

ADEPT

Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

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

MEETING
05/10/2021

10:00-13:00

Held via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing software

Present

Alice Dimaline, (AD)
Alys Bishop, Central Bedfordshire Council (ABi)
Andy Hardstaff, Hertfordshire CC, (AH)
Anthony Measures, Environment Agency (AM)
Ashish Patel, Milton Keynes Council (AP)
Chloe Langley, Nottingham City Council (CL)
Dan Varey, National Audit Office (DV)
Daniel Lamb, Warwickshire CC (DL)
Emma Thomson, Environment Agency (ET)
Fox Jessica, Hull City Council, (JF)
Graham Smith, Nottinghamshire CC (GS)
Greenwood, Shirley, Environment Agency (SG)
Hannah Bartram, East Sussex Council (HB)
Hilary Ellis, Cambridgeshire CC (HE)
Hilary Tanner, LGA (HT)
James Blockley, Gloucestershire CC (JB)
Jonathan Hunter, Environment Agency (JH)
Katherine Greig, Flood Re (KG)
Louise Walker, CIRIA (LW)
Lynsay McLean, Environment Agency (LMc)
Max Tant, Kent CC, (Chair) (MT)
Mohamed Admani, Nottingham City Council (MA)
Owen McGivern, Df Infrastructure NI (OMc)
Patricia Cuervo, RB of Kennington & Chelsea (PC)
Paul Cobbing, National Flood Forum (PCb)
Prince Frank, Luton Council (PF)
Richard Davis, National Audit Office (RD)
Sam Archer, Somerset CC (SA)
Steve Wragg, City of York Council (Minutes) (SW)
Steven Tupper, Environment Agency (ST)
Suzanne Bennett, Environment Agency (SB)
Tim Simpson, Essex CC (TS)
Vicki Westall, Hamptonshire CC (VW)
Will Barber, Leicestershire CC (WB)
William Harrington, DEFRA (WH)

Apologies

Jagjit Mahal – Warwickshire
Gary Mcinally – Flood Re
Victoria Coombes – Leicestershire
Innes Thompson – ADA
Martin Hutchings – Devon
Revai Kinsella – East Sussex
Alexander Back – Derbyshire
Melanie Bright – Bedford
Simon Curl - Suffolk

Item No.	Item	Action	Action owners
1	Welcome & introductions	- MT welcomed the group	
2	Update on minutes and actions from previous meetings. Minutes previously circulated from 14/07/21 with notes from the FCERM Stakeholder forum, David Mitchell's presentation and the Flood and Coastal Responsibilities brief		
	DEFRA Update - Sewer Connections	- Action for HE to update all on progress, have met with Anglian Water, discussed right to connect vs capacity issues. Anglian looking to change planning informative to raise clearly with planning authorities. ACTION – HE to share with all once complete	HE
	LLFA Charges	- LLFA Charges survey was to be re-issued, still incomplete. ACTION - to re-issue to provide more evidence, ALL to support	MT
	LFRRS Guidance	In EA Update	
	Living on the Edge update	In EA Update	
	SFRA Best Practice	Final draft with Hayley Bowman for development and publication	
	SW Mapping Presentation	In Agenda	
	Somerset Rivers Authority SuDS Inspections	ACTION - SRA still to share information	ABi
	IDB actions	IT given apologies, the following actions remain open: - ADA met with Minister Rebecca Pow to update and highlight the following. IT to update of outcomes from this at future meeting. - 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.	IT IT
ADEPT FWM review, themes and links with other partners/groups	In Agenda		
3	EA surface water mapping and NAFRA 2 update – Shirley	See presentation shared with minutes Shirley Greenwood and Lynsay McLean Presented. - Overview and ways to involve ADEPT in detail to be covered	

	<p>Greenwood and Lynsay McLean</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2008 first published maps, made public on 2013. Supported 2018 Surface Water Management Action Plan. 2022 version will be version 8. - Actions from the action plan and Sciencewise actions recommended changes to wording and layout of information on the 'Check your long term flood risk' pages. - LLFA supplied SW mapping has enabled more detail and specificity to be provided to the end user. - 'Holding comment' and 'Signpost' facilities allow more detail/local detail to be provided, a decision matrix supports this to justify where this detail could/should be provided, LLFA feedback on this process is requested. - EA working with major insurance and conveyancing companies to ensure the limitations of the data are understood. - A draft template for query response text has been developed to be shared with LLFA's, feedback is requested. <p>ACTION – SG/LM to share: pdf guidance on adding an LLFA statement, details of industry group work on mapping, EA text for query responses.</p> <p>NAFRA2 and SW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcomes from the process include 'all sources' products, areas currently without detailed modelling will benefit. - Local modelling of hotspots will still likely be required, LLFAs should make notes of where these may be to be able to input in to the process. This should include areas that flood regularly or where flooding is known not to correlate to the RoSWM. - LLFA involvement is key to improve quality during the review. <p>ACTION – Task and finish group to be set up to input into SW mapping improvements, nominations requested via MT</p>	<p>SG / LM</p> <p>ALL/MT</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>FRMPs/RBMPs – Jonathan Hunter and Suzanne Bennet</p>	<p>See presentation shared with minutes</p> <p>Jonathan Hunter, Anthony Measures and Suzanne Bennet presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview and progress to date given. - Collaboration between EA and LLFA's has been good. ADEPT/EA task and finish group recognised. - EA and (some) LLFA have statutory duties to prepare plans (63 surface water areas requiring plans) but good collaboration with all LLFAs. - Consultation phase imminent, important to have a united front with partners and public. - Links to national strategy are essential to embed with public and partners and important to show how they complement local strategies. - 3 month consultation to commence 22 October 2021 for FRMPs, 6 month consultation to commence during this period for RBMPs. - LLFAs have a statutory duty to support and promote the consultation. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information pages for the consultation already live on Citizen Space, main consultation pages, information and consultations questions will replace this on the 22nd October. - RBMPs consultation will be run at same time, building on previous 2 consultations – Working Together and Challenges and Choices. - Consultation themes and questions to be developed, input from ADEPT requested. <p>ACTION – All take note of need for collaboration on consultation of FRMP.</p> <p>Action - Joint national RBMP and FRMP session with ADEPT, EOI for attendance by 5th November 2021 via SB or ET.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JH / MT</p>
5	DEFRA updates – Will Harrington	<p>Will Harrington gave an update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress update on governments July 2020 policy statement published including links to the DEFRA investment plan. See: Flood and coastal erosion risk management policy statement: progress update 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). - Summary of responses on the call for evidence on strengthening local circumstances in the funding programme and ways to accelerate the uptake of PFR. - Updates on flood insurance and property resilience, the land use planning policy review, progress against the Surface Water Management Action Plan and progress in developing a new advisory group to inform future policy proposals to reform local flood risk management planning through a catchment based approach: - Environment Bill nearing end of Parliamentary stages, currently with the House of Lords. See https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-environment-bill-strengthened-to-halt-biodiversity-loss-by-2030. Under this update, Schedule 3 of FWMA to be reviewed, and review of right to connect to be included. - Queries received around PFR grant closures in a number of locations, responses to be provided to all. - Cabinet review has left key MP's in post across Defra, Michael Gove in post as SoS for Levelling Up. Housing and Communities, this role will link strongly to the delivery flood resilience activities. 	
6	EA updates – Steven Tupper and Jonathan Hunter	<p>Steven Tupper and Jonathan Hunter (JH) delivered the update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Strategy Action Plan update provided and prior request for future reporting to be improved is being developed. Ready for external steering group input, workshops will be developed following this during November. - Update on the plan and roadmap to 2025/2026 will be published in Spring 2022. <p>ACTION – detail on workshops to be provided after meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JH gave overview on liaison with WASCs, JH is the lead for FCERM Strategy Objective 2.7 <i>'By 2030 water companies will plan for their infrastructure to be resilient to flooding and coastal change'</i> - <i>'from 2020 water companies and other risk management</i> 	<p>ST</p>

		<p><i>authorities (RMAs) will work together to inform drainage and sewerage management plans to improve resilience to surface water and drainage flood risks.’.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback through survey in July is welcome, good level of responses, has led to three recommendations: <table border="1" data-bbox="475 309 1382 1039"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="475 309 1018 405">What</th> <th data-bbox="1018 309 1145 405">When</th> <th data-bbox="1145 309 1382 405">Who</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 405 1018 613">A summary of good practice examples of engagement in the DWMP process should be developed and shared between WaSCs and RMAs</td> <td data-bbox="1018 405 1145 613">By end Dec 2021</td> <td data-bbox="1145 405 1382 613">Water UK and Environment Agency</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 613 1018 864">DWMP stakeholders should agree data sharing principles. It may be possible to transfer learning from WaSCs that have already have data sharing agreements with their partners.</td> <td data-bbox="1018 613 1145 864">By end Dec 2021</td> <td data-bbox="1145 613 1382 864">WaSCs and their DWMP stakeholders</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 864 1018 1039">Guidance on how co-developed solutions from the DWMP can lead to co-funded and co-delivered schemes</td> <td data-bbox="1018 864 1145 1039">By end Dec 2021</td> <td data-bbox="1145 864 1382 1039">Ofwat (potentially others)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fantastic opportunity to influence the water companies, will run the survey again next year. - LFRMS Guidance ‘live framework’ hosted and being tested on the LGA website, will be available to LLFA’s in late Autumn. - Will link and share best practice across RMA networks. <p>See LFRMS PowerPoint slide provided with the minutes.</p>	What	When	Who	A summary of good practice examples of engagement in the DWMP process should be developed and shared between WaSCs and RMAs	By end Dec 2021	Water UK and Environment Agency	DWMP stakeholders should agree data sharing principles. It may be possible to transfer learning from WaSCs that have already have data sharing agreements with their partners.	By end Dec 2021	WaSCs and their DWMP stakeholders	Guidance on how co-developed solutions from the DWMP can lead to co-funded and co-delivered schemes	By end Dec 2021	Ofwat (potentially others)	
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7	ADA Update – Innes Thompson	<p>See ADA Update provided with the minutes, this covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of an Environmental Good Governance Guide. - NOW PUBLISHED – a suite of biodiversity metrics for IDBs. - Ending of exemption on the use of red diesel by IDBs. - ADA Technical Seminar taking place pm on 20th October. - ADA focussing on climate change adaptation and resilience. - ELMS. - ADA Annual Conference. - ADA-CLA Keeping our Rivers Flowing Summit was successfully held on 24th June. - Continued administrative support and assistance to the Association of SuDS Authorities. 													
8	ADEPT updates – Hannah Bartram	<p>Hannah Bartram gave an update</p> <p>Transport and Connectivity Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recently published a policy challenge on the DfT de-carbonisation plan published in the summer. 													

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The board is working with Network Rail on level crossing safety and links to local HA's. <p>Engineering Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with DfT to gather evidence for the spending review into highways maintenance funding needs and how this should be presented to Treasury. - Working with DfT on EV charging. <p>Sustainable Growth Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes at SoS level influencing the board, links to Levelling up Agenda are being made. White Paper expected soon. - Shared Prosperity fund to be considered by the board, likely links in new budget. <p>Environment Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awaiting Environment Bill outcomes, links to net gain, recovery networks and green infrastructure will be key. - HGV driver shortages being considered specifically around waste management, school bus provision and likely impacts on winter highway management. - NAO links into the board, Net Zero report being considered. <p>All details on the ADEPT website and newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MT gave overview of links with Julie Foley at EA and quarterly meetings with ADEPT, will improve links between the groups and delivery of the National Strategy. - HB provided the link for the Excellence in Place Leadership 2022 call for applications: EXCELLENCE IN PLACE LEADERSHIP 2022 - call for applications ADEPT (adeptnet.org.uk) 	
9	<p>NAO Presentation: Recommendations for flood risk management and the upcoming spending review – Keith Davies</p>	<p>See presentation shared with minutes</p> <p>Richard Davis presented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report published in November 2020, reviewed the existing programme of funding and readiness of all agencies to deliver the new programme. - A clearer sense of direction was recommended, Defra has subsequently published an investment plan, initial thoughts are that this has delivered against this recommendation. - The tools used to measure the impact of the programme were recommended for improvement, homes better protected was felt to be weak and more evidence around programme impact was needed. The EA are updating and regular reports on levels of risk and programme impact will be provided. - Funding issues provided further areas for recommendation. Understanding around the local levels of funding needs was found to be weak. Funding to deprived areas was found to be declining. A review of the understanding around both issues was required. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The regional variance in funding allocations was considered and the report recommended that Defra developed a better understanding of the reasons behind this. - The impact of funding cycles on flood risk delivery was noted, the usage of 6 year cycles was seen to be a way of mitigating this and a recommendation was made to continue this cycle of funding. - A final recommendation was made for Defra to strengthen its overview of the EA, governance processes have been improved as a result of this. - Further findings identified a continued need to streamline local flood and coastal erosion plans and the need to ensure capacity and skills shortages do not prevent delivery of the EA programme. <p>MT questioned if DEFRA have formally responded, although DEFRA accept the report a formal response has not been made. Further work by the Public Accounts Committee has resulted in similar recommendations and Defra are likely to respond formally to this</p>	
10	ADEPT FWM themes	<p>MT outlined the previous discussion to have 6 theme leads and two additional work areas, we have had volunteers to lead on the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skills and training – Mohamed Adami, Nottingham City - Communities and resilience – Andy Hardstaff, Herts CC - Asset management and land drainage – Hilary Ellis, Cambridgeshire CC <p>There are still vacancies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modelling and mapping - Nature-based solutions - Plans and strategies <p>Existing thematic areas already have leads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SUDS - ASA - Policy and funding – Alys and Max <p>ACTION - MT asked for anyone who would like to volunteer for the remaining themes to get in touch</p> <p>ACTION - MT asked for volunteers to get involved in the review of DWMPs, this is an evolving and growing area and has linkages to the Modelling and Mapping theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EA have asked for ways in which to streamline their input into wider Local Authority groups i.e. ADEPT, ASA etc. Chairs to meet quarterly and consider a common update from the EA to be then used by all groups 	<p>ALL/MT</p> <p>ALL/MT</p>
11	AOB	- None	
12	Next meeting date	10am, 25 th January 2022 via Teams	