



SOUTH EAST FLOODING – THE FACTS

The South East is a world-class economy and the most profitable in the UK. In 2010-11, the South East paid £6.3bn more to the Treasury than it received in public spending. As a national economic gateway, the South East provides major commuting, freight and transport routes for businesses UK-wide.

The economic and human costs of flooding have been substantial – damaging our own economy, hindering national growth and global competitiveness and, of course, badly affecting our 9 million residents.

- At £300m, the estimated cost of flooding on Surrey’s local economy has been significant. Closure of key roads, such as the A22 to London, affected businesses, residents and commuters for five weeks.
- Flooding in Oxford, including closure of Botley and Abingdon Roads, cost Oxfordshire’s economy around £50m per week.
- At £63m, the long-term capital costs of repairing damaged roads and flood defences in Hampshire amounts to nearly half (46%) of the county council’s total budget for highways, transport, planning and waste.
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead estimates that the damage to its highway infrastructure exceeds £2m, and that the flooding cost its tourism industry in excess of £1m.
- Over 1,800 homes were evacuated in Surrey – the most in any county and 25% of the national total.



SOUTH EAST FLOODING – OUR ASKS

- ✓ **Honour your promise that ‘money is no object’ for urgent repair and recovery**
 - Increase funding to cover full repair costs to councils as the true extent of flood damage comes to light. Current funding is insufficient.

- ✓ **Fix the funding formula to invest for the future**
 - Flood Defence Grant in Aid criteria must place greater emphasis on economic impact. Schemes that protect against major economic loss should be prioritised.

 - Grant in Aid criteria should give equal priority to schemes that tackle groundwater flooding as well as coastal flooding.

 - Longer-term funding certainty is welcome but the six year Grant in Aid capital programme must be flexible enough to respond to emerging schemes as lessons are learned from recent and future floods.

- ✓ **Ensure Treasury Backing for major cross-boundary schemes**
 - Vital schemes, such as the Lower Thames Valley Project, must receive Treasury backing as councils do not have the multi millions to fund major flood defence schemes.

- ✓ **Ensure water companies do better**
 - Utilities companies must participate in Gold Command multi-agency crisis meetings. Water companies cannot bypass responsibility for sewerage overflows and must actively engage in flood response work.

- ✓ **Help create more flood resilient communities**
 - Find a solution to implementing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs). Work with councils on the optimal means of funding SUDs adoption and a system for administering and recouping SUDs charges.

 - Disseminate information about, and provide start-up funding for, new flood defence technologies, and support council initiatives to understand the true costs and impact of groundwater flooding. One example is Hampshire’s Groundwater Pathfinder Proposal.

