

Flood & Water Management Group Meeting Update – 23rd April 2019

Following the appointment of Julia Beeden as the new Chair, the group has now also appointed two vice-chairs: Max Tant from Kent County Council and Alys Bishop from Central Bedfordshire Council.

The ADEPT FWMG has been discussing the focus of their group. The group has been predominately concerned with surface water flood risk as a result of ADEPT's membership being focused on upper tier authorities; these having the role of Lead Local Flood Authority. While this is likely to remain the prime focus of the group, there is desire to ensure that all other areas of water management (water resources, quality, aquatic ecology, other sources of flood risk etc) are considered by ADEPT in order that LLFAs undertake their duties using a best practice approach and recognising the need for holistic management of water. The Chair and Vice-Chairs will review the group's Terms of Reference to ensure they are still appropriate. Later in the year the group may consider producing an updated policy statement.

Having discussed the Catchment Based Approach and natural flood risk management in January, the presentation at April's meeting was about Building Resilient Water Supplies, the National Framework and about how to support and engage with the Regional Water Resources groups. This was kindly delivered by Jonathan Dennis from the Environment Agency.

Other agenda items included:

- Recent national consultations
- ADEPT FWMG's review of the Leaky Woody Structures Risk Assessment document
- Set up of the new Association of Sustainable Drainage Authorities (ASA)
- Long Term Flood Risk Investment Scenarios 2019
- The development of Flood Risk Management Plans
- Implementation of the Surface Water Action Plan

Post meeting the group's members will be reviewing the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy which is out for consultation. The consultation ends on the 4th July 2019, the same day as the next FWMG meeting.