

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor Hebb

Supporting Statement

Residents and businesses in Stanford-le-Hope recently experienced significant flooding underneath the railway line in Wharf Road, which caused untold problems and caused a major level of disruption to business profitability, emergency service access, and the ability for people to commute to school and workplaces.

There was a breakdown in the pumping station with a part which wears away over time, and this ultimately flooded the road for a whole day / early evening. The issue was compounded by the fact that access to the pumping station is now not easily accessed due to the overhead train line crossing works in the summer, which has unintentionally restricted quick access to the station when the need arises

Motion

Thurrock Council seeks to address the following concerns of residents and businesses in Stanford-le-Hope following their recent experience of significant flooding underneath the railway line in Wharf Road, and formally requests that DP World and Network Rail engage in a process to manage the following issues:

1. General accessibility and emergency plans to be looked at to minimise the isolation of residents and businesses, with particular regard to emergency services, school and workplace commutes etc.
2. Free and direct access be re-established to the pumping plant for Thurrock Council to complete any required works as quickly as possible.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Highways authorities will not generally be liable for flooding which makes the highway impassable. This is because there is nothing the authority can realistically do to prevent the flooding. The authority can, of course, erect warning signs to prevent highway users from approaching the flooded areas.

The highway authority is responsible for making sure the highway is drained, even if it does not own or have control over the means of drainage. It needs to be established whether the Council's duty includes maintaining the pumping station in order to drain the highway to a reasonable extent.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

It is not possible to identify the financial implications at this stage. A survey is required to first of all identify the problem and this will then determine where the responsibility lies. If the responsibility is with the Council, the cost will then depend on the extent and nature of the problem.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes