



**FCERM Strategy 2050 Ambition Working Group
Webex – Wednesday 23 May 2018
11:30 – 13:00**

1. Strategy Update and 4 Core Questions

Core questions and themes:

- Some consideration of language in the core questions – it is an important issue, and there are many conversations on how we get this right. The FCERM Strategy Team are logging the elements of language that need developing (including “protect”). The preference is to focus on the content of the conversation for now and be mindful of working. Getting the right wording will be critical in the Strategy itself.
- “Protection” isn’t always possible – for the coast we may need to consider how risk is “managed” and collectively funded, rather than protected. This is particularly relevant on the East coast, where adaptation is a big driver.
- There will be a work research strategy that accompanies the FCERM strategy which will outline where further research is needed to support the implementation of the FCERM strategy as part of the action plan and will feed into the joint Defra, EA & Welsh government research programme supporting all RMAs.
- The emerging Defra policy statement is relatively a short-term political statement, the strategy should consider its longer term ambition. i.e. core questions – need to stay in existing regulations and funding. In the long-term we need to consider things outside of the immediate legislative and regulatory framework to make sure we are ambitious.
- Concern that current policy can be constraining – e.g. integrating flood risk management into other longer term infrastructure and development programmes/projects (current policy targets projects towards existing properties/communities, missing opportunities to take a more integrated approach).

ACTION	OWNER
iCASP to support further work on evidence pack if appropriate	RM/CD
Explain how we achieve the ambition within the current rules of today - building on the conversation now and working on the need to articulate how the anchor points work	CD

2. Objectives for 25 years

Communities feel safer and are thriving. Disruption to people, homes and businesses is minimised. The public can live their lives, and can cope with flooding.

- This is the biggest challenge - We want communities to sign up to this and we need to find the balance between the Public expectation level and the response to this - the element of people accepting that flooding will happen, but people accepting that it's part of their responsibility to make them more resilient. Supporting Evidence will be really critical in making a compelling story to develop behaviour and culture change to manage this.
- This is wider than communities - the State can cope with flooding together with the English community. This includes the economy, government, and the broader economic and social frameworks – they should be able to prosper.
- Flooding will happen – we need a wider acknowledgment of this and we need to go beyond the communities affected to ensure that others are supportive, e.g. the media and wider community. The media reacts to major flood events –who to blame rather than acknowledging the evidence of flooding and supporting the community themselves.
- We can make communities feel safer with knowledge and information. Give them more objective information they can live with. There is current EA internal work on measuring the improvements that are made over the 25 years of the Environment Plan. We need to be more explicit – flooding is part of the environment.

FCERM activities will improve the natural and built environment as well as reducing flood and coastal risk

- Suggestion to amend to 'FCERM would be integrated into the broader management of place and would improve the natural and built environment as well as producing flood and coastal risk'.
- This is the opportunity to emphasise the need to work more at catchment scale. There needs to be more reflection of the appropriate scale of actions.
- Justice perspective needs adding in terms of all communities. We need also to be thinking about those places where in the long run, with the impact of climate change, some locations simply may become the ones that strategically we might have considered moving away from. We might need to assist these communities with a process of moving them rather than protecting them. The whole process needs to be accountable and transparent.

We are resilient to the effects of a changing climate. Adaptive measures are widespread.

- More clarity required around this statement. It needs to be more specific: what do we want to make resilient and what are we making it resilient to? It's more than just climate change.
- The futures work will help us articulate this better. Resilience to climate change needs to be inherent in all these objectives.
- It is important to have a plan for futures reflecting on how we implement measures and the decisions for the futures in the short and long term, a plan for the way forward.
- It needs to be considered that Flood Risk Management is in itself infrastructure. It's not there just to protect infrastructure. We need to look at infrastructure focussing on what is needed incorporating growth or other economic aspects and benefits, thinking proactively when developing new housing sites for example.
- On infrastructure and climate change, we need to make sure we are aligned with both the Committee on Climate Change and National Infrastructure Commission.

- Need to recognise how the local planning authority deal with flood risk in their plans considering economic growth and making development more resilient.
- There is a discrepancy between national and local planning and we need a vision to integrate these two work areas.
- We need to consider resilience of what, to what event and to what purpose. On the planning aspect, we need to plan adaptation measures on all interventions not just in flood risk.

Flood insurance is available and affordable for all those who own and live in properties at flood risk

- Need to include business, especially small businesses.
- Need to have conversation with DEFRA to define where this is between Policy Statement and Strategy.
- On the use of word resilience, we need to be careful however there is space here to add something on recovery.
- Need to make sure it's a realistic objective.

3. Engagement Process

The working groups will feedback to the ambition group. If a member is not able to attend a specific meeting, they can send someone from the organisation or buddy up with someone who has expressed interest. There will be a functional webpage to share documents too.

Actions:

ACTION	OWNER
Make sure resilience to climate change is inherent in all these objectives	CD
To consider emotional recovery as well as financial	Group
To think about how engage with the younger generations and audience	CD
Ensure draft objectives are measurable	Group

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 28th June

VENUE: Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham B4 7XG