Contact Point' for customers should be set up;</p> <p>D. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENVIRONMENT AGENCY</p> <p>15. Request the Environment Agency to consider carrying out random water sampling on beaches in winter due to the increase in winter sports during the off-season.</p> <p>16. Request the Environment Agency to draft a best practice framework model for Contingency Plan for closure of beaches in emergencies.</p>	<p>13. Southern Water communication/compensation procedures should be more responsive and more sympathetic discretion should be used to compensate residents whose properties are affected by sewage flooding;</p> <p>14. In the event of future emergencies, an ad hoc 'Incident Dedicated Contact Point' for customers should be set up;</p> <p>D. AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENVIRONMENT AGENCY</p> <p>15. Request the Environment Agency to consider carrying out random water sampling on beaches in winter due to the increase in winter sports during the off-season;</p> <p>16. Thanet District Council work with the Environment Agency, other coastal Local Authorities, and partner organisations, to produce, agree and exercise a plan for marine & beach incident management response. This plan will provide a consistent framework for warning and informing people, businesses and others, with each organisation having a clearly defined set of remits and responsibilities.</p>	
<p>At the Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 15 January 2013:</p>	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on 22 January 2013:</p>	

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<p>Housing Strategy 2012-2016</p> <p>Members agreed to recommend the proposed draft Housing Strategy to Cabinet.</p>	<p>Housing Strategy 2012-2016</p> <p>Councillor D. Green proposed, Councillor C. Hart seconded and Members AGREED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To recommend the strategy to Council for approval in February 2013. 	
<p>Allocations Policy</p> <p>Members agreed to recommend the draft Allocations Policy to Cabinet with the additional eligibility criterion to be included in the policy that accrued rent arrears from other social landlords within or outside of Thanet area should be taken into consideration when making housing allocation decisions.</p>	<p>Allocations Policy</p> <p>Councillor D. Green proposed, Councillor C. Hart seconded and Members AGREED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel comments of “Including and making clear that rent arrears and former tenancy debts apply to all social housing providers within or outside the Thanet area” be added into the consultation document; That the Armed Forces Personnel Section of the proposed Allocations Policy be clarified further; The proposed Allocations Policy document and public consultation process. 	