



**FCERM Strategy 2050 Water Based Decision Making Working Group
Face to face workshop 6 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.

- It is unlikely that standards of protection will be agreed before the public consultation. This is a question for Defra which has not yet been answered. These issues are being discussed.
- The Defra Policy Statement will be published in winter 2018. There is collaboration between Defra and the Environment Agency to ensure both are aligned.

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:

- Evidence gaps that need to be filled were discussed. Specific areas include: coastal engagement examples and sustainable solutions.

- We all know the key principles for effective engagement but it is not always very effective.
- Is there a gap on evidence on economic appraisals? For example, it is difficult to establish Natural Flood Management appraisals. Only case studies have been identified – further research is needed
- Obvious gap of evidence on post-scheme evaluations, e.g. how many properties have been protected.
- We do not have regional or catchment based spatial plans which means it is almost impossible to deliver catchment based planning.
- If a community does not understand if there is a problem, then a lot of work is needed to communicate risk to them effectively.
- Lots of information available on appraisals – but it is important to turn these evidence gaps into guidance.
- 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.

Ideas Evaluation

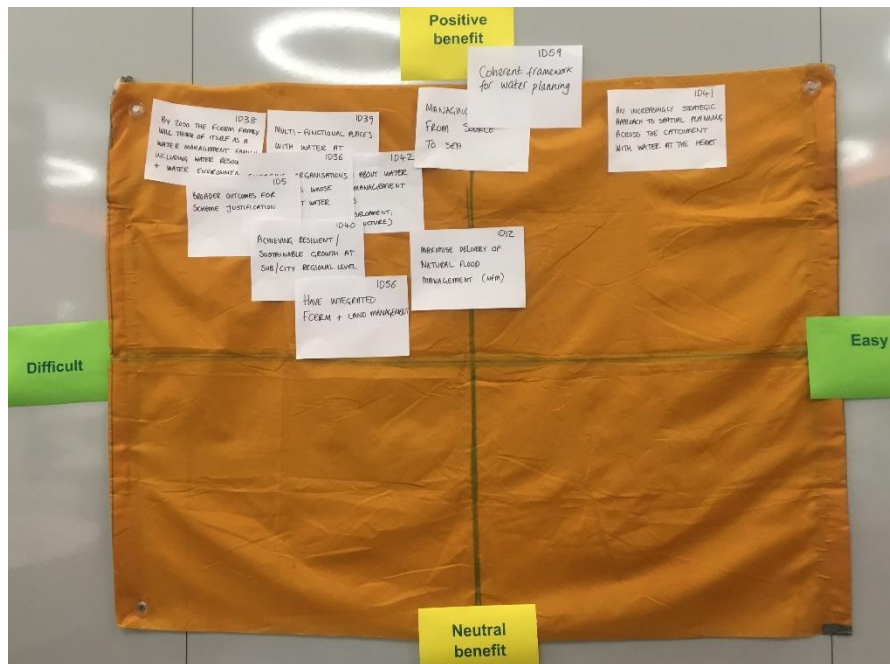
The group analysed the Ideas for Change using the first three phases of a four stage evaluation process in order to identify ideas that the group agreed are:

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

Comments on evaluation process:

- ‘A Water Literate Society’ idea is being evaluated by the communities and businesses, and the roles and responsibilities working groups.
- Need to understand how similar ideas can be linked together or merged – how can this be done today? There could be a hierarchy of these ideas.

Discussion on phase four of the evaluation process:



ID38: By 2050 the FCERM family will think of itself as a water management family including water resources and water environment.

- Amended to 'integrated management' so that it is strategic. The idea will need to deliver changes across cultures.

ID39 (some links with ID42): Multi-functional places with water at their heart

- This idea has not been proven yet, evidence is needed before the idea can be delivered.

ID42 (some links with ID39): How can we be pro-active about water and flood management decisions (into growth, development and infrastructure plans)?

- This idea would bring a positive benefit.

ID36: Engaging organisations whose priority is not water.

- Amended to be strategic.

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

- Amended to be broader.

ID12: Maximise delivery of Natural Flood Management (NFM)

- Tactical idea therefore parked at present – likely to form an action under another "strategic" idea.

ID40: Achieving resilient/sustainable growth at sub/city regional level.

- 'City/sub regional' element of the idea resulted in the idea being tactical. Multiple partners involved which would make delivery difficult. It would be

critical that resilience does not disappear over time. Idea has been parked at present – may form an action under another “strategic” idea.

ID56: Have integrated FCERM and land management.

- Idea amended to integrated ‘water’ management.

ID41: An increasingly strategic approach to spatial planning across the catchment with water at the heart. By 2050, the spatial planning system is used to identify locations across catchment that need to serve multiple objectives.

- Amended to be strategic.

ID54: Managing water from source to sea

- Idea was refined for greater collaboration between stakeholders taking part in management, rather than in isolation. Mechanisms for delivery already exist.

General comments

- If all of the ideas are easy to delivery – why aren’t they already being delivered?
- Even if ideas are difficult to deliver they should not be avoided or dismissed.
- The strategy needs to be an enabler to allow things to happen that are easy to deliver
- The ‘minus’ on the scoring of ideas should not be interpreted as a negative
- There is a need to prioritise and understand the conflicting ideas
- If you spend too much time doing the difficult stuff, then it becomes harder to get the easier stuff done
- Each idea could be understood in different ways
- A common barrier is lack of leadership at a common level i.e. how often are Defra, DCLG in the same room?
- The Defra Policy Statement is a government statement, so other departments will need to sign up to the policy
- Ideas can be difficult to deliver because influence is needed from other departments, for example, HM Treasury

New ideas

- Multifunctional infrastructure to manage water
- FCERM is automatically viewed as part of the wider water cycle

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.

- Can an advanced copy of the draft strategy be shared with the working groups?

Actions and next steps:

ACTION	OWNER
Circulate meeting notes & upload to website	Environment Agency

Appendix

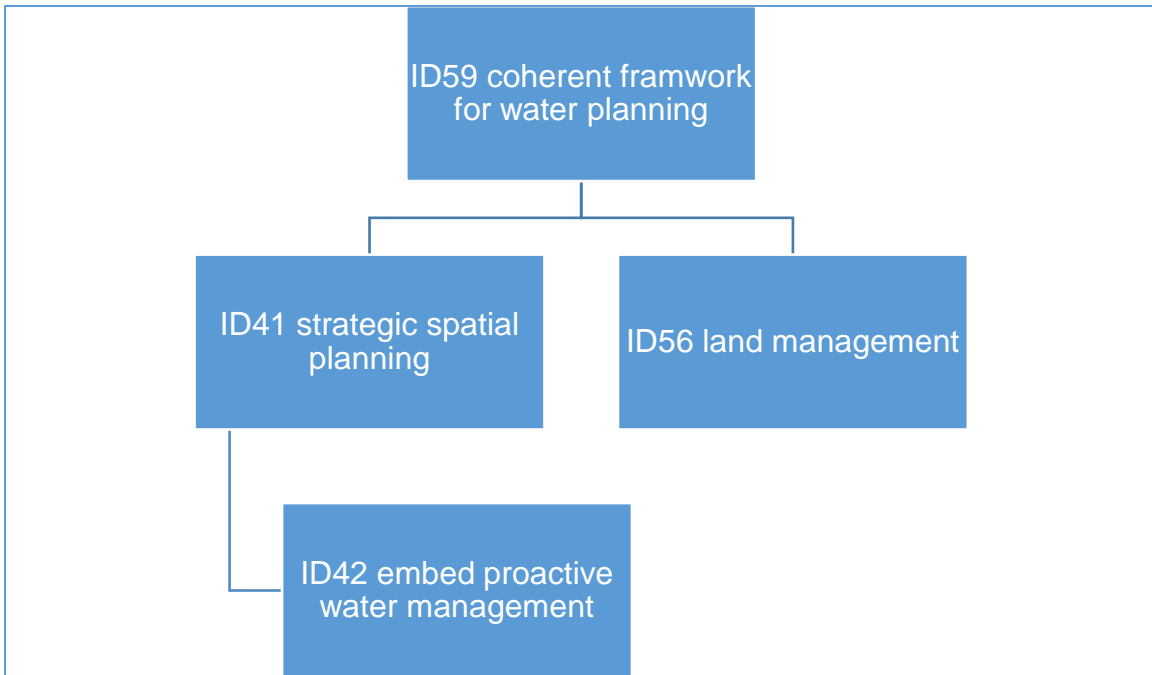


Diagram developed by one of the working groups during the discussions to show the linkages and hierarchy between several ideas. ID59 becomes the “lead idea”.