

SECTION 19 FLOOD INVESTIGATION

Committee name	Residents' Services Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ian Thynne, Head of Environmental Specialists
Papers with report	Section 19 Flood Investigation (Flood Event September 2024)
Ward	All

HEADLINES

Under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), investigated the significant flood event of 22–23 September 2024. A total of 172 flood incidents were reported, including 123 internal and 49 external. The majority were in Ickenham and Ruislip. The investigation identifies sources and causes, roles/responses of Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), and sets recommendations to reduce future risk.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Residents' Services Select Committee:

- 1. Notes the findings of the Section 19 investigation and the scale of impacts across priority catchments; and**
- 2. Notes the programme of actions for 2025/26, including targeted drainage improvements, community Flood Action Groups (FLAGS), and collaborative schemes with EA and TWUL.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The investigation was compiled through a range of risk management authorities, council service inputs, resident questionnaire responses (152 submissions), GIS catchment analysis, and site inspections (April and Summer 2025). Findings cover rainfall/river gauge evidence, flood mechanisms in key catchments, and actions taken before, during and after the event.

This flood event was one of the largest in the Borough in recent years in terms of properties directly impacted, i.e. internal flooding. The investigation was commensurate with the scale and impact of the flood event and represents an extensive analysis of a range of information.

Event Facts and Impact

Dates	22–23 September 2024
Total reports	172 (123 internal; 49 external)
Most affected areas	Ickenham and Ruislip
Met Office warning	Amber warning 08:16–21:00 on 23 Sept
EA rainfall (RAF Northolt)	47.8 mm over 11h15; 10.8 mm in 15 min peak
Primary rivers implicated	River Pinn; Yeading Brook (East & West); Ickenham Stream

Priority Catchment Findings (headlines):

- Bessingby Park (Catchment 2): Detention basins (designed ~1 in 5) less effective under event intensity; sewer surcharging at Whitby Road as river levels reduced outfall capacity; highway flow issues at Beech Avenue.
- Breakspear Road South (Catchment 4): Surface water routing toward River Pinn; fluvial flooding into St George's Field affected Derwent Avenue; continue HS2 scrutiny.
- East of Ickenham (Catchment 5): Flow path across Breakspear School to Hoylake Crescent; pitch drainage to be checked; property resilience advised.
- West Ruislip Depot Area (Catchment 6): Accumulation along Glebe Avenue; school car park/playground runoff to rears; recommend gauge on Ickenham Stream.
- Ruislip Gardens (Catchment 12): Extensive highway/property impacts; low/blocked outfalls to Yeading Brook West; programme of gully and outfall upgrades; daylighting opportunity at Bridgewater Road Playing Fields.
- Victoria Road Area (Catchment 17): Surface water accumulation at The Fairway/Down Barns Road; school flooding at Queensmead and Bourne; possible foul misconnection upstream of Bourne.
- Brook Drive / Pinn Meadows (Catchment 26): Fluvial exceedance on River Pinn; groundwater limiting swale/pond capacity; PFR measures effective.
- West End Road (Catchment 44): Southward surface water routing; station forecourt ponding at low point; Cherry Close drainage capacity/positioning issues.

Action Programme (selection)

- Gauges: Review coverage; install river level/flow gauges on Ickenham Stream and other gaps.
- Highways: Targeted gully cleansing and spacing improvements; consider rain gardens/drainage channels in hotspot roads.
- Outfalls: TWUL/Council to clear/raise/upgrade low or blocked outfalls (e.g., Ruislip Gardens) and share maintenance regimes.
- Schools: Drainage surveys and SuDS options at Breakspear, Glebe, Bourne, Queensmead; develop flood action plans and pursue SuDS in Schools funding.
- Schemes: Progress Pinn Meadows & Park Wood SSSI NFM; Ruislip Gardens and Victoria Road flood alleviation schemes; daylighting at Bridgewater Road Playing Fields.
- Community: Establish FLAGS (Whitby Road; Clyfford Road and surrounds); increase EA flood warning sign-ups; promote PFR uptake.

PERFORMANCE DATA

There is no specific supporting performance data.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The Floods of September 2024 were highly impactful with reports of some displaced residents still in temporary accommodation over 6 months later. Extensive property refurbishment/repair works at Clyfford Road in Ruislip Gardens were evidenced by a series of skips on driveways which remained in the area for several months.

The Flood Investigation provides an understanding of why the flood occurred, identifying weaknesses in the existing drainage network and providing a route to securing better flood risk management and resilience. The Investigation is predominantly aimed at protecting residents so that the possibility of flooding is reduced, and residents are better prepared.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial cost in developing the Flood Investigation. Officers will continue to secure funding available for additional flood risk management. Recommendations for Highways and Green Space management will be considered by the services in line with existing budgets.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The production of the Investigation satisfies the requirements of Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

APPENDICES

Section 19 Flood Investigation