



City of Westminster

**COUNCILLOR MELVYN CAPLAN
DEPUTY LEADER
CABINET MEMBER FOR CITY MANAGEMENT
MEMBER FOR LITTLE VENICE WARD**

Westminster City Council
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Thursday 5 August 2021

Dear Sir / Madam

The recent floods have had a devastating impact on many residents and businesses in Westminster. Our thoughts are with everyone who was affected and we want to ensure you get the answers you deserve on what happened and the actions being taken. We are in regular communication with Thames Water, and I have written to their CEO Sarah Bentley again this week to emphasise our desire to get answers to the questions of why this happened and even more importantly how this can be prevented in the future.

We held a virtual public meeting with representatives from Thames Water and local housing associations on Friday 30 July, attended by over 220 people. Thanks to all of you who took part and raised questions before and during the meeting.

To those who couldn't join us, you can watch a recording of the meeting at www.westminster.gov.uk/floods. We received over 100 questions during the event, and we're compiling answers to questions which were not answered during the meeting. We will be posting a summary of the main questions on the website at the earliest opportunity.

We are now also in the process of arranging a special meeting of the Finance, Smart City and City Management Policy and Scrutiny Committee. They will again review the information that has been gathered and continue to ask the questions that continue to be raised. The council will also hold a statutory investigation to look at how future incidents are mitigated and responded to as effectively as possible. Terms of reference for the investigation have now been published on the website. Finally we await the details of the independent inquiry that Thames Water has promised to hold.



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Kind regards

Melvyn Caplan

**Councillor Melvyn Caplan
Deputy Leader
Cabinet Member for City Management
Member for Little Venice Ward**