



## Working Groups

To help focus the conversation the Environment Agency is setting up five working groups to develop the ambition, ideas and actions for the FCERM Strategy. These will support the process of generating, developing, assessing, refining and prioritising ideas. The groups will cover the four core questions plus a fifth group focussing on the overall ambition of the Strategy.

The ambition working group will be the first to form, refining the 25 year ambition set during the scoping phase and providing a starting point for the other groups.

## What does being involved mean?

We will hold working group meetings either via the phone (viewing shared images on your screens) so you don't need to travel, with occasional face to face meetings.

Being part of these working groups will mean you:

- commit to active participation at meetings (via phone or face to face) approximately once a month over summer 2018
- engage and discuss with your own organisation and networks following the meetings to help inform your thinking and views
- take opportunities to engage specific sectors and feed back
- develop ideas between working group meetings.

The Environment Agency will support Working Groups, providing administrative support, venues, facilitators and analysis or evidence between meetings.

## Anything we can't discuss?

No! That said our focus has to be on things we can do within the current legislative and policy framework; particularly when it comes to the short-term actions to meet our ambitions. We have described the elements of this framework for each working group in terms of the legislation, policies, and facts we can't change in the near future – we call these our flood family's anchor points.

## Working group timeline

The working groups will come together in late May / early June, meeting monthly until September. Dates for these meetings are currently being confirmed. During this time, the working groups will develop a series of ideas to inform the FCERM Strategy. These ideas will be tested against the ambition, reviewed by the Advisory Group and fed into the Strategy.

Over the summer, the working groups will:

- develop the ambition of the working group for 2050
- generate the ideas of how to make the ambition happen and who does what
- agree the immediate actions over the next 5 years to make the first steps towards starting to deliver that ambition

To get involved and have your say in any of these working groups, please contact [FCERMStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:FCERMStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk) with the groups you would like to join.

## FCERM 2050 Ambition Working Group

### What will flood and coastal erosion risk management look like in 2050?

This group will set out the 25 year ambition for the FCERM Strategy, considering what flood and coastal erosion risk management will look like in 2050.

#### Working group timeline

This group will meet initially on Wednesday 23 May, with further meetings held monthly over the summer. It will build on the work started by the scoping group to develop a working ambition. The development of the ambition will inform the four other working groups to assist with their generation of ideas that will form the Strategy. The ambition will be reviewed and refined over summer as the other working groups develop the content that will feed into the Strategy.

#### Initial questions to consider

- ➔ What will the values and principles of the flood family be in 2050?
- ➔ How do we want the landscape of flood and coastal erosion risk management to look in 2050?
- ➔ How will the flood family develop to enable us to reach our objectives in 2050?

#### Anchor points

Core question	What's not within our gift?		What opportunities are there?
	Legislation, policy, fact	Principles, values	
What do we all want to protect and how collectively can we fund it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership funding policy</li> <li>• Environment Agency/Government make funding decisions supported by RFCC</li> <li>• We cannot stop all flooding &amp; there are some places we cannot protect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We take account of future climate change</li> <li>• We protect those at highest risk</li> <li>• We expect &amp; support resilience</li> <li>• We provide an 'emergency service'</li> </ul>	
How can we all put water at the heart of everyone's decision making?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National planning policy &amp; housing targets</li> <li>• Some properties will be built at risk in the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want water to be considered early in plans</li> <li>• Water should not be a constraint</li> <li>• We want to develop better places for people &amp; the environment</li> </ul>	
What part do individuals, communities and businesses play?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory roles &amp; responsibilities around flood and coastal erosion risk management</li> <li>• Environment Agency/ Government make scheme decisions</li> <li>• Communities have different capacity / desire to be involved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear, open information &amp; data – shared freely between organisations and the public</li> <li>• We want to work in a way that allows communities to be part of the team</li> </ul>	
How do we develop the current roles and responsibilities of professional partners to be effective, simple and clear?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory roles &amp; responsibilities around flood and coastal erosion risk management</li> <li>• There are those with vital roles which are not statutory</li> <li>• Not everyone will have the funding they need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want everyone to be clear on their role &amp; their part in the mosaic</li> <li>• We all need to play our part &amp; be held to account</li> <li>• We need to develop, maintain &amp; share skills &amp; capability</li> </ul>	

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## **Protection & Funding Working Group**

### **What do we all want to protect and how can we collectively fund it?**

This group will consider the challenge of protecting – and funding – the nations' resilience as climate change increases the risk we face.

#### **Initial questions to consider**

- ➔ Do we 'maintain' current protection as climate change increases risk, 'improve' or make a different choice?
- ➔ What level of climate risk should we account for?
- ➔ How can we adapt for the risk we can't protect against?
- ➔ What level of protection will communities and businesses have? Will / should it be the same everywhere?
- ➔ Will certain groups (households for example) continue to be considered a greater priority?
- ➔ How will Shoreline Management Plans be used to manage or adapt to coastal erosion?
- ➔ How will this be funded?
- ➔ What will expectations be with respect to resilience in the face of climate change?
- ➔ Will our current incident response model be able to manage this?

## **Water Focused Decision Making Working Group**

### **How can we all put water at the heart of everyone's decision making?**



This group will look at how we can ensure everyone considers water early in their planning and decision making so it's built in rather than risk being an after-thought.

#### **Initial questions to consider**

- ➔ Can we develop place-based plans that take account of water?
- ➔ Who do we need to engage?
- ➔ What's the benefit to them and how do we engage them?
- ➔ When are the opportunities to achieve this?
- ➔ Can we build in adaptive triggers to these plans so they can respond to climate change so building in resilience?
- ➔ How can Shoreline Management Plans be built into plans for local areas to help communities?

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## **Communities & Businesses Working Group**

### **What part do individuals, communities and businesses play?**

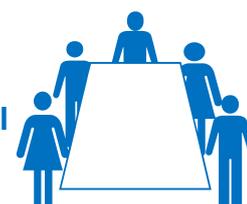
This group will look at how those with statutory responsibilities work with communities and business with all being part of the flood family. It will consider what our expectations should be of each other and how the way we work together can be developed and improved.

#### **Initial questions to consider**

- ➔ How do we ensure everyone is clear on what protection / level of service they can expect – and what is expected of them?
- ➔ What would that look like and how would it be used?
- ➔ How do we develop a common & shared language for flood and coastal risk that inspires action? And how do we describe 'resilience' to the public so it is seen positively?
- ➔ How can we help stop water being seen as a 'problem' for society so we learn to live with the extremes?
- ➔ How do we meet the expectations of the range of communities we serve from those who are willing and enable to play an active part and those who do not have the capacity or desire?
- ➔ How do we reach those at risk who have never been flooded / affected by coastal change?
- ➔ How can we make it easier for people to make their homes and businesses more easily recoverable from unavoidable floods and coastal erosion?

## **Roles & Responsibilities Working Group**

### **How do we develop the current roles and responsibilities of professional partners to be effective, simple and clear?**



This group will consider current flood and water roles and responsibilities to ensure accountabilities are clear and easily understood with any barriers to being able to deliver the ambition recognised and options for evolving identified. It also needs a particular focus on how we can hold one another to account and ensure delivery of responsibilities across the flood family.

#### **Initial questions to consider**

- ➔ Are we clear on roles and responsibilities? If not, how can we describe the current expectations more clearly?
- ➔ Do we understand the barriers / issues that are causing confusion now?
- ➔ How do we reach a place of common understanding so everyone is clear on their own accountabilities?
- ➔ Will the current roles and responsibilities allow us to meet the ambition in the Strategy?
- ➔ What are our minimum expectations of one another & how do we assure these?
- ➔ How can we sustain & improve skills across sector and community?

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