

FCERM Strategy 2050 Protection & Funding Working Group
Face to face workshop 4 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.
- Influenced 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.

Discussion:

- The working group discussed questions of clarity on the feedback from the Ambition working group.
- The Ambition Group needs to provide a stronger steer on standards. The feedback presented is suggesting all of the various approaches to standards without providing a steer on the preferred thinking.
- Writing the strategy is a collaborative process, so we do not yet know whether the strategy will include targets.
- The purpose of the Ambition Group was discussed briefly – it was clarified that the group focuses on the ‘why’ rather than only ‘ambitions’ despite the name.
- The ideas in the final document for consultation are still to be confirmed, so it is not yet clear how wide-ranging the thinking of the ideas will be.
- Land use needs to consider urban and rural.

- Is standards becoming a distraction? Perhaps this is actually for a decision at a local level instead rather than something we need to continue to debate.
- Do other countries have a country wide standard? The Netherlands do but their standard is slightly different approach and more focused on life saving.
- Our existing approach to standards is respected internationally.

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:

- Throughout this process, evidence gaps have been identified. There are two elements to this evidence discussion – firstly the gaps, i.e what evidence do we need to justify the changes being proposed in the strategy review. The other element is what evidence we may need in the future, achieving this evidence may form part of the actions.
- Evidence is needed in all forms, including social science evidence (for example, what's been working in local communities, anecdotal evidence) as well as academic (for example, peer reviewed journal articles).
- Evidence still required was discussed and members of the group should get in contact if they know existing evidence around:
 - Evidence of what schemes have achieved i.e. post not pre project appraisal including multi objective projects
 - Understanding of ground and surface water and multi-source flood risk & impacts
 - FCERM and building sustainable places – developer/planner inputs.
 - Contribution of FCERM to economic development and growth
- The Thames Barrier providing protection for Canary Wharf is an example of FCERM and building sustainable places.
- Understanding flooding on green land is required as this is often not reported by local communities – is this an evidence gap: 'understanding of ground and surface water and multi-source flood risk & impacts'. Further details will be emailed by working group member.

Ideas Evaluation

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

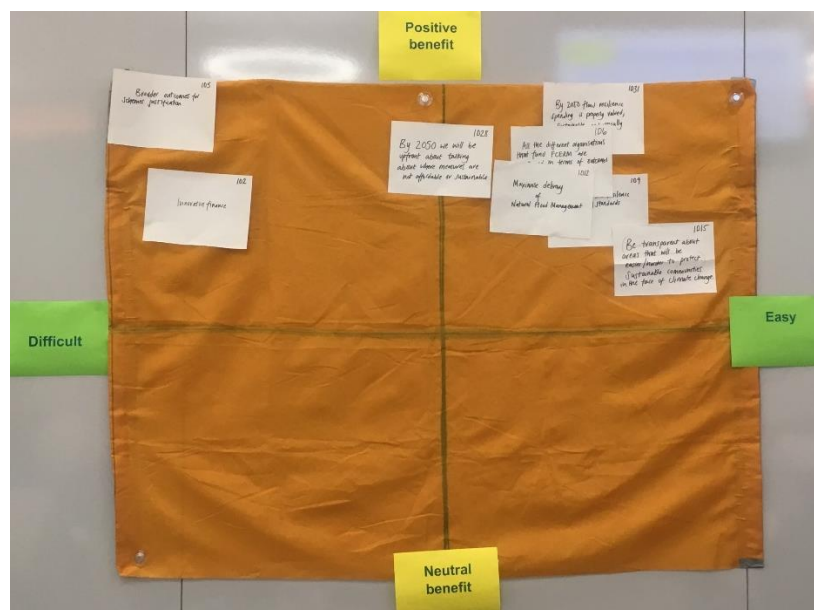
1. Nationally strategic
2. Achieve the FCERM strategy ambitions and supporting statements
3. Fit the guiding principles

Comments on evaluation process:

- The guiding principles were explained as clarity was needed on what these are and difference between the statements.

- There is too much to analyse today – a lot to get through and too many actions to review.
- Summary points do not always align with the idea.
- Ideas Natural Capital (ID11) and Innovative (ID7) were not taken past phase 1 of the evaluation process. The group felt that the idea on Natural Capital was important but was tactical, rather than strategic. The idea would be better as an action of the innovative finance idea (ID2).
- We need to be more specific about what we mean by resilience.
- Would have been useful to have seen this information about ideas before the workshop today – could have been quicker to get started rather than reading everything fresh this morning.
- We are trying to be all things to all people – it would be more useful if the Environment Agency would put forward a suggested position for us to consider and then people could say how they felt against that position.
- We need to define resilience – community or property level.

Discussion on phase four of the evaluation process:



ID9: Minimum flood resilience (outcomes) standard – question over common understanding

- There are no governance or legal constraints to delivering this idea, but it would need funding. This is primarily about protection – not standards.

ID5: Broader outcomes for scheme justification (link to community visioning – how – bring together)

- The group interpreted this idea as ‘wider benefits’. It would be difficult to influence schemes that are needed for multiple benefits, because it requires actions from others. This idea would need legal change.

ID31: By 2050 flood resilience spending is properly valued, sustainable and socially equitable.

- The phrasing of the idea is not clear, it needs rewording. The group felt that funding needs to be better spread out so they focused on what funding is paying for.

ID6: All the different organisations that fund Flood and Coastal Risk Management are aligned in terms of outcomes and funding.

- The group changed the title to be achieving place based outcomes at a local level. The group focused on discussions around outcomes; if funding is received for schemes that are not specifically FCERM schemes then the schemes won't have FCERM outcomes.

ID15: Be transparent about areas that will be easier/harder to protect. Refocusing flood and coastal risk management investment on land use to create/enable sustainable communities in the face of climate change.

- The group discussed different views about the idea but agreed that the Thames Estuary 2100 approach could be used as an alternative way of achieving the standards element of the idea. The idea needs more work to improve clarity and understanding.

ID28: By 2050 we will be upfront about talking about where measures are not affordable or sustainable.

- The group tried to improve the understanding of the idea and have rewritten elements. They agreed the idea links to standards. The insurance industry has lots of expertise who could help to understand risk, especially the complexities of understanding risk. We should try and understand the risk in a way that it can be managed.
- The group discussed where this idea should feature on the matrix. The idea is applicable across coast and inland areas but has already been carried out on the coast; the building blocks are within Shoreline Management Plans, but politically this is difficult to deliver.

ID12: Maximise delivery of Natural Flood Management (NFM)

- The group discussed where NFM could be delivered and whether or not to use 'enable'. The group agreed to 'maximise'.

ID2: Innovative finance

- This idea is now about funding through taxation. The group found the exact way forward difficult to decide; it could be a charge rather than a tax for everyone. The idea would be difficult politically to deliver. Some of the actions were tactical so the group focused on the national strategic elements of this idea. There is an economic benefit as could identify local benefits.

General comments:

- All of the ideas sit within the top of the matrix indicating benefit.
- Advocates have rated these ideas – so potentially there is a bias and they have been weighted more positively because of that.
- There is risk to delivery because these ideas would need influence on the ground with communities.
- Lots of these ideas are within the 'easy' side of the matrix – is this positive? Or does it mean that we have not stretched our thinking?
- In July we were brave with our thinking but the ideas seem to have been 'dumbed down' today.
- In 2050 there are many things we could achieve – lots of easy wins – but if the timeframe was brought forward then achieving these ideas would be a lot harder.
- Our thinking has not expanded beyond the range of normal thoughts – resilience and resistance is needed to understand what these mean.
- Within the cluster of ideas on the matrix there may actually be big differences between the realities of delivering those ideas for different sources of flooding.
- The ability of being able to deliver ideas depends on the organisation. May be different for different organisations.

New ideas

The group identified new ideas for change:

- SUDS – the present policy is not working. New FCERM policy must ensure maintenance of SUDS is not left to chance.
- Urban Internal Drainage Boards – Introduce formal revenue raising powers in urban areas
- Prioritising investment in environmental enhancement 'greening the grey' (not NFM) i.e. enhancing ecology on structures, high tide roosting sites, EConcrete, habitat improvement, improving WFD status. At present funding not specific, even with OM4s. Ambition to improve and fund and enhance natural environment in all schemes regardless of 'measurable' impact.
- Flood spending should be socially equitable

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.

- The discussions today have built on the original ideas – and also created additional ideas. Can the group continue to work on these?
- The group agreed that clarity is needed on both funding and protection – these need to be understood and identified.
- It is difficult to have decisive conversations without a controlling view provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).
- How will we fund in the future? We have not really discussed this.
- We need parameters provided by Defra. We need a steer from Defra. [Please note: Defra were not present at the meeting at this point in the discussions so were not able to provide a response].
- The Defra policy statement will not contain anything that is unexpected. Defra and the Environment Agency are working closely together to ensure that the Policy Statement and strategy are aligned.
- If the group meets again, this should be face to face for better conversations.

Actions and next steps:

ACTION	OWNER
Circulate meeting notes & upload to website	Environment Agency