

ADEPT

Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

ACTION POINTS/ MINUTES OF THE FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP (FWMG)

MEETING

11/07/2022

10:00-14:30


Held as HYBRID meeting in person and via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing software

1. Present (Hybrid Meeting)

2. Alistair Chisholm – CIWEM (AC) (speaker)
3. Andy Hardstaff - Hertfordshire CC (AH)
4. Anna Hastings – East Sussex (AHa)
5. Arthur Le Geyt – LEP (ALG)
6. Ashish Patel - Milton Keynes Council (AP)
7. Becky George – Environment Agency (BG) (speaker)
8. Charlotte Danvers – Environment Agency (CD)
9. Daniel Lamb - Warwickshire CC (DL)
10. Doug Hill (DH)
11. Emma Burdett (EB)
12. Hayley Bowman – Environment Agency (HB) (speaker)
13. Hillary Ellis - Cambridgeshire CC (HE)
14. Innes Thomson – ADA (IT)
15. Joanne Conway – Hertfordshire CC (JC)
16. Jagit Mahal – Warwickshire (JM)
17. James Blockley - Gloucestershire CC (JB)
18. Julie Mayhew – DEFRA (JM) (speaker)
19. Katherine Greig – FloodRe (KG)
20. Lucy Shepherd – Essex CC (LS) (minutes)
21. Marc Inman - Essex CC (MI)
22. Mark Ogden – Norfolk CC (MO)
23. Martin Hutchings - Devon CC (MH)
24. Matt Williams – Suffolk CC (MW)
25. Max Tant – Kent CC (MT) (chair)
26. Mohamed Admani - Nottingham City C (MA)
27. Prince Frank - Luton BC (PF)
28. Neil Clarke – Kent CC (NC)
29. Roger Nowell - Sheffield C (RN)
30. Ruth Burnham - West Northamptonshire C (RB)
31. Sharon Russell – Bedfordshire CC (SR)
32. Steven Tupper - Environment Agency (ST)
33. Sue Jaques - Nottinghamshire CC (SJ)
34. Vicki Westall - Hampshire (VW)
35. Will Harrington – DEFRA (WH)

Apologies


Max Baker – Bracknell Forest
Alexander Back – Derbyshire
Nick Claxton – East Sussex
Matt Williams – Suffolk
James Mead – Sheffield
Richard Ward - Derbyshire
Matthew Harrison – Lincolnshire
Karen Fisher – Buckinghamshire
Simon Curl – Suffolk
Richard Whelan – Cambridgeshire
Victoria Coombes – Leicester
Hilary Tanner – Local.gov.uk
Joe Baker – Gloucestershire
Matthew Bell – Barnsley
Simon Bowers – West Northants
Jessica Fox – Hull
Alys Bishop – Central Bedfordshire

Item	Action	Action owners
1	Welcome & introductions Apologies are as stated above.	
2	<p>The previous meeting was held on 29/04/2022.</p> <p>a) Ongoing – Action for volunteers to get involved in the review of DWMPs is ongoing.</p> <p>b) Ongoing – MT referenced an action for IT to share details about IDB approach to collecting commuted sum charges. This action remains open as an update has not yet been received.</p> <p>c) SJ to present at future meetings on the use of drones for building inspections, asset inspections, as a semi commercial service.</p> <p>d) There was a discussion on the report about the flooding in Westminster in July 2021. WH to provide update at next meeting.</p> <p>e) WH to forward details of Asset Maintenance Review Workshops when available.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>IT</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>WH</p> <p>WH</p>
3	<p>Schedule 3 Review Julie Mayhew (JM)</p> <p>Thanks to Julie for travelling a considerable distance for this meeting.</p> <p>Presentation below:</p> <div data-bbox="486 1115 539 1176" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Defra Presentation 11.7.22.pptx</p> <p>Recap of review timeline: Dec 2021 – First meeting of the Advisory group Jan/Feb 2022 - Scoping Feb-Apr 2022 – Engagement and Research May-Jun 2022 – Analysis Jul 2022 – Evolving thinking shared with advisory Group Aug 2022 – Defra Review team writing the review. September 2022 – Review presented to ministers October 2022 – Publish review and Decision</p> <p>Today’s position is to start writing up the review, although engagement is still ongoing so please get in touch. Still working with advisory group. Workshops in March engaged 80 stakeholders.</p> <p>Points of feedback from the meeting include the following (JM confirmed that these had been heard):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burden of maintenance currently ending up with LAs • Sch 3 has opportunity to provide multiple benefits, overlapping with other depts. and greater public benefits. • General public very supportive • Set up, maintenance, running of SAB a huge concern 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for robust appeals and enforcement • Concern around skills/training • Non-mandatory standards already reviewed so should build on that • Look at reasons/evidence this was not previously implemented, and whether those concerns remain the same today • Look to Wales for challenges/experience • Should be considering the long-term saving of this change in terms of insurance/economic liability • Further disaggregation of the management of the water cycle <p>JM clarified this is not a consultation, it is a review, and if we go into implementation, then there will be a consultation. Recognise that not everyone was reached out to individually, but the opportunity to engage is open.</p> <p>JM confirmed we will see the review when published and can comment on the published documents. If implementation is decided then we go into policy cycle to develop, 4 or 5 statutory instruments, looking at over 18 months. This is when the fine detail of how implementation happens would be set out.</p> <p>JM reassured that the review has engaged with other review work, this review must be agreed by all govt. departments and treasury, there are many overlaps which are recognised and being discussed.</p> <p>Some discussion over different options and views on the implementation of current Sch3as written. There are still options to bottom out within the details, but all agree change in this direction is necessary. Further discussion about the role of water companies and whether they could be the approver and LLFAs are consultee. Water companies more regulated in terms of performance. Strong links to WINEP, WRMPs and wider water cycle.</p> <p>Although costs and resources are two big concerns, we will all have to be mindful that anything that increases the cost of living is unlikely to be agreed.</p> <p>Please contact JM or MT to submit any final comments for the review, publication in Autumn.</p>	
4	<p>National Infrastructure commission Surface Water Review – James Harris (JH)</p>	<p>Verbal update received from James Harris.</p> <p>This review was commissioned by treasury in Nov, published review will be in Oct/Nov this year.</p> <p>Scope does not include emergency response, community resilience, forecasting.</p> <p>In scope is looking at frequent rainfall and planned infrastructure capacity. What is needed to cater for climate change, growth, urban creep. Looking at designing for exceedance and PFR. Working with consultant to look at assessments of how much money we need to spend to move property within EA risk bands. Thinking about what is cost effective, and results should be applicable at local level.</p> <p>Stakeholder meetings have been held in different parts of the country. Lots of examples of innovative partnerships and nature-based solutions. Lacking ability to consistently quantify clear problems and how to fix them. Mismatch between responsibility and powers. Lingering barriers regarding investment and linking multiple outcomes.</p>	

		<p>Review will set out policy options and recommendations, including low regret options vs step change requiring investment. Will be reaching out in Aug/Sept to test policy options in a detailed way. To give a broad sense of investment as a country to facilitate local delivery, looking at 1.1 – 1.3 % of GDP spend on SW infrastructure.</p> <p>Source/pathway/receptor principles are embedded in models in this review, but unknown is whether Sch3 will be implemented and what that means for the assumptions. Evidence based on current growth, risk etc. and looking to reach a position where development is neutral/beneficial.</p> <p>Point made that govt. bodies like the treasury need to put much greater emphasis/requirements on green infrastructure/nature/SUDS as part of strategic delivery plans/programmes e.g. the Housing Infrastructure Fund.</p> <p>Recognised that FDGiA pushes to PFR rather than SUDS, JH confirmed that the review is looking at FDGiA and effectiveness of funding to deliver the right solutions.</p> <p>Point raised that we need to look at capital vs revenue. Should be looking at every day maintenance of existing infrastructure. JH confirmed that this is being drilled into this review and seems to be a lingering bias towards capital expenditure, an area they are looking at, with big programmes of smaller suds and maintenance.</p>	
5	<p>CIWEM CSO paper – Alastair Chisholm (AC)</p>	<p>Presentation below received from AC:</p> <div data-bbox="491 1064 539 1120" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Systems overflows ADEPT July 22.pdf</p> <p>AC introduced this study as a thought piece following the media narrative missing fundamental considerations that they wanted to illustrate. Many parties have been brought in, regulators, NGOs etc. to achieve systems thinking.</p> <p>Headlines - only 14% of rivers achieving good status, no rivers achieving chemical good status. A lot of combined sewers and storm overflows, this is not a positive picture. This has been a useful way of pushing messages of integrated water management, with a strong policy response, lobbying, and political support which worked into the Env. Act and specific requirements on overflows. Storm overflows taskforce 2020 influenced Bill which came through to the Act (policy response listed in slide pack).</p> <p>SODRP squarely focused on water companies. Getting water out of networks, a quick win. System approach should look at how can we achieve economies of scale, where can efficiencies be achieved in delivering multi beneficial outcomes.</p> <p>Workshops have been held looking and testing what people meant by terms being used and projects ongoing. Public expectation is driving ambition on this, the situation is one of change. Hearing that we're too siloed and not considering a wide enough range of factors. Imperial College London have mapped the interacting systems and subsystems (see slides and report for detail).</p> <p>Findings that storm overflows are a fundamental part of our systems, but public perception is that separating drainage is the solution - although this does not</p>	

		<p>resolve highway issues and cost unfeasible. Getting highway water out of SW sewers very key in this.</p> <p>A hierarchy has been created as part of toolbox of solutions and recommendations. Pointing to water companies to drive this. Study recommended that S3 is implemented, as there needs to be a system to deliver multi-benefit suds nationwide.</p> <p>Research looking at were water companies and LAs could work better together, funding sought based on large-scale SUDS delivery. Recognise challenge of using FDGiA for these schemes. Stress we need to be opportunistic in delivery e.g. when street work is in progress. There is scope for a duty on highways to look to disconnect before putting into combined network.</p> <p>Audience very much a public audience and an education piece, pushing out the principles of stormwater management - see CIWEM policy pages link https://www.ciwem.org/news/storm-overflows-ten-things</p>	
6	<p>EA Surface Water Team introduction – Jonathan Hunter (JH)</p>	<p>Jonathan joined by colleagues Becky George (BG) and Hayley Bowman (HB). Below presentation received:</p> <div data-bbox="486 907 542 974" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>ADEPT F&W meeting 2208711_Strategic Ov</p> <p>JH introduced the team. BG is leading on items such as actions of Defra, SWMP reviews, forming task and finish group with area managers, facilitating info sharing, DWMP responses. Working national/local level to ensure surface water better represented.</p> <p>HB is working with partners and input into national reviews e.g. NIC review and CIWEM survey. Looking at how groups come together and replicating that across the country, providing a stronger voice on surface water.</p> <p>Team are also working on framework for DWMPs with Ofwat. Consultations happening now, final plans March 2023. Tracking impact on co-funded investment programmes. Also working on WINEP and PR24, PR24 methodology now live, Table 6.1 in Appendix 9 there are partnership funding examples to look at: Creating tomorrow, together: consulting on our methodology for PR24 - Ofwat</p> <p>See presentation for further examples of the strategic overview role of the team.</p> <p>SW Team is reaching out and linking to national teams, working on flow of info to local area teams, hopefully it will feel more joined up and insightful for partners.</p> <p>Feedback that we need more support for local authorities on the customer side.</p> <p>ACTION: Suggested that JH have a standing invite to the ADEPT group.</p> <p>Note from the insurance sector, report on SW having the biggest impact on mortgage availability, it can be referenced in Bank of England Climate Biennial Exploratory Scenario (CBES) output (link below). Shown that livelihood more</p>	<p>MT</p>

		<p>impacted by SW flooding than sea level, heat and temp rise. Insurance and banks putting it in black and white:</p> <p>https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2022/may/boe-publishes-results-of-the-2021-biennial-exploratory-scenario-financial-risks-from-climate-change</p>	
7	EA Tools and support to LLFAs for business cases – Harry Walton	<p>Received below presentation from Harry Walton (HW)</p> <p> Support for LLFAs WALTON.pptx</p> <p>HW outline that his team look after appraisal guidance, and look at implementation, business case templates and processes etc.</p> <p>Acknowledged that non-EA partners play a critical role in delivery of investment programme (providing 46% OMs, 34% of spend, 56% of projects).</p> <p>Challenges on the radar, recruitment 10% gap within EA, they understand this is an issue across the sector, movement of resources rather than new people coming in.</p> <p>Development of the FCERM skills academy framework – trying to make guidance docs, learning materials more accessible, easy to find info as we are losing ‘gurus’. A better sharepoint site for sharing info. Aimed at EA and RMAs but can tailor to other needs if required.</p> <p>Looking at streamlining business cases, recognise these are not proportionate for smaller projects, weight of evidence and bundling projects are ideas to be tested. Team will talk to ADEPT as this is developed.</p> <p>Ask to ADEPT to share more detail on resource needs and what are the acute and pressing issues/skills gaps?</p> <p>FCERM Apprenticeship’s idea, need a working group to turn into reality. ACTION: MT/HW to discuss role of ADEPT further.</p> <p>Feedback that the challenge in FDGiA accessibility for non-EA is not a skills issue, but more of a process issue. Double counting can be blocker. Surface water and natural flood management are both tricky in terms of appraisal of a programme of schemes. Funding needs to be more flexible to include these types and wider range of stakeholders.</p> <p>Raised that ADA are supporting EA – EA handing over some responsibility of project appraisal to them. Mention of public sector co-operations agreements to bypass procurement hurdles.</p> <p>ACTION –ADEPT/EA support proposals to work together on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacking current and projected capacity • Raising and escalating emerging risks • Planning future improvement to help LLFAs • Improving access to procurement frameworks and enhancing suitability for LLFA projects. • FCERM Apprenticeships 	<p>MT/HW</p> <p>MT/HW</p>

8	Recruitment – Andy Hardstaff (AH) and EA	<p>Received a verbal update from AH</p> <p>There has been a questionnaire from CIWEM on recruitment and capacity. ACTION: Andy to contact CIWEM to understand survey</p> <p>As we are all aware recruitment problems have become a chronic issue. ACTION: Joanne Conway (JC) to share Hertfordshire paper on recruitment with ADEPT group for comment.</p> <p>The paper looks at how we might develop staff in house. Looking at regional cooperation/hubs. Where LLFAs cannot run training, we need to engage with others, Hertfordshire are putting figures together to put forward business cases. Cooperation with EA and academic institutions is required. Could be conventional classroom approach or online learning material. Proposal that we seek co-ordinator to organise cohorts of people across authorities, so they have a support network.</p> <p>Point raised that ADA over past 18m have been working with LEAF to produce educational materials, countryside classroom, designed for teachers as educational resources – free for everyone. GCSE level students. https://www.ada.org.uk/knowledge/education/</p> <p>Question asked whether we can have an update on the FACE programme please. It’s being replaced with something else? ACTION: Steven Tupper (ST) to provide update.</p> <p>This isn’t something LLFAs are able influence this on our own, ADEPT would like to work with the EA on this. ACTION: ADEPT via MT to liaise with EA on this matter.</p> <p>ACTION: Hannah Bartrum (HB) to share feedback from DEFRA nature skills round table event.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH/JC</p> <p>ST</p> <p>MT</p> <p>HB</p>
9	EA update – Steve Tupper	<p>Update received from ST.</p> <p>There is commitment within the strategy roadmap that there will be another FACE/Graduate training scheme equivalent (ADEPT involvement picked up by other previous actions today).</p> <p>A one-year action plan in place. A longer-term view roadmap was published in June, with suite of activities over the next 4-5 years. None of the contents a surprise, lots of consultations. 28 organisations named and actioned within the roadmap. ADEPT have 3 actions, RMAs mentioned in 45 and LLFAs in 3.</p> <p>Alan Lovell has been put forward as new chair of the Environment Agency, Emma Howard Boyd will be leaving in September.</p> <p>Regarding future events/conferences, raising that some previous events have not been not aimed at the right audience, not reaching LAs. Pricing also at the forefront, free central location options preferable. Options to think about, PFR, SW management, embedding learning, green finance learning, green taxonomy, adaptive pathways IRF learning, best practise, working with nature, LNRs</p> <p>ACTION – please send Charlotte Danvers (CD) thoughts or ideas for training/event items.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

10	Defra updates – Will Harrington	<p>Verbal updates received from WH</p> <p>Two DEFRA minsters have resigned, Rebecca Pow and Jo Churchchill, Steve Double is joining the Board. Awaiting news of other portfolio changes. ACTION: Will to send note with updates on this.</p> <p>Mention of asset review which started in March, taking 2 years. Stage 1 identifying issues regarding asset management and maintenance. Stage 2 evidence based review, Stage 3 will be looking at legislation. Will keep in touch with ADEPT, Hilary Ellis is on project steering groups.</p> <p>IDB statutory instruments, Env Act changes, ACTION: will circulate links when go live.</p> <p>There is a replacement for EU requirement for EIAs underway which include range of policies on land drainage improvement works procedure on works near watercourse. Detail to be set out later. ADEPT will be kept informed.</p>	<p>WH</p> <p>WH</p>
11	ADA update – Innes Thompson	<p>Verbal updates received from IT</p> <p>Good news for LAs, doubling the number of LA directors that will be involved in ADA, David Hickman moved on, new replacement soon. There will be a branch director in coastal issues too.</p> <p>ADA is pursuing the widening of the asset replacement funding which is only available at the EA, DULAC also heavily involved.</p> <p>ADA will be producing environmental good governance guide linked to BNG and land drainage improvements. Hoping to be available the next couple of months.</p> <p>ADA have just launched their flood and water live event, with live equipment and machinery demos. About asset management and innovation and env sustainability, open for registration 5th 6th July 2023.</p>	
12	Update from Chair	<p>Opportunity for ADEPT to get involved in a lot of things, please let Max know if you want to be involved.</p> <p>Next meeting 4th Oct virtual</p> <p>Thank people who've joined and especially to those who have presented, it was a very useful and interesting meeting.</p>	
13	AOB	None	
14	Confirm Date of Next Meeting	4 th October.	