

Meeting Agenda



Association of Directors of
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| Name of meeting | | Flood and Water Management Group Meeting | | |
|------------------------------|---------|--|----------------|--|
| Location | | MS Teams | | |
| Date | | 07/10/2025 | | |
| Time/Duration | | 10.00-12.00 | | |
| Chairperson | | Doug Hill | | |
| Agenda Items: | | | | |
| Time | Item No | Item | | |
| Welcome/Introductions | | | | |
| 10:00 | 1 | Intros and tech. | DH | |
| Chair/ADEPT Updates | | | | |
| 10:05 | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting updates ASA, ADA, ADEPT meeting – Focus was on National SuDS standards. • Environment Board Lot of talk on Nature recovery and devolution – NFM and nature-based solution and regulatory changes. KR – Autumn conference 20th-21st November in Manchester. ADEPT Autumn 2025 Upcoming workshop - Resilience with Ringway – Looking at infrastructure and highways resilience. Hugh Deeming has been doing some workshops around the country and Ann Carruthers will be speaking of her experience in Leicester. It will also be covering short-term emergency planning as well as looking at the long-term. Series of webinars with Natural England and EA – one has already been held on Coastal Erosion. Next one on Lowland Resilience on 12th November 16.00-17.00. Action – EF to post Coastal Erosion Webinar on knowledge hub National Traffic managers conference on 8th Oct. Webinar on 14th November covering Highway's run-off and water quality. Jo Bradley is hosting from Stormwater Shepherds. Action – KR to send EF highway's run-off webinar when available. Launched carbon leadership programme and digital academy both have been popular. | DH KR | |
| 10:15 | 3 | Flood Resilience Taskforce update VC – Latest meeting held in September. Defra investment programme. Funding review was not mentioned. IT mentioned the EA stepping back from maintenance on main rivers. IT - Will be raised in December Flood Resilience Taskforce. Minister acknowledged that this would need raising. I'm planning on meeting with Sebastian Catovsky to ensure that it is raised as a substantive item on the next agenda. | VC DH AB | |

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| | <p>VC - Flood preparedness, response and recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved River forecast service - Met office have invested to improve Rainfall prediction which is due to be launched next Autumn.• Lots of suggestions for improvements to local forecasting and local models <p>Warning and informing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New guidance on flood risk to caravan parks.• New guidance for MP's on how to interact with the public relating to flooding.• EA also mentioned flood warning automation, which will be coming out soon.• Flood Action Week – new guidance statements to be released• Major updates to Met office app – better language and easier to understand. <p>Local preparedness and Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADA purchased additional pumping capacity.• Greater Manchester Combined Authority have procured more flood capable vehicles.• EA are reviewing multi-agency flood plans and feeding back to all local resilience forums. <p>National preparedness and Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EA procured additional pumps nationally• Defra hosted a cross-government exercise on responding to an extreme rainfall event in June 2025.• Department for Transport – made changes to ensure they are better at capturing secondary effects of flooding disruption to transport. They are also committed to enhancing their Flood Response coordination across the transport sector, which I am following up on with the Department for Transport.• Protecting the public – new guide on Vulnerability. Lincolnshire have been transposing and utilising. Feedback is that it needs some further work but is the first step in defining vulnerability. <p>Recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MHCLG making a toolkit for administering the grant.• Extended the timeframe for claiming Business and Community Recovery Grant• Local Authorities can now provide verified property flood data. We are now a verified local provider. This will feed into triggering the criteria for activating the recovery framework. I fed back that the process still needed to be made fairer. This will be taken back to MHCLG to have further discussions with them. <p>Canal River Flooding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussed whether the Canal and River Trust should become an RMA <p>COBRA testing of National Emergency Alert was also mentioned.</p> <p>PFR Review:</p> | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be published during Flood Action Week – 22 recommendations and a 10-year action plan.• They will also be reviewing the actions that were not implemented from the original 2016 Peter Bonfield review.• I did raise to Judy Fairly that ADEPT FWMG wanted to feed into the most recent review but were unable to do so. She was concerned by this. I will follow this up with her.• I also raised that we could support the implementation of PFR locally, through things like a Community Response Plan. This would help ensure members of the public were aware of the importance of maintenance on PFR products.• The Association of British Insurers are updating their responding to floods guides.• FloodRe – mentioned the factors that are impacting the availability of insurance. There is concern that they are trying to wind down and move away from FloodRe.• Flood Mary is due to promote the Flood Bus in front of the House of Commons.• I raised what the insurance industry are doing to ramp up availability of PFR products in a Flood Event and expressed the concern with Rogue traders. This will be brought up at the next meeting.• Demo of the new Flood Warning Service.• New PFR Innovation Testing Centre in Hull opening on 13th October. <p>Action – VC to forward detailed notes of latest Flood Resilience Taskforce meeting</p> <p>DH – we have drafted a letter to go to Emma Hardy to pick up on the frustrations on those points</p> <p>Funding review consultation update</p> <p>DH – We are waiting to hear back from Defra on the update.</p> <p>Regulator roundtable update</p> <p>AB – 8th September meeting listed by Defra around the Local Government Stakeholder Roundtable for Local Environmental Regulators (LER). The meeting focused on the government's regulatory reforms to support growth while maintaining environmental protections. The idea is that the LER will be a single point of contact for all organisations. Less conflicts between regulators and what they're asking for. Particularly the timescales for large scale strategic developments. 1st Stage – 2025 - early 2026 - pilot phase looking at three large projects. Each pilot will be led by a different regulator to see which works best. E.g. EA, Natural England etc. No immediate changes to legal frameworks.</p> <p>2nd Stage – wider roll out and looking at legislative changes and delegation of powers between regulators. This will allow them to speed up the processes. They will be looking at Planning Commissions and environmental planning as well as Discharge of Conditions, as this is the biggest source of delay.</p> <p>Next step is for the pilots to be reviewed by Defra. They will focus on time savings, developer experience and customer journey and then environmental outcomes to ensure these are not compromised.</p> | |
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| | | <p>At CBC, we will be keen to see how this works as we have a few projects that have stalled due to changes in mapping with NaFRA2. EA unable to review due to resourcing issues which we flagged to Defra. If anyone else is having these issues I would be keen to flag back to the group.</p> <p>Action – Anyone who is experiencing similar problems with strategic projects and the NaFRA2 mapping to contact AB.</p> | |
| Partner Updates | | | |
| 10:30 | 4 | <p>Defra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consultation response timescales <p>No new updates on this unfortunately. The review has gone to Government who will be making an announcement in due course. We will arrange a meeting with ADEPT once the new funding policy has been announced. That meeting will be held with our funding colleagues who will be able to update you with the new funding rules and timelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New National SuDS Standards and Schedule 3 implementation <p>We're committed to implementing SuDS. We're looking at what additional steps we can take to support the better delivery of SuDS by continuing to improve the current planning policy approach and looking at ways of improving the approach to adoption and maintenance rather than commencing Schedule 3 of The Floods and Water Management Act 2010. Final decision will be made in coming months. We intend to consult on our national planning policy relating to decision making, later this year, including policies on flood risk and SuDS.</p> <p>IDB Research</p> <p>MHCLG launched a research project in early September into IDB funding and costs. Comprehensive review of IDB operations, focusing on financial efficiencies, with the aim of assessing whether changes are needed for the funding model to ensure long-term sustainability of IDB's – assessing whether changes are needed to their funding models. The review will be led by ICF, supported by Logica, and it's expected to conclude in Summer 2026. MHCLG will then consider the findings and decide on next steps. The Local Government Association Special Interest Group are on the steering group and ICF and Logica will engage with stakeholders throughout.</p> <p>DH – might be useful to do a standalone meeting on funding review in future</p> <p>Action – DH and EF to arrange a standalone meeting with KM on the IDB/funding review</p> | Matthew Humpherson |
| 10:35 | 5 | <p>EA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transition arrangements for Partnership Funding changes <p>BG – We are developing the necessary guidance and support for all RMA's. This will include transition arrangements for existing projects. The latest information including details of engagement webinars will be made available on our Supporting Flood and Projects SharePoint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fairer funding reform: any implications on radar for EA/programme | BG |

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| | <p>BG – This is a question best aimed for Defra and the MHCLG. But from our side we are making changes to improve access to GiA funding for all RMA's by simplifying project appraisal and business case requirements through our Standardising Project Development work and the trial we are testing with a few RMA's on a new Surface Water Investment model.</p> <p>Matt Hum – Engaging with the MHCLG and they are hoping to announce something in the next Local Government Finance Settlement, which should be mid-November to December.</p> <p>DH – We're concerned about having less money to do maintenance, particularly when the maintenance aspect of the Partnership Funding Consultation seems to be pointing at EA maintenance. We want to see what the impacts of that will be?</p> <p>Matt Hum – I can pick that up with MHCLG</p> <p>DH – This might be something to pick up with the wider ADEPT organisation as we are only raising it from a flooding perspective but I'm sure Transport and others are also concerned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- NaFRA2 – signposting residents for SW enquiries to LLFA's <p>BG – continuing to run drop-ins. These will run for the foreseeable future. We have spoken to the contact centre to try to answer customer queries at source and to check if any amendments are needed to the guidance. Happy to receive feedback if guidance not working. The Communications and Engagement steering group is another way to raise queries; GW sits on that group.</p> <p>Flood action Week – 13th-17th October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EA are looking at the S19 guidance that came out in April 2025. Exploring how we might use the information from those reports and data capture pro-formas to identify any national trends, which was a recommendation from the Jenkins Review. We would like it if you could follow the guidance because consistency would help us to do that work. Please share your reports and data captures with your local contact.• To help raise awareness of Flood Action Week, we have created a Partner Pack that includes images, infographics to use on your social media channels, templates and newsletters which signpost links to PFR advise, resources and guidance for individuals and communities. We would appreciate you utilising these to promote awareness. They can be downloaded here Google Drive and Dropbox. <p>Flood recovery research project is nearing completion. Project aimed to explore understanding and experiences of the flood recovery process at individual, community and institutional levels and how these could be better supported by The EA and LA's. The team leading that are happy to come and present to the FMWG if interested in hearing more about this.</p> <p>DH – I think the NaFRA2 conversation is something we can pick up on knowledge hub and have more of a discussion around that.</p> <p>Action – EF and RK to facilitate conversation around NaFRA2 issues on knowledge hub.</p> | |
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| 10:45 | 6 | <p>LGA – Budget 26th Nov. Pushes back local government funding. Local government reorganisation nearing completion. Fair funding review – Looking to see what government response is on that. More flexibility on what local councils can spend it on.</p> <p>We now have LogOff (different to OffLog) – outcomes framework. Consultation no mention on flooding – no metric identified for that. LGA are hosting workshops.</p> <p>5th Nov – Plans and Partners – how to strengthen partner working. How to streamline plans.</p> <p>18th Nov – Funding and governance. Cunliffe review</p> <p>Dec TBC – Knowledge exchange. Case studies and best practise. If anyone has anything they wish to share would welcome your input.</p> <p>Action – EF to circulate LGA workshops again</p> | HT |
| 10:50 | 7 | <p>ADA</p> <p>See Innes notes to be sent with minutes.</p> <p>DH – I think we need a deep-dive on maintenance. Either a substantive item or standalone session.</p> <p>Action – EF and DH to set up standalone session on Maintenance</p> | IT |
| 11:00 | 8 | <p>ASA – National SuDS standards</p> <p>Been out for approximately 4 months now. Most have picked it up or have a delayed implementation date. There are some significant changes that some are struggling with particularly around biodiversity, water quality etc. There is a big question mark over who should be doing the assessment of that, as it doesn't currently sit under the LLFA remit. We are in ongoing discussions with planning advisory service as to whether it should sit with the LPA's but then there is not a lot of expertise or resource in those spaces either.</p> <p>We are going to start discussions with Water UK about what it means for the water and sewage companies.</p> <p>We're also continuing discussions with Defra. The thing that seems to be missing at the moment is the MHCLG element. The expectation is that the updates to the NPPF and PPG policies later in the year will pull it together, but we don't know what this will look like yet. We are pushing for more transparency and open conversations so we can ensure they are not just dropped on everyone like the New National SuDS standards were. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will collate all the questions that have been asked and go to Central Government to answer the policy questions or whether we are going to do an ASA approach.</p> <p>Another thing that has come to our attention is the changes made to the Sequential Test through the PPG. It carries some significant impacts on Surface Water Assessments. Now if you can demonstrate that the development will not have a negative impact on flood risk then you do not need to do the sequential test.</p> | GW |

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| | | <p>We are also in discussions with Defra regarding maintenance and Schedule 3. We have a survey out at the moment to try to capture people's experiences with SuDS maintenance. Please complete this as it can help shape future conversations. https://forms.office.com/e/cHirtimPeM.</p> <p>Also, a question for Defra. Do you know when the implementation of the Environmental Improvement Plan will be coming in?</p> <p>Matt Hum – I will feedback to team and get an answer for you.</p> | |
| Matters For Discussion | | | |
| 11:05 | 9 | <p>EA on Skills and Resources – link back to task force. Establish working group.</p> <p>See slides.</p> <p>KR – What kind fo case study/best practise are you looking for?</p> <p>RM – Looking at a range of options. Where skills have been improved. Streamlined processes.</p> <p>MattHull – Happy to provide a case study. We are worried about about LGA and the impact of LLFA's being split into smaller teams.</p> <p>DH – we are concerned about this as well. We are trying to spread out skills.</p> <p>RK – Local level strategic flood risk advisors that may be able to feed into the case studies.</p> <p>MattHarr – FRCRIP projects. Currently working on a large one is this something you would be looking at? What does happen with FCRIP funding after the funding review is published?</p> <p>IT – IDB are starting to ramp up their offer for apprenticeships. We would be happy to share case studies on this.</p> | Rachel Moseley |
| 11.30 | 10 | <p>Cunliffe Review</p> <p>MattHull – There is opportunity in the review. I will forward a briefing note to be passed on in the minutes.</p> | Matt Hullis |
| 11.40 | 11 | <p>Knowledge Hub Launch</p> <p>See slides from RK.</p> <p>All LLFA members to request to join. Home - ADEPT Flood and Water Management Group - Knowledge Hub</p> <p>EF happy to host a standalone session for those who want a tutorial on how to use knowledge hub.</p> <p>Action – All LLFA members to request to join FWMG knowledge hub</p> <p>Action – EF to organise and host a standalone tutorial for those who want it</p> | RK/EF |

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| Matters Arising from Previous Minutes | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|----|
| 11:50 | 12 | AOB/Forward look for 2026 – item on comms with residents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roundtable – Embedding Resilience (dates)• Lowland resilience Webinar (dates) | DH |
| Next Meeting | | | |
| 12:00 | 13 | Confirm date of next meeting and close. | |