

Protection & Funding Working Group - What we do all want to protect and how do we collectively fund it?
Evidence Pack – July 2018

Current Risk

Over 5 million properties at risk of flooding and 40% coastline at risk of coastal erosion. Major flood events most years with a disproportionate effect on those least able to plan, prepare, respond and recover.

Future risk

Climate change will lead to more extreme weather events that, combined with more development resulting from a growing population, is likely to increase flood and coastal erosion risk.

Current approach

Partnership funding = locally developed schemes that are funded dependent on meeting appropriate score (level of flood risk/deprivation/external contributions)

2015/16 -2020/21 £2.5bn investment programme intended to protect a further 300,000 properties and reduce overall flood risk by 5%

Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) make local regional choices regarding schemes and priorities

All FCERM schemes required to build climate change allowances into schemes at appraisal stage

Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) developed on multi-agency basis and set out policy approaches for coastline management (hold the line, managed realignment, no active intervention)

Locations whose long term sustainability is threatened by climate change managed at local level through a range of approaches

Areas for improvement

Every few years we have significant flood events that affect 1000's of people

5m properties currently at risk of flooding; Environment Agency six year programme and future pipeline will protect less than 1m properties at cost of £11bn – no collective understanding of acceptable level of residual risk or any strategic plan to address this

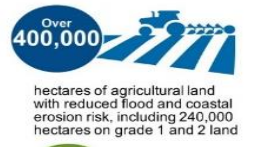
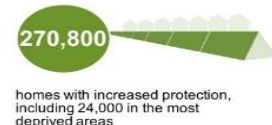
Partnership funding has had limited success in securing private contributions, largely public and mainly from local authorities.

Despite Partnership Funding focus on deprivation, socially vulnerable neighbourhoods are over-represented in areas at risk of all sources of flooding

It is questionable whether actions in Shoreline Management Plans constitute a viable approach to coastal adaptation in the long-term nor how they interface with other national or local plans

Challenge of meeting the needs of increased population without building in areas at flood risk

More focus required on planning for locations that may not be sustainable long term



Successes

Storm surge of 5 December 2013 was more significant than 1953 but no lives lost compared with 100's in 1953 – due to early warning systems and improved defences.

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What are the evidence gaps?

- Understanding of groundwater flood risk, surface water flood risk as a result of climate change and cumulative impact of different sources of flooding on locations
- Understanding of differing levels of protection at the area scale across urban and rural areas
- Evidencing causation: wealth of information on risk and interventions, less on how interventions are reducing risk e.g. Environment Agency Investment Programme provides appraisal results not intervention results – more evidence on what is planned than delivered.
- Coastal research on economics of coastal change
- Planning for long term impact for communities that may be unsustainable – current Environment Agency research on community engagement and risk, lessons from Fairbourne, West Wales
- UKCP18 projections due to be published later this year and may change current understanding of distribution and level of impacts.
- International examples
- Common responses of others to flooding and residual risk issues e.g. media, politicians
- Examples of flood relief projects delivered as part of wider regeneration/ enhancement and where flood risk was not the main objective. What can we learn from these?
- Key outcomes from projects exploring how others can take responsibility for maintenance of assets
- Understanding the ability of communities to find funding towards schemes managing different sources of risk
- Exploring innovative ways to fund flood alleviation schemes
- Commercial models for flood insurance from other countries

Good practice examples (UK and abroad)

Strategic approaches to managing flood risk on a wider catchment/city region approach e.g. North East Integrated Water Partnership, Greater Manchester Flood and Water Management Board.

What do we need to do better to achieve success now and in the future?

More strategic approach across all catchments and sub-regions to addressing priorities through schemes and approaches to manage residual risk elsewhere.

More focus on management of areas whose long term sustainability is likely to be impacted by climate change.

Develop a collective approach to understanding/agreeing an acceptable level of residual risk.

Further Information

