

FCERM Strategy 2050 Communities & Businesses Working Group
 Face to face workshop 11 September 2018
 10:30 – 15:30

Meeting objectives

- Understand progress since the last meeting of the working group.
- Evaluate the ideas for change that are relevant to this working group.
- Understand the next steps in the strategy development process:
 - Further evaluation of ideas and alignment with the outputs of other working groups.
 - Timetable for drafting the strategy, the public consultation and key milestones to publication.
- Influence the ongoing role of working group members and opportunities to continue contributing to the development of the strategy.

Strategy Update

We are now in the fourth stage of developing the strategy focusing on evaluation of the Ideas for Change generated by the Working Groups. Feedback from the Ambition Working Group meeting on 22 August was presented.

No discussion on strategy update.

Evidence update

An update on the evidence process was presented including gaps in evidence that have been identified so far. Additional evidence can be provided until 19 October 2018.

Discussion:

- The Evidence Pack will be presented alongside the strategy at public consultation. The Evidence Pack will then form part of the Case for Change.

Ideas Evaluation

The group analysed the Ideas for Change using a four stage evaluation process in order to identify ideas that the group agreed are:

1. Nationally strategic
2. Achieve the FCERM strategy ambitions and supporting statements

3. Fit the guiding principles

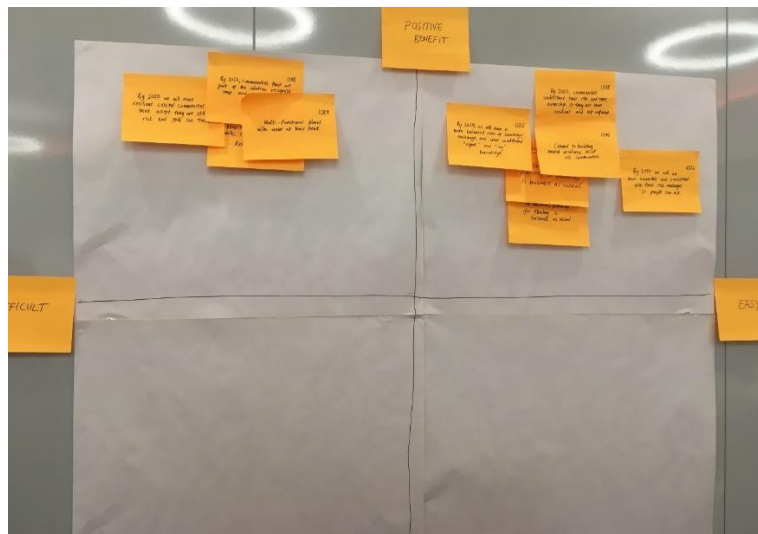
Comments on evaluation process:

- The ambition statements are draft and comments are welcomed on these during phase 2 of the evaluation process.
- The ideas presented are composed from a larger set generated at the July workshops.
- These ideas can be amended– Working group encouraged to make changes as appropriate.
- To what degree have the actions been analysed? We need to focus on the ideas before the actions are fully understood.

Comments following phase 3 of the evaluation process:

- Five ideas have been 'parked' resulting in nine ideas for the Communities and Businesses working group to analyse – need to ensure these ideas consider all Working Group focuses.
- The Environment Agency will be reviewing the ideas worked on by all Working Groups to identify gaps.
- This has been a positive process; it is good to have space and time to collaborate
- The challenges are tough!
- A lot has happened today; have we got the whole picture? e.g. civil contingencies – there are a lot of moving parts.
- Language that was used in July is different to what is being used now within these ideas.
- Had to interpret the ideas today and therefore may have lost the original essence of the ideas (i.e. what people originally meant in July)
- Names were recorded on the original July ideas so it will be possible to contact the original creators as well as compare the amended ideas with the originals, however this is a development process.
- There is a chance that the original person may not remember/remember differently
- Language was very vague on some of the ideas and difficult to understand exactly what had been said in July
- What has been written down is not how the ambitious verbal conversations would have been said – wording is critical. The Environment Agency will now need to add the ambitious back in.
- The ambition to plan until 2050 is a long time to wait for some of these ideas to be delivered e.g. define roles and responsibilities. Out 2050 ambition are quite conservative in places.
- Need to clarify the difference between the end goal of the ideas and midway aims

Discussion on phase four of the evaluation process:



ID8: Maximising media and public comms after floods. Retaining when dry.

- Fundamentally changed to become strategic rather than tactical. There is potentially a gap around recovery – what is normal for recovery. We need a national approach to support recovery. Need to focus on recovery continuously. Need to define recovery – what kind of national framework is needed? Need to check that JBA have collected this type of evidence.

ID44: By 2050 we will have resilient coastal communities that accept they are still at risk but still live there

- '2050' was removed from this idea because timeframe not relevant. Adaptation is key to delivery of the idea. It may be difficult to deliver this idea because changes in funding mechanisms and policy would be needed. However, there are already examples of delivery now i.e. getting people to adapt. Need to clarify the wording to include coastal.

ID18: By 2050, communities that are part of the solution recognise that and act on it. Even when they're not at risk themselves but their actions (e.g. tarmac driveways) could affect others.

- Idea amended to remove challenging words such as 'educate'. Moved the idea towards 'water' management. Delivery will be around changing mindsets and ways of working.

ID39: Multi-functional places with water at their heart

- Amended to accommodate planning approaches/policy. At the moment planning is limited in scope by the number of partners involved – it is unclear who leads. We need to refine and identify the leads. Need catchment scale approach and need to fund staff for longer time periods – we know the shortfalls but must address these. Need to recognise planning as a holistic approach e.g. we need personal planning.

ID23: By 2050, we will have a more balanced view of knowledge exchange, and what constituted “expert” and “lay” knowledge

- Amended language to avoid ‘expert’ and ‘lay’ terms. This idea would need a cultural change because there is nothing stopping us delivering this at the moment. If this idea was embedding into communities it could be delivered but also need to change the mind-sets of people who deliver the engagement. Defra, Environment Agency and the ‘flood family’ have power and resources which could allow this idea to be delivered. This would represent a change of approach by everyone. The Environment Agency value the community but to quantify spending resources needs to value the measurement of engaging with communities. We do not capture the value of engaging with communities after a flood and this needs to be explored i.e. how would this be properly resourced.

ID46 and ID58 (merged)

ID46: Commit to building mental resilience in at risk communities.

ID58: By 2020, communities understand their role and take ownership so they are more resilient and self sufficient

- The National Flood Forum could be integral to deliver this idea because it is a neutral group, however funding would be required. Communities need to understand that they do not need to wait for help, they should be proactive. We are only one ‘blue planet’ moment away from dramatic change if we are able to empower communities.

ID34a ID34b: For businesses, planning for flooding is business as usual.

- Businesses are vital to the recovery process. ‘Businesses’ are a spectrum of different needs and this idea was separated to reflect this e.g. big businesses often have contingency planning whereas SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) might not. ‘Business in the community’ are doing this already so we should not repeat but use their approach. In one local area there is a shortfall in planning and recovery – there is a general shortfall in actions by businesses. Need to involve the trade unions because they often have a climate change policy. SMEs need clarity on what flood planning entails – SMEs already have to ensure business continuity planning which councils enforce but how can councils reach every business.

ID26: By 2050 we will be more accessible and consistent with flood risk messages so people can act.

- Consistency does not necessarily mean identical. This idea does not need an policy change but need cultural change. ‘By 2050’ should be removed if we want to be bold but cultural change is really difficult to deliver. Behavioural change should be bottom up because communities do not care apart from wanted a solution. The Ambition Group has been discussing the fundamental issue of behavioural change.

New ideas

- The non-flood dictionary – words to use with caution. Start a twitter activity to raise awareness of how this impacts on partnership working.
- We will embrace changing dynamics and innovation (for example new sectors) and bring them into place sooner.
- Agencies and partners make space for and proactively seek valuable input from communities and businesses i.e. communities and businesses are integral partners and decision makers
- Communities own the problem. Agencies work for communities and businesses
- Split ID34 into SME (focus of idea) and big businesses – the need for a new idea to focus on that. Big business idea: ‘The strategy will look to optimise the role of big businesses in delivering FCERM’
- Fund National Flood Forum sufficiently to successfully deliver all ideas
- Fund National Flood Forum to have a representative on all RFCCs to represent communities and businesses – currently only Severn RFCC and Anglian RFCC represented

Notes and queries written

- There are different types of businesses e.g. large/small/for profit/not for profit. How does the strategy take this into account?
- What is a community? This needs a definition in the strategy e.g. geographical, communities of interest. Need to tailor things e.g. cabinet office does this
- Who is ‘we’?
- Communities knowledge is not valued
- Individuals and communities understand their risk (rather than ‘accept’)

Next steps discussion

Developing the strategy is a collaborative process and that collaborative process will continue over the next few months. The group discussed how this continued collaboration may work.

- These face to face meetings are really positive and we prefer these rather than WebEx meetings.
- It’s been a learning process for the Environment Agency and we have benefitted seeing you face to face to have useful conversations.
- I’ve learnt a lot from this collaborative process.
- During the public consultation it would be good to have sight of the comments.

Actions and next steps:

ACTION	OWNER
Circulate meeting notes & upload to website	Environment Agency