

Item No: 2	Classification: OPEN	Date: 10 th November 2003	Meeting Name: OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Report Title:		SCRUTINY: REVIEW OF THAMES WATER'S RESPONSE TO FAILURE OF WATER SUPPLY IN SOUTHWARK	
Ward(s) or Group affected:		All Wards	
From:		Head of Corporate Strategy	

BACKGROUND

This is the second session of this scrutiny, the approach having been agreed by Members on 13th October 2003. A copy of the Project Brief is attached at Appendix A.

The following witnesses have been invited to inform this current session, ie:

Tony Denton – Local Government & Community Affairs Manager, Thames Water
David Dangerfield – Regional Manager, South London Water Supply
Gerry Cooper – Area Service Manager

The detailed discussion at 13th October 2003 Overview & Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Minutes of that meeting. Members will recall that they agreed to focus the discussion with Thames Water officials on the following areas, i.e.:

1. The water infrastructure in the borough – investment, depth of water mains, water pressure;
2. Thames Water's capacity to respond in the event of a major incident;
3. Dissemination of information in the event of a major incident – leaflets, labels on tanks, use of Thames Water's web site, telephone access; and
4. Arrangements for compensation.

During OSC's discussion of the recent failure of water supply within the borough, Members raised concerns about the impact of ongoing problems with water pressure on some estates. Attached at Appendix B is Executive Member for Housing Councillor Beverley Bassom's reply to Councillor Veronica Ward's question to Council Assembly on 29th October 2003 in relation to the effects of low water pressure on blocks on top of lifts within East Dulwich Estate and Denmark Hill.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific resource implications raised by this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Documents	Held At	Contact
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agendas and Minutes	Scrutiny Team 3 rd Floor, Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lucas Lundgren T: 0207 525 7224

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer/Report Author	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview and Scrutiny	
Version	Final	
Dated	Friday 31 st October 2003	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	No	No
Chief Finance Officer	No	No