

# ADEPT

Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

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

### **MEETING**

19/01/2021

10:00-1:00

**Held at via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing software**

#### **Attendees**

Alys Bishop, Central Bedfordshire Council (ABi)  
Andrew Smallwood, Leicestershire County Council, (AS)  
Ashish Patel, Milton Keynes Council, (AP)  
Beth Waring, (BW)  
Bill Parker, (BP)  
Deniz McAndrew, (DM)  
Hannah Bartram, ADEPT, (HB)  
Helen Smith, Somerset County Council, (HS)  
Hilary Ellis, Cambridgeshire CC, (HE)  
Hilary Tanner, LGA (HT)  
Jagjit Mahal, Warwickshire County Council, (JM)  
Joely Norris, Peterborough City Council, (JN)  
John Rumble, Hertfordshire County Council, (JR)  
Jonathan Hunter, Environment Agency, (JH)  
Karl Hardy, Environment Agency, (KH)  
Katherine Grieg, Flood Re, (KG)  
Max Tant, Kent, (MT)  
Martin Hutchings, Devon County Council, (MH)  
Matthew Harrison, Lincolnshire County Council (MHa)  
Mohamed Admani, Nottingham City Council, (MA)  
Natalia Jasinska, Cambridgeshire County Council, (NJ)  
Patricia Cuervo, RB of Kensington & Chelsea, (PC)  
Prince Frank, Luton Borough Council, (PF)  
Paul Cobbing, National Flood Forum, (PC)  
Ryan Davies, Lincolnshire County Council, (RD)  
Steve Thompsett, Environment Agency, (ST)  
Wendy Brooks, EA, (WB)  
William Harrington, DEFRA, (WH)  
Vicki Westall, Hampshire County Council, (VW)

#### **Apologies**

Bronwyn Buntine, Kent County Council  
David Hickman, Lincolnshire County Council  
Garry McInally, Flood Re  
Innes Thomson, ADA  
Julia Beeden, Cambridgeshire County Council  
Owen McGivern, Department for Infrastructure  
Phil Jones, Northamptonshire County Council  
Steve Wragg, City of York Council  
Victoria Coombes, Derbyshire County Council

Item No.	Item	Action	Action owners
1	Welcome & secretariat	Alys Bishop noting action points.	ABi
2	<p><b>Update on minutes and actions from previous meetings</b></p> <p>Actions completed unless listed below or picked up later in agenda</p>		
	COVID-19 impact	All to give Julia an update on COVID-19 impacts – keep Julia aware of any ongoing/new issues. Ongoing.	
	EA updates	Workshops have been held/completed. Closed.	
	Stakeholder workshop on Non-technical statutory standards	Workshop completed. No update from this.	
	Stakeholder workshop for the FRMP	Workshop completed. No update from this.	
	Planning white paper	ADEPT response sent and can be viewed online <a href="https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/documents/planning-future-consultation-adept-response">https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/documents/planning-future-consultation-adept-response</a> . Closed.	
	FCERM consultation	ADEPT sent, request from NJ if would like a copy.	
	SUDS inspections	Tabled for a future agenda item. Ongoing.	
	Surface Water Review	VW still involved and can provide updates as/when. EA looking to set up working groups around the themes of the report which are also linked to national FCERM Strategy, message is to keep eyes open for these and to get involved, VW will ask David Jenkins to present so ADEPT can pick up the issues most relevant to us as a group – table for future agenda. ADEPT has not done a formal review. Ongoing.	
	Environmental good governance and response to white paper	Available from request from Innes T. Closed.	
3	<b>The Coastal Based Approach – Bill Parker</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See video (could not stream at meeting).</li> <li>- Aim is to support communities, aligns to Strategic FCERM objectives to help people understand the impact of flooding on their lives and livelihoods and to take action to reduce this.</li> <li>- Report is due to be published this year, looking for support from groups such as ADEPT to support and champion.</li> <li>- Aware of pressure on LLFAs to support communities and resource (are looking for funding to fill this gap, putting officers into LAs to build connectivity and relationships between RMAs and communities – 1 per coastal group = 7).</li> <li>- BP will share a 1-page document to circulate.</li> </ul>	BP

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any Qs – visit <a href="https://www.coastalbasedapproach.org/">https://www.coastalbasedapproach.org/</a> and can contact the team direct.</li> </ul>	
4	<b>Riparian Landowner RMA update – Ryan Davies, Lincolnshire County Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See slides.</li> <li>- EA (WB) are reviewing the riparian guidance, was mentioned by David Jenkins in the report – will put RD in touch to inform.</li> <li>- Any Qs contact Ryan direct: <a href="mailto:Ryan.Davies@lincolnshire.gov.uk">Ryan.Davies@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>.</li> <li>- Review guidance on all websites and consider need to align these or produce single endorsed guidance.</li> </ul>	RD
5	<b>National Strategy and other EA &amp; Defra updates – Wendy Brooks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See written update from WB.</li> <li>- Gearing up for widespread flooding based on forecast and Amber/Yellow warnings.</li> <li>- Recognise the FCERM Strategy has an impact on LLFAs while resources are stretched, managing approach to engagement with LLFAs with this in mind.</li> <li>- Linked workstreams to delivering the FCERM strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o NAFRA2: Deadline is Mid Feb, so far received 42 RMA responses. All LLFAs to submit data.</li> <li>o Boosting water for surface water: collecting outputs now.</li> <li>o Asset Register work: (No update)</li> <li>o Embedding resilience and adaptive approaches: New project to look at how tools and processes may enable LLFAs to be resilient/adapt to Climate Change. Discovery phase = Jan/March. LLFAs will be contacted after April to manage ask on LLFA resource. WB to circulate note via NJ and officers to contact WB directly.</li> <li>o Rethinking water: National debate on our relationship with water, EA and partners holding a number of citizens juries asking how they connect with water in the local environment etc. X3 locations planned.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- FRMPs: Due to agree national once measures end of Jan, based on LLFA feedback. These relate to statutory powers and policies (such as delivering 25YEP). Need to understand impact of prelection period (purdah) and local elections on approvals process.</li> <li>- WB will ask project team to come to next meeting and give feedback on response. Action.</li> <li>- WB to write and share update via email. PC to share with London authorities. Action.</li> </ul>	WB

6	<b>DEFRA update - Will Harrington</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultations due to launch, WH circulate links once live – Action: ADEPT to share with stakeholders/groups and all to respond where able to. Table for future meeting to discuss input/outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Flood RE consultation due to launch – around improving effectiveness, efficiency of scheme and uptake of PFR.</li> <li>o Call for evidence – local factors in managing flood and costal erosion risk; looking at: recognising the frequency of flooding (as well as overall risk) within funding formula, accelerating uptake of PFR and barrier to progress.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- NFM roadmap published December 2021.</li> <li>- Commitment to publish update to SW action plan Spring 2021.</li> <li>- Will publish a formal review to the SW report Spring 2021. Action – WH to arrange a workshop to provide informal feedback on the review, LLFAs aware that with recent weather and flooding will be fresh examples and experiences of community engagement.</li> <li>- Query around trigger for PLR grant to communities in response to Storm Christoph: Recovery framework is activated by Ministers (includes property grants). WH take away as an action to review the need for activation to the Dec/Jan flooding and general process. If scale of impact is unclear ADEPT can support this discussion, the move to recovery is delayed by prolonged impact and flooding incidents, so message may not have worked its way to national.</li> </ul>	WH
7	<b>LFRMS Guidance – Steve Thompsett / Emma Wren (Mott M), Jonathan Hunter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See slides.</li> <li>- For those LLFAs preparing an update – EA need to give clear communications on whether to progress or wait for the guidance to be released.</li> <li>- EA want an idea of where LLFAs are with updates and form a task group around this to inform the framework development.</li> <li>- Updating the LFRMS is a big task and will have resource dependencies, many LLFAs are not in a position to undertake this. Action – ST to co-ordinate LLFA discussions/feedback and input into LFRMS delivery.</li> <li>- MH has feedback on LFRMS delivery process that can be shared with ST. Action.</li> </ul>	ST, EW and JH
8	<b>National Audit Office report – Hilary Tanner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key findings can be found from page 6 on the summary document: <a href="https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-">https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-</a></li> </ul>	HT

		<p><a href="content/uploads/2020/11/Managing-flood-risk-Summary.pdf">content/uploads/2020/11/Managing-flood-risk-Summary.pdf</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow up by House of Commons Scrutiny Committee by Autumn (next spending review). HT will aim to feed into this.</li> <li>- Report provides an overview of how money is spent and the EAs role is overseen.</li> <li>- Key issue - How much funding is going to deprived areas – key priority of allocation of funding. Evidence suggests less funding going to deprived areas, unclear if this is because the demand has dropped due to past investment in these areas.</li> <li>- Key issue - Since EA funding has been focused on partnership funding, but 90% comes from the public purse and the risk is this shifts the burden of funding to public rather than private sectors. There are barriers to accessing private sector funding that need exploring.</li> <li>- LGA consider funding should be place based and self-assessment for smaller schemes should be a recommendation taken forward.</li> <li>- LGA considers need a longer-term funding settlement for recovery from COVID-19 as opposed to 1-year settlement/review for councils.</li> <li>- LGA want to know how the change to the allocation of the FCERM financial settlement from DEFRA has been embedded in LAs and whether this has a) been received, b) been ringfenced internally for LLFAs. Every authority appears to approach this differently. All to send comments to HT.</li> <li>- Opinion is majority of small-scale schemes are funded by the LA as not eligible or possible to draw funding from elsewhere or within a realistic timeframe for delivering resilience on the ground – likely multiple benefits not captured if only looking at allocations of GiA.</li> </ul>	
9	<b>ADA update – Innes Thomson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See written update.</li> </ul>	IT
10	<b>ADEPT Environment Board update - Hannah Bartram</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Next meeting 27<sup>th</sup> Jan – update from FWMG.</li> <li>- June 2020 ADEPT and other groups published ‘green print’, relaunched early Dec 2020, focusses on key areas where calling for Government support to enable delivery of green recovery.</li> </ul>	HB
11	<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How effective do we feel LRFs are across catchments? AP to circulate email to gauge reaction and table for discussion at next meeting. Action.</li> </ul>	
12	<b>Next meeting date</b>	Interim meeting: 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb – aim is to reduce length of meetings by splitting.	

## Summary of actions:

- All to give Julia an update on COVID-19 impacts – keep Julia aware of any ongoing/new issues.
- WB will ask project team to come to next meeting and give feedback on response. Action.
- VW can ask David Jenkins to present so ADEPT can pick up the issues most relevant to us as a group – table for future agenda.
- WB to put Ryan D in touch with David Jenkins re riparian responsibilities.
- WB to share written update.
- WH to look into recovery grant for Dec/Jan and how this is triggered.
- ST to co-ordinate LLFA discussions/feedback (on LFRMS development) and input into LFRMS delivery.
- MH has feedback on LFRMS delivery process that can be shared with ST. Action.
- LGA want to know how the change to the allocation of the FCERM financial settlement from DEFRA has been embedded in LAs and whether this has a) been received, b) been ringfenced internally for LLFAs. Every authority appears to approach this differently. All to send comments to HT.