



**FCERM Strategy 2050 Communities & Business Working Group
Webex – Wednesday 8 August, 2018
10:30 – 12.30**

Meeting objectives

- Describe the initial outputs of the Working Groups – with an initial look across all of the Working Group “Ideas for Change” with a focus on this individual working group.
- Explain how the Working Group will be evaluating the ideas produced so far in the September workshops and discuss the technical checklist that will be used.
- Describe links between the National FCERM Strategy 2050 and the government’s 25 Year Environment Plan.
- Describe the key findings from your feedback.

Ideas for Change

July 2018 FCERM Strategy Working Groups: Cross cutting themes

The July working groups focused on ideas for change. Cross-cutting themes identified across the groups were presented.

A summary of key ideas discussed by each working group were also presented.

Discussion

- The safety of people in communities is a big issue, with increasing risk over the long term with climate change. All floods are different, so lack of preparedness for different possibilities could threaten peoples’ safety. We should not just consider safety before and after the event, but also during. Incident management and evacuation are given less focus than response and as severity of floods get worse we should look at this more widely.
- We must plan for and consider people in transit and transient communities – travelling by rail, driving through floods, traveller sites, camping and caravan sites.
- Public safety is key and we must become better at involving the media. However, the media often creates a blame culture, creating a barrier to recovery, in getting communities and businesses up and running again. We must work with media to try and reduce that problem.
- Flooding needs to be taken as seriously as fire though “prevention” shouldn’t be used - people understand protection better.
- We need to change culture so people accept that there is a risk of flooding reoccurring and reduce likelihood of appointing blame for flooding. Being proactive

before flooding happens may help get behaviour change on the ground and we can learn from how others, such as the fire service, have achieved this.

- There need to be bolder messages that peoples' own behaviour and actions can create floods, such as blocked sewers. This should be a joint message from water companies/RMAs/Environment Agency campaigns/education/investment. We have to be clear about wording, ensuring the 'we' is not just the Environment Agency, but is universally understood as more collaborative. If we are top down with education and campaigns these won't get very far.
- There is a widespread fear of flooding. How do we help people living with flooding, and the prospect of repeated flooding?
- We must move away from thinking about only FCERM towards wider water management strategy and solutions and consider community involvement and responsibility, such as local solutions for storage of flood water. We must think about what actions will shift us to thinking collaboratively about water management resources and solutions.

Evaluation

Technical Evaluation Checklist



The draft topics for a technical evaluation checklist were presented and discussed by the working group. This checklist will form the main process of evaluating ideas for change at the September workshop. Ideas will be 'scored' at the September workshop using a ++/+/0/-/-- system.

Discussion – technical evaluation checklist

- Generally need be more explicit about what all of these topics mean.
- There is an issue of producing evidence bases. The community knowledge and evidence they currently hold within their groups needs to be fed back to strengthen our evidence base. If there is contradictory or insufficient evidence, we need to undertake more research.
- Evidence could be split into 3 subsections: Existing supports, evidence contradicts, evidence doesn't exist.
- Example is that Property Flood Resilience is a few years away from having the full picture and buy-in.

- Education is important because if people understand FCERM, it becomes second nature. All the solutions need to be flexible and adaptable.
- We need to understand who 'our' is. Our ambitions need to be broad, include communities and move away from the current FCRM silos by having an overall water strategy.
- We shouldn't be constrained by the current legal framework, but may need to adapt to it or update the framework.
- We need to drive cultural/behavioural change if we are making suggestions that aren't currently socially or politically acceptable, e.g. relocating people in flood zones and broaden how we consider 'responsibility' to include the voluntary and not just the obligatory.
- The Strategy needs to be flexible to be able to adapt to changes.
- Responsibility is a requirement to do something – it would be better if people went over and above this requirement.

Feedback

Initial feedback

Initial feedback from the evaluation forms completed by working group members were presented.

A summary of the feedback so far was presented. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. There has been action taken on suggestions for improvements including:

- 'Two thirds are not clear what is happening in other working groups' – this is why the overarching themes were shared at this meeting as well as summaries from each of the working groups. Meeting notes are available on the FCERM strategy 2050 website: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/fcrm-national-strategy-info/> Members were encouraged to get in touch with the strategy team with any other suggestions.

Next meeting

Next meeting date: 11 September, likely to be 10 am – 4 pm

Venue: Millennium Point - Curzon St – Birmingham, B4 7XG

Actions and next steps:

ACTION	OWNER
Circulate meeting notes & publish on website	Environment Agency
Share your thoughts about the technical checklist before 20 August by emailing FCERMstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk	Working group
Complete 'End of Event' evaluation form asap	Working group
Continue to use the DIY engagement material available. Talk to your own networks about ideas for change and any new ideas for change and send back by email before 29 August.	Working group
Continue to send in evidence or research to be considered for the Evidence Pack	Working group
Keep up to date on the website: https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/fcrm-national-strategy-info/	Working group