



Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

**ACTION POINTS/ MINUTES OF THE  
FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP (FWMG)  
MEETING  
14/07/2021**

10:00-12:15

**Held at via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing software**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Alys Bishop, Central Bedfordshire Council, (ABi)	Patricia Cuervo, RB of Kensington & Chelsea, (PC)
Ashish Patel, Milton Keynes Council, (AP)	David Hickman, Lincolnshire County Council, (DH)
Brownyn Buntine, Kent CC, (BB)	Jessica Fox, Hull CC, (JC)
Dave Stewart, TDA, (DS)	Dave Stewart
Emma Thomson, Environment Agency, (ET)	Will Harrington, DEFRA, (WH)
Hannah Bartram (ADEPT, (HB)	Paul Cobbing, National Flood Forum, (PC)
Hilary Ellis Cambs CC, (HE)	Paul Shaffer, CIRIA, (PS)
Innes Thomson, ADA, (IT)	Mark Ogden, Norfolk County Council, (MO)
Jagjit Mahal, Warwickshire County Council, (JM)	Matthew Harrison, Lincolnshire County Council, (MHa)
Julia Greene (Bracknell Forest Council) (MINUTES)	
Katherine Grieg, Flood Re, (KG)	
Louise Smith, Kent County Council, (LS)	
Louise Walker, CIRIA, (LW)	
Martin Hutchings, Devon County Council, (MH)	
Max Tant (CHAIR) (MT)	
Mohamed Admani, Nottingham City Council, (MA)	
Nick Claxton (NC)	
Rob Matthews, Leicestershire County Council, (RM)	
Rob Sheehan, EA, (RS)	
Ruth Burnham, Northamptonshire CC (RB)	
Simon Curl, Suffolk CC, (SC)	
Steve Wragg, City of York Council, (SW)	
Sue Jaques, Nottinghamshire County Council, (SJ)	
Steven Tupper, Environment Agency, (ST)	
Tim Simpson, Essex County Council (TS)	
Viki Westall, Hampshire CC, (VW)	
Will Barber, DEFRA, (WB)	

Item No.	Item	Action	Action owners
1	<b>Welcome &amp; secretariat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MT welcomed group and introduction as Chair of group.</li> <li>- Becca Nicholas (Kent CC) (<a href="mailto:Becca.Nicholas@kent.gov.uk">Becca.Nicholas@kent.gov.uk</a>) has taken over from Natalia Jasinka as group secretariat.</li> <li>- Hilary Ellis is now representing Cambs CC in Julia Beeden's place.</li> <li>- Julia Greene (Bracknell Forest Council) taking minutes.</li> </ul>	
2	<b>Update on minutes and actions from previous meetings.</b> Minutes circulated from 21/04/21 with two FRMP briefing notes from EA.		
	DEFRA update	See item 5.  A draft letter to DEFRA / MHLCG on the issues with connections from new developments to the public sewer was previously shared and Cambridge CC, HE to determine if final letter was sent and result. Update to be given at next meeting.	HE
	LLFA Charges	Some responses received, survey to be re-issued and presented at next meeting.	MT / ALL
	LFRMS Guidance – Steve Thompsett / Emma Wren (Mott M), Jonathan Hunter	ST to co-ordinate LLFA discussions/feedback and input into LFRMS delivery (ongoing).  MT requested good examples of LFRMS to be identified.	MT / ALL
	Environment Agency update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Previous actions against Wendy Brooks (WB) ST will take forward:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Skills and capacity in LLFAs.</li> <li>o Share project contact details for the 'Living on the Edge' guidance, ST will update. Briefing note to be circulated with minutes (ET). Liz Fraser at EA to provide update at next meeting. Martin Hutchings was part of a group discussion on Living on the Edge.</li> <li>o Terms of Reference for Flood Advisors needs to be followed up with Anna Parr, and circulated to the group</li> <li>o The new funding partnership calculator is to re-circulated.</li> <li>o RBMP - Suzanne Bennett from RBMPs team to present at next meeting.</li> <li>o LFRM Strategy - guidance has been updated and is awaiting publication. EA working with the LGA to enable it to be hosted on the LGA website.</li> <li>o Adaptation &amp; resilience - survey was circulated and has now closed and the responses will be analysed over the next month or so.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) needs to be completed by 22<sup>nd</sup> August, ready for consultation. ST reported most LLFAs are making good progress.</li> </ul>	ST / ET

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SFRA best practice guidance is nearly complete, an update will be shared at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	ABi
	SWFRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most LLFAs reported customer queries are regularly received on the accuracy of the RoSWM and reported difficulties in communicating responsibilities for data and technical data issues. MT confirmed further discussion needed and ET to feedback on particulars.</li> <li>- Devon CC (MH) reported they are ‘signposting’ from the national gov.uk maps to locally significant information. MH to present at future meeting.</li> <li>- Group informed that Shirley Greenwood at EA wants to better understand what issues are being experienced and is working at national level on this as part of NAFRA2. Lysay McLean at EA is also due to present proposed changes to the RoSWM / supporting text to the South West Flood Risk Managers Group (SWFRMG), slides to be circulated with minutes,</li> <li>- SG and LM to be invited to next meeting for discussion – MT to arrange. MT to put together list of questions around RoSWM for their consideration.</li> <li>- BB raised the significance of the mapping for planning decisions and need for ASA to be involved in discussions.</li> <li>- AB requested all consider sending comments on their issues/experiences with the SW mapping to herself, MT and Becca Nicholas. To inform approach to this.</li> </ul>	<p>MT/ALL</p> <p>MH</p> <p>MT</p> <p>ALL</p>
3	<b>David Mitchell Presentation on the Somerset Rivers Authority</b>	<p><b>See presentation shared with minutes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Winter 13/14 cost £148million with 600 homes flooded and 17,000 acres of farmland flooded. Somerset CC to produce a Flood Action plan, the key finding was the need for a Rivers Authority. Initial funding £1.9million from Defra and £800k raised locally.</li> <li>- 10 organisations in the partnership but a standalone management group was established to ensure funding is distributed fairly.</li> <li>- Fund many schemes including water injection dredging, dredging and bank repairs, also flood alleviation schemes, and enhanced maintenance plants, land management schemes including tree planting and ponds. The Authority has been able to fill the gap in EA funding.</li> <li>- Urban water management - Supporting SUDS reviews being undertaken and critically inspections and has also funded a design guide. DM to share details of SUDS Inspections findings and proformas</li> <li>- Resilient infrastructure – funding enhanced highway maintenance and road raising and desilting and jetting.</li> </ul>	DM

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building local resilient – community team educating and engaging local residents on resilience and adaptation. Which has led to a Moor Association being formed.</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A:</p> <p>DM confirmed the RA does not contribute to levy precept.</p> <p>DM confirmed charge for SUDS inspections using identified criteria based on thematic understanding of SUDS issues and construction, and suggested more details are presented by Helen Smith at a future meeting with regards to internal arrangements to facilitate this work.</p>	DM
4	<b>Research in Flood Re – Katherine Grieg</b>	<p><b>See presentation shared with minutes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recently completed research on social vulnerability and flood risk.</li> <li>- Findings are that BAME communities significantly more at risk and house insurance is considered a luxury that many people cannot afford.</li> <li>- Flood Re having to consider their exit strategy for 2039.</li> </ul>	
5	<b>DEFRA &amp; EA update including National Strategy &amp; Local Strategy Guidance – Rob Sheehan</b>	<p>No update from DEFRA</p> <p>EA Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staffing update Dan Bond has left and Ben Plummer replaces him from DEFRA.</li> <li>- Wendy Brooks is on a 12-month secondment and Steve Tupper has taken over this role and will liaise with ADEPT with support from Emma Thomson</li> <li>- FRMP2: EA website will host the consultation, duty on LLFAs to raise awareness. Aiming to coordinate with the RBMP with publication in Autumn 2021.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Surface Water Management Action Plan review</a>: This includes an update to the 2018 Surface Water Management Action Plan and response to the Jenkin’s 2020 review of surface water responsibilities.</li> <li>- <a href="#">The new 6-year FCERM capital programme</a>: Published by the Environment Agency outlining the investment programme for 2021-2027.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Defra FCERM Investment Plan</a>: Published by Defra with Environment Agency input setting how investment in FCERM will be managed and tracked to deliver value for money.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Policy Review on Flood Risk Planning</a>: Joint publication with Defra, MHCLG and the Environment Agency to inform the government’s planning reforms later in 2021, and its commitment to ensure future development will remain safe from flooding.</li> <li>- New Living on the Edge guidance: To be released as an engagement tool for LLFAs. ABi queried what engagement has occurred with local PSO teams, ST/ET to follow up. Jackie Cotton leading on this at EA.</li> </ul>	ST / ET

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TS raised climate change allowances guidance and whether this will only be fluvial – expectation was yes. The text from the action plan is: River flows and rainfall (measure 1.1.2) and River flows for spatial planning (measure 2.1). Update on CC allowances to be shared with minutes</li> </ul>	
7	<b>ADA Update – Innes Thompson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IT confirmed that the Environment Bill will include some clauses to allow the SRA or IDBs to be formed if local communities decide it is needed</li> <li>- ADA met with Minister Rebecca Pow to update and highlight the following. IT to update of outcomes from this at future meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o On removal of current exception on the use of red diesel will have cost implications of £2 to 3million. Costs likely to be passed onto LAs and rate payers.</li> <li>o Asset Replacement funding, funding was announced for the EA but the IDBs argued funding needed to be widened.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- IT recommended get any schemes ready to ensure they can be input into the funding review. Govt considering alternative ways to spend the £5.2 billion</li> <li>- IT raised the issue that we have all reached a tipping point from expenditure on emergency responses compared to routine maintenance. Govt mindful of this and IDB argued that Revenue funding must be increased. All should provide any examples of this issue and IT to update at future meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o MT raised point that lack of capacity is a problem in urban areas not just maintenance.</li> <li>o ABi raised concern regarding assets that fall between EA and IDB are being managed and that a lack of enforcement is compounding this problem</li> </ul> </li> <li>- IT flagged drew attention to the Law Commission consulting on its 14th programme of law reform. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o ADA pushing Jenkins Review content for consideration - riparian ownership, etc. Deadline for input to consultation 31st July 2021.</li> <li>o Overview: <a href="https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/consultation-on-14th-programme-of-law-reform-now-open/">https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/consultation-on-14th-programme-of-law-reform-now-open/</a>. // link to consultation : <a href="#">Law Commission: 14th Programme of Law Reform - Ministry of Justice - Citizen Space</a>.</li> <li>o Would encourage any possible contributions from ADEPT members into the Law Commission consultation. Not possible to do a joint response from Adept given time constraints, but encourage individuals to share responses with us. All to consider response from own LLFA.</li> <li>o VW requested a consultation response by DEFRA on the Law Reform, MT suggested there is not</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>IT</p> <p>IT</p> <p>ALL</p>

		sufficient time to collate and that LLFAs should respond individually but we may consider these responses at a future meeting. All to send any responses made to Becca.	MT / ALL
8	<b>ADEPT FWM Review of future ways of working</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MT wants to re-affirm sharing of best practice as key activity of the FWM Group.</li> <li>- MT proposed that themed groups are established as opposed to additional vice chair (ABi will remain in VC position). There was general support for this at the meeting and the proposal will be taken forward.</li> <li>- All should consider which themes they would be able to contribute to and volunteer to cover them. MT requested suggestions for leads for themes. MT to assemble index of themes with leads/groups.</li> <li>- Agenda to include standing item for theme / general LLFA discussion. BN to action for next meeting.</li> <li>- MA queried whether there were still opportunities to feed in, discussed that approach should be flexible as it often took too long to request and then assimilate responses into 1 co-ordinated ADEPT response when left to the Chair.</li> <li>- BB commented that ASA have similar approach and it requires a strong theme lead.</li> <li>- MT wants examples of LLFA experiences/challenges to gather information on what LLFAs have achieved/learnt in their roles over time. To inform emerging themes. Request to actively raise these by group members between meetings to inform agenda/meetings.</li> <li>- VM raised issues of where we can discuss day to day issues. HE confirmed FlowNet and Knowledge hub still active and BB raised ASA Hub as an area to get answers and Q&amp;A. (on SUDS/Planning).</li> <li>- MT requested feedback on format of the meeting, 6 weekly interim meetings for LLFAs proposed and then partners to attend quarterly. Live Slido poll result confirmed that some face-to-face meetings would be welcome, but that access should still also be provided virtually for everyone. General support for April meetings to be face to face.</li> <li>- SLIDO Results copied at end of minutes.</li> </ul>	<p>BN</p> <p>MT/ALL</p>
9	<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MT met with EA to discuss engagement and has been asked to join the Innovation and Resilience Board. MT will provide update at next meeting.</li> <li>- MT to arrange separate meeting with ET and ST at the EA, to establish ways of working with ADEPT.</li> </ul>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT</p>
10	<b>Next meeting date</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 10am to 1 pm, VIRTUAL via MS Teams.	

## SLIDO RESULTS

### Are any themes or work areas missing - what are they?

- Innovative Ideas Flood Response

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- Maintenance and revenue (funding)

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- cross cutting opportunities

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- water scarcity

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- working with WASCs - water quality, quantity and sewer flooding

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- Need a concise overarching frame work showing the actions we are committed to and the work of the group under these - to provide a backdrop to the theme groups

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- Flood Improvements/Project Delivery

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- climate change

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- SuDS guidance/legislation

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- Resilience in all its guises

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- Day to day LLFA delivery of the role (as opposed to national strategies)

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- capital programme

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- SuDS

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- Legislation (i.e. applying the Land Drainage Act) and its shortcomings/lobbying for change to support LLFA role

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- Legislation and powers

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- community empowerment

### What do you consider to be the drivers for the group?



### How should meetings be held going forward?

