

## **Presentations**

Portfolio	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	n/a

### **Purpose**

**To receive presentations from Surrey Search and Rescue and the Environment Agency**

### **Surrey Search and Rescue**

1. Over 2,100 people go missing in Surrey every year. Surrey Search & Rescue is a 100% voluntary specialist search team which helps the emergency services find missing vulnerable adults and children.
2. With a team of 50+ people and 8 Search Dogs, Surrey Search and Rescue are on-call 24 Hours a day, to respond across Surrey and surrounding areas.
3. After an initial training period of 6 months in a nationally recognised Lowland Rescue curriculum covering search techniques, casualty care, health and safety, communications, navigation and working with the emergency services, Team members train at least once a week in locations across Surrey.
4. They are trained to find and give first aid to anyone who is reported missing or lost and evacuate them to safety, operating in woodland, farmland, town centres and around water, where the emergency services need help and manpower.
5. Surrey Search and Rescue is an official member of the UK's Lowland Rescue provision, with the same role as Mountain Rescue, Coastguard Rescue and the RNLI, amongst others and works closely with neighbouring county teams and the National Association.
6. Whilst the main type of call-out that Surrey Search and Rescue face is missing persons, they also cover tasks such as water rescues, including riverbank, flood and swift water, medical evacuations and technical rescues. The Team can also call upon the services of an off-road ambulance.
7. Surrey Search and Rescue is a voluntary specialist team who do not get any funding from the government, the police or the council, relying wholly on donations to purchase and maintain vital lifesaving equipment, and continue to offer the best training to team members.
8. The Committee will receive a presentation from Séamus Kearns, the Surrey Search and Rescue Head of Operations.

## Environment Agency

9. More than two million homes, over five million people and countless businesses are currently under threat from flooding. With a changing climate, rising sea levels and relentless development, the risk keeps rising.
10. Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) has always been a big issue for the Environment Agency, but now it has centre stage and consumes over half of the Agency's entire annual budget.
11. Following the severe flooding in the summer of 2007, the Environment Agency was given new challenges and a broader remit, including coastal management overview and erosion mapping responsibilities.
12. From the simplest sluice to the Thames Barrier, from pumping stations to earth embankments, the Environment Agency is responsible for 44,500 structures and 24,000 miles of defences across England and Wales, building many new schemes each year.
13. The Environment Agency seeks to constantly improve its flood risk maps and 24-hour warning systems, working with local authorities, utility companies and emergency services to minimise the risk to vital assets like substations, water treatment plants, hospitals and fire and police stations.
14. The Agency also worked with planners and developers to prevent ill-advised building in high risk areas.
15. The Committee will receive a presentation from Ian Tomes and Doug Hill from the Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Risk Team.

## Proposal

16. It is proposed that the Committee receives each presentation, followed by Members' questions and discussion.

## Recommendation

17. The Committee is asked to consider the presentations and consider any future steps which Members would wish to recommend to the Executive and/or Council.

## Background Papers:

None

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