

# Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

## News Release

For immediate use

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### **Council's £350,000 to tackle flood issues**

Residents and drivers across the borough will benefit from wide-ranging flood prevention works, thanks to a £350,000 council programme that covers everything from silt clearing to road drainage, to ditch cleaning.

A report to cabinet on Thursday 28 November spelled out the details of around a dozen schemes either under way or to be carried out over the year ahead – all of them designed to tackle flooding issues that impact on local communities.

Cllr Carwyn Cox, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "While flood risk from the River Thames tends to grab the headlines during very wet spells there are other places in the borough with their own issues – and the council is determined to tackle them so that local people are protected from the misery that flooding can cause."

Some £150,000 is being used for schemes that will improve drainage on local roads:

- Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick (between Sheepcote Road and Bunces Close)
- Waltham Road, White Waltham (near Innings Lane).

Both schemes are due to be completed by March next year.

Also by March, site investigations and feasibility studies will be completed for Upper Village Road, Sunninghill, and Blackamoor Lane, Maidenhead – and, subject to funding, these schemes will be done in 2014/15.

Challenging drainage improvements at School Lane, Cookham Dean – where unusual flood issues arise from its hill location – are to be looked at again to find a way forward. Meanwhile, there is an ongoing programme of deep cleaning the highway drainage systems in flood risk areas of Maidenhead.

Flood risk management schemes will get under way soon at:

- Cookham Dean – silt clearance from a catchment pond at the downstream end of the land drainage scheme
- Fifield Road – the re-establishment of a roadside ditch.

New grills to enable the safe clearance of debris from the mouth of large culverts during times of flooding will be provided by March 2014 at:

- Battle Bourne, Old Windsor
- Bourne Ditch at St Leonard's Road allotments, Windsor, and
- the watercourse at Oliver Road, Ascot.

Proposed major works to replace the brick culvert on the junction of Broadmoor Road and The Street in Waltham St Lawrence has been delayed because the area has been identified as a potential habitat for the great crested newt – a protected species. This means that newt surveys have to be carried out at certain times of the year – but the council is working with the Environment Agency to try and minimise the delay.

Also on the programme is a detailed assessment of the condition of the Horton Drain and Wraysbury Drain and a study of flooding issues in the Fifield area. A budget of £30,000 has been identified for any urgent works identified by these studies.

Cllr Cox added: “A huge amount of council work is going on or planned over the next few months. At the same time we are continuing to liaise closely with the Environment Agency to ensure that the needs of Royal Borough residents are taken into account in their work to protect the areas at risk of flooding from the Thames.”