

Meeting Agenda

Name of meeting		Flood and Water Management Group Meeting	
Location		MS Teams	
Date		01/07/2025	
Time/Duration		10.00-12.00	
Chairperson		Doug Hill	
Agenda Items:			
Time	Item No	Item	Presenter
Welcome/Introductions			
10:00	1	Apologies from Hilary from LGA and Innes from ADA. Updates to be sent with minutes.	DH
Chair/ADEPT Updates			
10:05	2	Chair Updates Meeting updates Infrastructure Bill currently going through parliament. Conversation around Flooding and Drainage Boards, keep an eye on. Fair Funding Review runs until 15 th August. Does cover flood risk management and how LA's funding is calculated. Looking to simplify. See LGA email. DH attending meeting with the EA National Strategy Team on 8 th July which is a Spending Review special. The ADEPT Environment Quarterly Board meeting on 14 th July. Partnership Funding Consultation runs until the end of the month. We will be having a standalone meeting on 18 th July to start formulating ADEPT response.	DH KR DH
		Environment Board updates ADEPT have recently launched a new Digital Academy. Fully funded through the apprenticeship levy. Introductory webinar on 10 th July. Also recently launched Carbon Leadership Programme which is fully funded. We've hosted a number of webinars on LGR and devolution. If you have missed these, we can share recordings with you. Launched the RAPID adaptation pathways toolkit, which is available on the website. Leadership development programme for aspiring directors. Deadline is Friday 4 th July.	

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		We have the Autumn conference coming up, booking site goes live today. The Land Use Framework details are on the website. We are doing a response to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill – Part 3 Environmental Delivery Plans and Nature Restoration Fund. If anyone wants to contribute let Kyle know. Flood Re meeting Flood Re meeting 8th July. Looking at the work they have been doing for LA's and the Flood Re Academy.	
10:15	3	Theme lead updates Update on Flood Resilience Taskforce VC – Chaired by Minister Hardy. Held at Fire and Rescue Centre in Liverpool. Fire service talked about the importance of warning and in particular getting the public to comply when they are asked to evacuate. Flooding in basements was also a talking point especially around the diving capacity, they don't have people set up to do that. They need the LA's to encourage people to leave their homes when asked and the importance of timely evacuation. The overhaul of the Flood Warning System was discussed. Whilst SW is not included at the moment, they are looking to see if it's possible. There is a New Met Office supercomputer, it can run weather patterns and make predictions a lot quicker, which should make forecasting easier. This also fed into a talk around insurance. The insurance companies are thinking about sending someone out when flooding occurs to support residents. Belwin Scheme and Flood Recovery Framework. Spoke to Jo from the MHCLG before the meeting to discuss the feedback from ADEPT and. (Review teams call). She said that a lot of the ideas had already been tested, and she wasn't keen on them but willing to revisit with me. But I'm still waiting on a reply. Our concerns were raised in the Resilience Taskforce meeting but will be discussed outside the meeting. They said they have only activated the framework four times and do not want the public to rely upon it, it's just a special case measure. Final item was that National Government have created a tool to identify vulnerable people. Next meeting is going to be focused on preparedness and revisiting the flood warning system item.	VC GW MarHu RK

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	• SuDS Non-technical standards GW - New standards are a welcomed improvement. Paul Shafer has helped produce some slides that compare the old standards with the new, link here https://www.linkedin.com/posts/paul-shaffer-2b4a128_suds-sustainable-drainage-flood-resilience-activity-7341721861258440704-0Wj5?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAA7gvdUBGNkYSxBajCLHEK4rHUhXd46U_2c ASA has a survey out at the moment looks at what the new standards are looking at how we can implement https://forms.office.com/e/MMGecA84eY. Looking at how to integrate with the TCPA training in conjunction with the EA. National consistency the key. Looking at giving ourselves a 3-6 month period before we say the new standards are required so that we can ensure we understand them and that there are tools in place from HR Wallingford and that those that use PO Drainage and Causeway have the correct calculations. ASA are having an investigation period to work out how best to support members and we will work on getting training, webinars and a workshop out. It is up to each individual LLFA how they wish to implement however we think it's better to have an industry consensus, so we avoid confusion. General consensus from the group is that they are welcome but will take time to implement and lots of reservations about the resource to implement every standard. DH recommends doing a standalone session with ASA to deep-dive into the standards. Action 1 – DH, EF and GW to organise standalone session with ASA to cover non-technical standards. • SW roundtable Mar Hut – Asked to do a presentation for the South-West on the challenges of SW management. Breakout session was about the experience of SW flooding. What the challenges were like the lack of powers we have. Limited funding and incentives to landowners. Jonathan Hunter delivered a presentation on NaFRA2 – quite negative feedback. Presentation about the flooding in Valencia – 620mm in 2 hours. Worst we've had in this country is 240 mm in a few hours in Wrentham in Norfolk. Rapid Flood Guidance has a new briefing coming out in the Summer, with funding for 12 months. Rapid being defined as any flooding that occurs within 3 hours of rain starting. • Knowledge hub	
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		Proposal to start using the platform Knowledge Hub for comms. Other organisations use it such as LGA and ASA. Avoid repetitive emails and makes collaborating on consultations easier. Current way of doing things is harder when Emily is on A/L for example as she is the only one that sends out the emails. Using knowledge hub would also be good for discussions and asking questions or seeking advice. It's a private group and you can make separate groups. Allows for multiple group facilitators You can switch on email notifications, so you get reminded when things are posted. We have a poll to see whether this is something the group agrees with. Results are 81% think it is a good idea, 19% don't like the idea. Link to knowledge hub Welcome - Knowledge Hub EF – Of those that don't like the idea could you please let me know why you have reservations? It is important we consider all views prior to roll out. Action 2 – If you wish to share why you don't like the idea of knowledge hub please let EF, DH or RK know We will keep track to see if people re using it and if it doesn't work we will try something else.	
Partner Updates			
10.35	4	Defra Letter Response regarding SAB AG - Still no decision on whether to implement Schedule 3. Looking at alternatives of planning delivery, this is why the NPPF was updated in December and the changes to the non-technical standards recently. We intend to consult on national planning policy related to decision making later this year, including policies on flood risk and SuDS. Also, this year, we will consult on ending freehold estates, which will include options to reduce the prevalence of private management arrangements for community assets, including SuDS. If Schedule 3 does get implemented, then we will consult with LA's on impact and resource constraints etc. PF consultation KM – see slides Flood Recovery Framework update KM – Trying to get an update on this from the MHCLG. Once they get back to me I will send out an update via email. Action 3 - KM to update the group of Flood Recovery Framework once she's heard back from MHCLG.	DH KM/Angus Barrett

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		DFE SuDS for schools workshop DfE are holding a virtual SuDS Market Engagement event on the 8th July and it is currently advertised on Find a Grant - https://find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/grants/sustainable-drainage-systems-suds-in-schools-market-engagement-event-1. The objective of the Market Engagement Event is to: - Provide an understanding of the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in schools Grant Scheme. - Improve awareness of the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in schools Grant Scheme. - Share information around the application process and any key areas to be aware of. - Join up Schools with Lead Local Flood Authorities, Water Companies and Charities to form joint bids where possible (through sharing of contact information).	
10.50	5	EA NaFRA2 – feedback and next steps First updates to maps are underway. This is targeting locations where we have received new local modelling or where we're reverting to the national model in place of outdated local models. Around LLFA's are impacted by this update. Those LLFA's will be sent draft data to review towards end of July, with the aim of publishing in early September. Preparing for the next general update. Jersey Banasic will be in touch to ask for any updated local modelling. This is planned for early 2026 and then moved to quarterly updates. We've listened to the feedback we have received regarding the holding comments and depth data. Regarding holding comments, we've created a decision matrix to determine whether it will be a holding comment or a signpost. This guidance is in the Practitioners guide on the SharePoint site. FAQ's will be updated soon. We've changed how depth is represented in the risk of SW flooding. Previously, we used risk bands but now we will show the chance of flooding to a certain depth. We will share materials on this soon. Also investigating sharing raw data outputs with LLFA's similar to what was done in 2013. Currently we filter out low-hazard area but with NaFRA2 we filter based on depth. This means some shallow but fast flowing areas may be excluded.	BG

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		Depth data for planning will be made available in the autumn. Planning to simplify rivers and sea climate change data in flood risk map for planning based on user feedback. These changes will be communicated later this month. Next drop-in session will be held in September. Currently, no planning drop-in session planned but w will keep this under review. Flood Warning System overhaul No update yet. Will send out update as soon as available. There is a webinar on 10th July 11.30-12.30 on Property Flood Resilience Review. Commissioned review to find ways encourage and enable uptake of PFR. Link (https://forms.office.com/e/K1AHQynmm3)	
	6	ADA	To be sent with minutes
	7	LGA	To be sent with minutes
Matters For Discussion			
11.05	8	Independent review of PFR – terms of reference paper included 10 years ago Prof Peter Bonfield published paper on improving property flood resilience - Improving property level flood resilience: Bonfield 2016 action plan - GOV.UK. Commissioned in February by EA to chair and publish independent review and action plan that captures the increased risks and how to minimise the negative impacts of flooding. Voluntary role. Looking at how we get urban surfaces to absorb more what and how to stop water getting into buildings and how to make them resilient inside. Top 5 risks for mortgage lenders is flooding. They need a supply chain that can deliver. A directory of registered licenced builders who are affiliated, loss adjusters and surveyors, builders' merchants and DIY places to stock the products, Construction Products Association to have directories of products. Homeowners need to understand what risks and measures to take to protect themselves, we need to support LA's with the work they are already doing. We need to be more consistent with budgets. We are looking at a 10-year plan that sets out what each stakeholder needs to do in 1, 2, and 5 years. Lots of recommendations to government, for example recommending that the future home standard also looks at climate adaptation including flooding and overheating. We will be publishing on 13th October at the beginning of Flood Action Week. During this week we have a host of activities planned across the country to raise everyone's awareness of flooding.	Prof. Peter Bonfield/ Richard Taylor

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		Since the review in 2016 we have a code of practise, skills training commissioned by EA. New British Standard. We are talking about mainstreaming PFR and what is needed to do that. Number of workshops have taken place. Including one with representatives in the NFF, Flood Mary, Scottish Flood Forum. 100 LA's signed up to the webinar on 10th July. We will send round an email with details. Action 4 – RT to send EF/DH email for circulation on the Flood Resilience Review webinar DH – LA's have concern around the stuff that the Advanced ANC Commission bring out is that they consult us too late. So how much can LA's influence these draft recommendations and actions? PB – It's very open and we want your views on the action plan. We may not have the answers to your questions, but we want to put your views in to really make a difference. Emerging themes regarding the maintenance of PFR is the need for local suppliers. Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) is investigating and delivering PFR for critical community infrastructure/amenities. RT coming to do a site visit. There is a need for reputable suppliers, many LA's have had residents suffer through rogue traders. Brian Berry head of federation of Master Builders is feeding into the review. PB offers to do a standalone session on the review for ADEPT FWMG. Action 5 – DH and EF to organise a standalone session in coming weeks on the PFR review with PB/RT	
11.25	9	Partnership Funding consultation Discussion ahead of meeting on 18th July JM – Please fill in form in chat so we can feed the results into the consultation response. Looking for examples of things we have been struggling with to feed into the consultation. Be good to see the difficulties of funding for maintenance of existing assets and replacement of assets. See slides from KM. JM – Part 1 – Allocation of funding Part 2 – Prioritisation of funding	JM, JF

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		Call for evidence – feels for political. I have taken to our members to discuss the relationship between devolution and flood risk. KW - Are there any transition arrangements for project not in construction, ie that would like to come for decision before Apr 2026? What has been the communication to the RFCC's? How do we keep stakeholders engaged? DH – unintended consequence is that RFCC's are now thinking why would I contribute to something now when in 6 months I might not need to. KM - • We expect all projects in delivery from April 2026 and that do not have contractual commitments in place for construction to move onto the new funding and prioritisation rules. • Projects that have contractual commitments for construction would stay on the existing funding rules. Moving these projects to the new approach to funding could mean agreements have to be amended which could significantly increase costs and slow down delivery. • Part 5 of the consultation document as that sets out transition arrangements Action 6 – DH to raise at meeting with EA of how to manage the impacts of consultation Wakefield would be looking at smaller projects around asset management. Concern is that Councillors would want bigger projects. Need to ensure the rules are still quite strict. This consultation doesn't change the appraisal guidance which had positive and negative points. Deteriorating assets could swamp a projects funding. Could cause stakeholders to be less willing to put in contributions. NGO's now able to apply for funding. Can make schemes quite complicated. No statutory duties. Suggestion - The way forward would be that if NGO's do apply for funding, then their funding bid needs a statement of support from the LLFA. To be discussed further in meeting on 18th July, Concerns that with business cases, EA may have unfair advantage over LA's. There should be some kind of local prioritisation and overview. Action 7 – DH to ensure that NGO's are on the agenda for meeting on 18th July. Action 8 – EF to send form to everyone on mailing list and ask for examples for the call for evidence	
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		Action 9 – EF to extend Partnership Funding consultation meeting to 2 hours with the intention of finishing in 90 minutes	
Matters Arising from Previous Minutes			
11.50		AOB Request from ex-member of ADEPT for a skills matrix that was done approx. 10 years ago. RW recalls and will send to EF. From chat: I'll have to leave at 11:30 but wanted to share an update on a CIRIA guidance document I presented on to this group last year. "Enabling community maintenance for local flood risk management" will be released via a free webinar on 16 July. Three outputs: a guide for community groups, what can be done, how to stay safe, etc. It covers FRM assets, SuDS and NFM. A second guide for RMA's on how to interact and support the community groups that are willing to do some maintenance. And a short brief for strategy/policy staff. Link to the free webinar, feel free to share with your network: https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Navigation/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=E25704&WebsiteKey=3f18c87a-d62b-4eca-8ef4-9b09309c1c91	DH
Next Meeting			
11.55	8	Confirm date of next meeting and close. Wednesday 7th October 2025 10.00 - 12.00	