

Meeting Agenda



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Name of meeting		Flood and Water Management Group Meeting	
Location		MS Teams	
Date		3 October 2024	
Time/Duration		10:00 – 12:30	
Chairperson		Doug Hill	
Agenda Items:			
<p>Attended by: Doug Hill (DH), Emily Fox (EF), Ben Kirby (BK), James Blockley (JB), Brian Richards (BR), Cath Brooks (CBr), Cathy Bishop (CBi), Emma Burdett (EB), Hannah Purkis (HP), Hilary Tanner (HT), Jagjit Mahal (JM), Jed Ramsey (JR), John Galt (JG), Celia Jonquet-Burns (CJB), Kylie Russell (KR), James Latham (JL), Lee Sencier (LS), Ben Lukey (BL), Mark Ogden (MO), Matt Hullis (MH), Nick Claxton (NC), Nick Watson (NW), Owen Grove (OG), Peter Henry (PH), Sarah Reghif (SR), Richard Horswill (RH), Rohit Singh (RS), Sabina Kupczyk (SK), Sarah Smith (SS), Innes Thomson (IT), Jessica Fox (JF), Mohamed Admani (MA), Sue Jaques (SJ), Matthew Harrison (MH), Holly Graham (HG), James Mead (JM), Andrew Smallwood (AS), Tim Simpson (TS)</p>			
Time	Item No	Item	Presenter
Welcome/Introductions			
10:00	1	<p>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emily Fox (Emily.fox@surreycc.gov.uk) has taken over as Secretariat for the group. The group wanted to give a big thank you to Becca Nicholas for her role as previous Secretariat, who done a fantastic job. 	EF/BN
Chair/ADEPT Updates			

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10:05	2	<p>Chair Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings attended <p>DH: National Strategy Roadmap Steering Group. Meeting was reviewing achievements so far and looking at next steps.</p> <p>EA/Met Office surface water round table. I could not attend in person. emergency response focus.</p> <p>Adept Environment Board – focus was on local environment improvement plans and Defras consultation on the national EIP.</p> <p>Future FCRM Capital Programme – Discussion with EA on what the next 6year programme might look like.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADEPT updates <p>KR – Gave overview of ADEPT and priorities.</p> <p>Local authority link for NFM. Hosting workshops which has been well attended. Two more planned in upcoming months.</p> <p>Encourage people to attend ADEPT Autumn conference. (See links in email.)</p>	DH/KR
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<p>10:15</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>FWM Group Priorities and way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities and purpose <p>DH - See slides.</p> <p>Overall agreement that meetings are too long and easy to lose focus. Everyone on board for small more frequent meetings/working groups based on a theme/topic. More instruction/guidance for the theme leads.</p> <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With everyone's connections, collaboratively, we could influence policy/decisions. • Big challenges have gone beyond what can be done at local level. • Enabling conversations between LA's beyond our own RFCC areas. • Could we invite members from DCN, NALC and other relevant public sector bodies? • Could we also involve an RFCC chair? • Could we influence policy on flood recovery grants as they are not fit for purpose? • The Bellwin scheme could also do with an overhaul. • The Flood Resilience Taskforce would also be a good place to get ADEPT's views in. <p>DH – ADEPT manifesto for stronger places - See slides from DH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we deliver devolution deals for LLFA's and LA's? • End short-term funding and single pot competitive bidding. • Tackle geographical inequalities. • No statutory consultee role for Groundwater within LLFA's. • How can we coordinate things a bit better across the whole environment agenda? <p>What priorities are missing? What sub-groups/themes?</p> <p>RS – Biodiversity amenity, water quality</p> <p>DH – This is a question we've been asked by The Environmental Board. Does ADEPT cover the water bit as well as the flood element. We don't focus on water quality, water scarcity, water resources etc. Is there a benefit in us picking this up? As it does overlap with a lot of the flooding stuff.</p> <p>TS - We would like to focus on these issues. We have recently written a water strategy as often the solutions for flooding are also the solutions to water scarcity.</p> <p>IT – Comms side. It's almost like talking to ourselves how do we broadcast this to the people who need to hear it? We are working with CIWEM at government</p>	<p>DH</p>
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	<p>level – APPG All Party Parliamentary group – Sustainable Flood and Drought Management. First meeting next week. But can ADEPT do the same?</p> <p>MH – Keen to get involved in the APPG group as we have practical examples in Suffolk and a relevant FRCIP project running in Norfolk and Suffolk.</p> <p>MH – We need a wider view on flood risk. Strategic planning overview – too much or too little water, how these are linked and what the implications are.</p> <p>RS– Could we involve other people from outside groups like NE, tree planting etc? Who could provide expertise on Nature based flood management.</p> <p>DH – We need to have a look at the theme leads and see if there is anything missing.</p> <p>BK – Very keen in supporting with Capital Programme, Funding Framework Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Groups• What about “Water”? <p>DH - Which LA's have water security/ resources/adaptation included in their flooding department?</p> <p>Group - Not really covered. Need to explore how we do this. Start conversation with Water resource groups.</p> <p>MH – I sit on the Water Resource East Board to represent LA's interests</p> <p>Action 1 – DH to talk with Jesscia, Kylie and Alys and others to discuss themes (including Water) and will ask group for reps to lead on those themes.</p>	
Partner Updates		

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11:00	4	<p>Defra</p> <p>DH - Will Harrington who has been our DEFRA rep has now moved on to other things. Big thanks to Will he's been very valuable. Meredith Kennedy will be taking his position and giving us an update.</p> <p>IT - I've attended a number of high-level DEFRA events which have included Secretary of State. He has 5 key areas he wants to focus:</p> <p>Reed stated that his five core priorities as DEFRA Secretary included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cleaning up Britain's rivers, lakes and seas2. Creating a road map to move Britain to a zero waste economy;3. Supporting our farmers to boost Britain's food security;4. Ensuring nature's recovery; and5. Protecting communities from the dangers of flooding. <p>He has a keen interest in assessing the state of flood risk assets.</p>	(by correspondence)
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11:10	5	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>SS –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very high amount of rainfall, 800 properties flooded so far. Secretary of state have visited areas worst affected. • Good engagement from government. Including the Flood Resilience Taskforce. Appetite for change from government. • NFM programme assurance happening at the moment cases going through review, should have outcomes in next couple of weeks. • Towards the end of October, we should see a updated Working with Natural Processes Evidence Directory document on best practise for nature based solutions. • Providing e-learning for RFM's. We have our supporting flood and Coast projects SharePoint page. • Surface water scheme – small updates, workings with LA's to come up with a new surface water investment model. Should make funding easier. • Looking forward to future programmes, so we're continuing to work up the approach to that national investment steer. This is using methodologies to identify what the right sorts of interventions might be in different places. This would be validating that using local teams to then develop a proposal for future spending review, but also to kind of develop that kind of more detailed capital programme as we go forward. • Strategic partnerships – RFCC meetings – gathering info. Published S18 report. • Mid-term review of strategy – how are we doing on strategy roadmap? Any guidance and tools would be good to get everyone's view to update perhaps in a future session. <p>RS – Could there be a centre of excellence? LLFA's have resource constraints. Provide training, methodologies could help.</p> <p>DH – Do we know how the rep for LLFA's and LA's sitting on the Flood and Resilience taskforce is picked? How do we get a wider national picture to this group?</p> <p>IT - I think it's finding out who your strategic allies are that sit on that flood resilience task force and make sure that they are absolutely armed with intelligence and information. Representative is Ashley Dunn from City of Derby.</p>	Sarah Smith
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11:20	6	<p>LGA</p> <p>Spending review – we get governments review at the end of the month. Financial pressures everyone is facing. A 3-4 year cycle instead of annually would make planning easier. A cross-party review of Council Tax. Cut competitive funding streams. Invest in prevention.</p> <p>Cultural asks – reset central and local governments relationships. More of a partnership instead of top-down relationship. Focus on prevention. Suggest every area has a local climate action plan.</p> <p>Priorities – Grant in Aid – how can this be used better? Alignment with other investment plans, water companies, EA etc. Flexible around funding.</p> <p>Land drainage consent fees – a small change in law from Defra. Would really help towards finances for LLFA's. Whole team agrees these should be reviewed and changed.</p> <p>Longer term – What happens when current grant in aid runs out in 2027? What are we asking for? If we're saying it shouldn't be competitive funding, what else should it be? Should it be linked to local plan? Should it be linked to local climate action plan? I think to start shaping that rather than having something designed for us. Current grants not fit for purpose.</p> <p>Flood resilience flood task force – LGA didn't have a rep. How is local government being represented?</p>	Hilary Tanner
11:30	7	<p>ADA</p> <p>See ADEPT update from Innes.</p> <p>Action 2 – IT to speak with Defra to get HT involved in the Flood Resilience taskforce.</p> <p>Concerns about flood and coastal erosion management plans, rebalancing of budget and spending review.</p> <p>ADA is discussing with DEFRA about updating the land drainage acts.</p> <p>LGA special interest group ADA is involved in that.</p>	Innes Thompson
Matters For Discussion			

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11.40	8	<p>NPPF consultation</p> <p>ADEPT responded to the recent consultation on NPPF (Link in email)</p> <p>DH - Clarification on Schedule 3. Strengthening SuDS policies for non-major developments. Needs to include surface water and groundwater. We need a clear answer on if it's going to happen.</p> <p>RS- more clarity needed for SuDS implementation. Will Planning depts be able to override LLFA's decision?</p> <p>JR - Lead on project Groundwater. Looking at flood risk and planning process. Lack of statutory consultee role within LLFA's regarding groundwater. We will be publishing some best practise on how to approach Groundwater in relation to planning.</p>	DH
12:00	9	<p>Nafra2</p> <p>See PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>DH - comms element. Hilary mentioned as LA's quite keen to support in the comms. How will our Cllrs and residents react to this being published? In the event of a major flood will this push back the publishing?</p> <p>BL- we will share some comms element to pass around. In the event of a major flood, yes we will need to think again but we will try our best to stick to dates as possible.</p> <p>TS - concerned about changes in resource publication and how they are shown together in the map? Funding for schemes/resource implications.</p> <p>BL - Following feedback the modelling is focused on SW as there is less risk from fluvial. There are other factors that will end up with further increases food risk, using more up to date of SW, not doing artificial lowering, sophisticated modelling with risk for property flooding removing buffer that was on previous maps.</p> <p>DH - surface water flood maps. Be careful what LLFA's role are, care around how we define the wording. Cycle of no one taking ownership of the maps, EA saying the LLFA are responsible and LLFA saying the EA are responsible.</p> <p>BL - possible follow-up session? We are expecting a spike in queries and are coming up with FAQ's and templates to answer them. But we would appreciate some support if anyone is able to offer it?</p> <p>RS - has the SuDS aspect been involved in the modelling?</p> <p>BL - for the national model we have taken a pretty crude approach we use the 1 in 15 year scenario. The rest is modelled in 2D as surface water flow routes.</p> <p>CBR - We need some help looking over slides for the webinar if there are any offers.</p> <p>ACTION 3 - Volunteers needed from the group to support NAFRA2 workshop</p>	EA
Matters Arising from Previous Minutes			

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12:20		AOB	
Next Meeting			
12:30	8	Confirm date of next meeting and close.	