

My ref: DB/JB00291803140029

Your ref:

Lord Chris Smith  
Chairman  
Environment Agency  
Ergon House  
Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 2AL

18th March 2014

Dear Lord Smith,

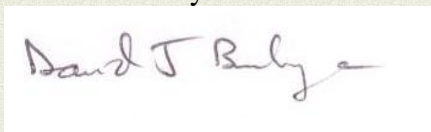
**Re: Dredging**

At a recent meeting of the Council a resolution was unanimously passed (attached) calling on me to write to both yourself and the Environment Secretary calling for the immediate reinstatement of dredging as a means of flood prevention.

As Leader of one of the local authorities most severely affected by this year's flooding it is of paramount importance that dredging of the River Thames recommence as soon as possible and as a long-term maintenance solution.

We understand that it is not the answer to flood prevention but it is our firm belief that the arguments for not doing it are far outweighed by the benefits it can provide at key pinch points along the Thames.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr David J Burbage MBE**  
**Leader, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead**  
**A Vanguard Council for the Big Society**

Cc: The Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs