

# Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England – consultation document



**Vision: a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England

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# Developing the draft strategy

## How have we got here?

The Environment Agency has been leading a conversation with people and organisations who are affected by or work to manage flooding and coastal change. The first national flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) strategy was published in 2011. When published, the new strategy will set clear ambitions and be delivered in collaboration with others in a way that benefits us all.

Legally the strategy has to be written by the Environment Agency but it cannot deliver the strategy alone. It has been important for the Environment Agency to engage directly with those individuals and organisations who will help deliver the strategy. It has listened to feedback and used what it has heard to shape its views.

Collaboration has been wide-ranging and inclusive. Over 150 people and 90 organisations have taken part in an extensive engagement process to help shape the direction of the draft strategy. This front loading of stakeholder engagement has allowed the Environment Agency to significantly progress its thinking and ensure this draft strategy sets ambitious steps to help the nation manage flooding and coastal change.

Naturally, there's a range of ideas and diverging opinions. To help manage these, an independently chaired Advisory Group has helped steer discussions and ensure different stakeholder voices have been heard.

Using principles from the existing strategy and considering future needs, those involved in developing this draft strategy agreed on principles that run throughout.

- We put people and the places they live and work in at the heart of what we do
- We build partnerships, supporting and trusting one another to get the job done
- We continually improve our evidence and understanding of the risks and their solutions
- We look for multiple financing opportunities to fund a nation more resilient to flooding and coastal change
- We are flexible and adapt to changing risk
- We recognise success and continue to grow and develop the range of skills we need
- We will be carbon neutral
- We manage flooding and coastal change whatever its source or cause
- We support sustainable development that creates great places for people and enhances the environment in line with the 25 year environment plan

This draft strategy is not a policy document but a consultation by the Environment Agency, reflecting its own views and those we have heard from other stakeholders. Policy on flood and coastal erosion risk is for the government and the strategy will be finalised in the light of the consultation responses and the government's forthcoming national policy statement on flood and coastal risk before being submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs approval.

The Environment Agency is asking for your feedback. It wants to hear your thoughts on the vision for 2100, the steps along the way, and what needs to happen to implement them. This will include consideration of whether you think its strategic overview role for flooding and coastal change should evolve to help ensure the strategy's vision and objectives are achieved. After the consultation the Environment Agency will use your

views and others to explore further the concepts being proposed so that it can finalise the strategy.

Alongside the draft strategy for consultation, the Environment Agency has published a Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report. You can view this document online on the [consultation pages](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public) (<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public>)

The Environment Agency is also making available an evidence base that has been drawn on to develop the strategy. This will be available on request from 23 May 2019, please e-mail [FCERMstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:FCERMstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk) for a copy.



# How to respond to this consultation

## Consultation information

This consultation is open for 8 weeks, from 9 May 2019 to 4 July 2019.

You can view the consultation documents and questions online on the [consultation pages](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public) (<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public>)

Please submit your response online. This will help us gather and summarise responses quickly, accurately and cost effectively.

However, if you prefer, you can submit your response by email or post using our response form. You can download the response form using the above link. Please submit by email to: [FCERMstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:FCERMstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Or by post to:

Morena Staiano  
Environment Agency  
Horizon House  
Deanery Road  
Bristol  
BS1 5AH

You can also request a printed version of the document and response form using these contact details or by phone to Morena Staiano on 020 7714 1037.

## Privacy notice

We are the Environment Agency and we are running the creation, publication and implementation of a national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England. We are the data controller for this process. A data controller determines how and why personal data (personal information) is processed. Our [personal information charter](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter) ([www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter)) explains how we deal with your personal information. Go to GOV.UK and search 'Environment Agency personal information charter'.

The personal data we collect about you includes:

- Your email address
- Responses, feedback, queries and comments you leave, including information that may reveal your identity if you choose to include in your response
- Full name and contact details including addresses, emails or phone numbers if you contact us and include this information
- Whether you are responding to the consultation as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group, and the name and type of your organisation or group

We are allowed to process your personal data because you consent to us doing so by responding to this consultation. You have the right to withdraw consent at any time. The lawful basis for processing your personal data is consent.

## **What we do with your personal data**

### **Public consultation**

The Environment Agency will look to make all responses received online via our consultation website (Citizen Space) publicly available during and after the consultation, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential. We will not be publishing consultation responses which are not received online via our consultation website, unless you specifically tell us to do so.

Throughout the consultation we will look to make all comments received online (excluding personal information) publicly available on our website, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential. We will not publish personal data. But we may publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations. We will not publish names of individuals who respond.

We will also publish a summary of all responses on our website in which we may publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations.

We will not respond individually to responses. After the consultation has closed we will publish a summary of the responses on our website.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

### **Developing the strategy**

We will use your views to develop the strategy but will not identify you in the strategy. We will only share the minimum amount of your personal data as necessary with internal colleagues who are providing expert advice on developing the strategy. We will also share your views with external stakeholders who are taking part in analysing consultation responses, but we will ensure that you are not identifiable from the information we provide.

If you provide them, we will use your name and contact details to contact you if we have any queries about the information you've provided.

### **How long we keep your personal data**

We will keep your views, and any personal data you have included in your response, as part of our records until these have been superseded by a new flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England.

### **Where your personal data is processed and stored**

We store and process your personal data on our servers in the UK. We will not transfer your personal data outside the European Economic Area.

## **Contact details**

Our Data Protection Officer (DPO) is responsible for independent advice and monitoring of the Environment Agency's use of personal information.

If you have any concerns or queries about how we process personal data, or if you would like to make a complaint or request relating to data protection, please contact our DPO using the following details:

Address: Data Protection Officer

Environment Agency

Horizon House

Deanery Road

Bristol

BS1 5AH

Email: [dataprotection@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@environment-agency.gov.uk)

You can find out about your personal data rights from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). The ICO regulate the data protection legislation. You have the right to lodge a complaint with them at any time.

## **Consultation Principles**

We are running this consultation in accordance with the guidance set out in the government's Consultation Principles.

If you have any queries or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please contact:

Lucy Payne, Consultation Co-ordinator

Environment Agency

Orchard House,

Endeavour Park,

London Road,

Addington,

ME19 5SH

Email: [lucy.payne@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.payne@environment-agency.gov.uk)



# Ambitions, strategic objectives and measures

The draft strategy vision is: for a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100.

The draft strategy has been split into 3 high level ambitions:

- climate resilient places,
- today's growth and infrastructure – resilient to tomorrow's climate; and
- a nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation.

The delivery of these ambitions is achieved through a series of strategic, longer term objectives and shorter term measures.

Alongside the final strategy the Environment Agency will publish an action plan detailing how it will work with partners to deliver the ambitions, strategic objectives and measures included in the strategy.



Figure 1: The elements of the national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy



## Ambition 1: Climate resilient places

### Strategic objective 1.1:

Between now and 2050 the nation will be resilient to future flood and coastal risks. Over the next year the Environment Agency will work with partners to explore and develop the concept of standards for flood and coastal resilience.

**Measure 1.1.1:** By 2021 the Environment Agency will enhance the appraisal guidance for flooding and coastal change projects, so that investment decisions better reflect a range of climate change scenarios.

**Measure 1.1.2:** Measure 1.1.2: By 2022 the Environment Agency will work with partners to explore, develop and consult on standards for flood and coastal resilience and a national suite of tools that can be used in combination to deliver flood and coastal resilience in places.

### Strategic objective 1.2:

Between now and 2050 risk management authorities will help places plan and adapt to flooding and coastal change across a range of climate futures.

**Measure 1.2.1:** By 2021 the Environment Agency and risk management authorities will identify frontrunner places for developing adaptive approaches for a range of different scales and social contexts, working with local places and partners.

**Measure 1.2.2:** By 2024 the Environment Agency will publish a new picture and evidence of current and future flood risk that will help places better plan and adapt for climate change.

**Measure 1.2.3:** By 2024 the Environment Agency will develop a national framework to help risk management authorities, people, businesses and public bodies identify the steps and decisions needed to take an adaptive approach to planning for flood and coastal resilience in a place.

**Measure 1.2.4:** By 2025 the Environment Agency will produce a new set of Long Term Investment Scenarios to inform future policy and investment choices for delivering flood and coastal resilience.

**Measure 1.2.5:** By 2026 lead local flood authorities will update their local flood risk strategies to incorporate adaptive approaches to planning for flood and coastal resilience in a place.

### Strategic objective 1.3:

Between now and 2030 all those involved in managing water will embrace and embed adaptive approaches to enhance the resilience of our environment to future flooding and drought.

**Measure 1.3.1:** From 2021 the Environment Agency will use the lessons learned from the Defra £15m natural flood management projects and other pilot projects to expand and mainstream working with natural processes by all risk management authorities.

**Measure 1.3.2:** From 2021 the Environment Agency will work with farmers, landowners and others to identify opportunities for using agricultural practices (through funding, advice and regulation) to manage flooding and coastal change.

**Measure 1.3.3:** From 2020 risk management authorities will seek to better align long term planning for flood and coastal change with water company business planning cycles to identify opportunities for managing both floods and droughts.

### **Strategic objective 1.4:**

Between now and 2030 risk management authorities will enhance the natural, built and historic environments so we leave it in a better state for the next generation.

**Measure 1.4.1:** From 2021 risk management authorities will contribute to improving the natural, built and historic environment through their investments in flood and coastal projects.

**Measure 1.4.2:** From 2021 risk management authorities will work with partners and others to identify how the nature recovery network, the northern forest and other habitat improvements can help to manage flood risk and coastal change.

**Measure 1.4.3:** From 2021 risk management authorities will help to ensure that 75% of all water bodies are in natural or near-natural condition within 25 years.

### **Strategic objective 1.5:**

Between now and 2030 risk management authorities will use funding and financing from new sources to invest in making the nation resilient to flooding and coastal change.

**Measure 1.5.1:** By 2021 the Environment Agency will work with the government on its Green Finance Strategy to explore new options for funding and financing flooding and coastal change that deliver more private funding in the future.

**Measure 1.5.2:** By 2025 risk management authorities will test whether it is feasible to use upfront financing to deliver an adaptive approach in a place which will need very significant investment in future.

## **Ambition 2: Today's growth and infrastructure – resilient to tomorrow's climate**

### **Strategic objective 2.1:**

Between now and 2030 all new development will contribute to achieving place based resilience to flooding and coastal change.

**Measure 2.1.1:** From 2021 risk management authorities will invest in planning skills and capabilities to ensure they can advise planners and developers effectively to enable climate resilient places.

**Measure 2.1.2:** From 2025 the Environment Agency and lead local flood authorities will advise local planning authorities on how adaptive approaches should inform strategic local plans.

### **Strategic objective 2.2:**

Between now and 2030 all new development will seek to support environmental net gain in local places

**Measure 2.2.1:** From 2021 all risk management authorities will achieve biodiversity net gain in all programmes and projects.

**Measure 2.2.2:** From 2021 all risk management authorities will seek to work with developers and planners to achieve environmental net gain as part of strategic development proposals.

### **Strategic objective 2.3:**

Between now and 2030 all risk management authorities will contribute positively to local economic regeneration and sustainable growth through their investments in flooding and coastal change projects.

**Measure 2.3.1:** From 2021 the Environment Agency will identify ways in which flood and coastal infrastructure projects can better contribute to local economic regeneration and sustainable growth.

### **Strategic objective 2.4:**

Between now and 2050 places affected by flooding and coastal change will be 'built back better' and in better places.

**Measure 2.4.1:** By 2025 the Environment Agency will work with government, insurers and financial institutions to review the legal, policy and behavioural changes needed to 'build back better and in better places' and improve the resilience of homes and business.

**Measure 2.4.2:** By 2021 coast protection authorities and the Environment Agency will refresh the shoreline management plans and keep them under review.

### **Strategic objective 2.5:**

Between now and 2030 all flooding and coastal infrastructure owners will understand the responsibilities they have to support flood and coastal resilience in places.

**Measure 2.5.1:** By 2021 the Environment Agency will work with lead local flood authorities and other expert bodies to develop guidance setting out best practice on local flood infrastructure management and record keeping.

**Measure 2.5.2:** By 2024 the Environment Agency will require risk management authorities to report on the resilience of their flood and coastal change infrastructure in a nationally consistent way.

**Measure 2.5.3:** By 2024 the Environment Agency will work with risk management authorities to develop recommendations for flooding and coastal change infrastructure owners that enable greater collaboration, sharing and monitoring between them.

### **Strategic objective 2.6:**

Between now and 2050 the Environment Agency and risk management authorities will work with infrastructure providers to ensure all infrastructure investment is resilient to future flooding and coastal change.

**Measure 2.6.1:** By 2021 the Environment Agency and risk management authorities will work with infrastructure providers to ensure all infrastructure investment is resilient to future flooding and coastal change.

**Measure 2.6.2:** By 2021 the Environment Agency will establish a Flood and Coastal Infrastructure Task Force to better align the long term investment planning of publicly funded infrastructure bodies.

## **Ambition 3: A nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation.**

### **Strategic objective 3.1:**

Between now and 2030 young people at 16 should understand the impact of flooding and coastal change, but also recognise the potential solutions for their place, and opportunities for career development.

**Measure 3.1.1:** By 2021 flooding and coastal change materials will be provided to help teachers deliver existing elements of the national curriculum.

### **Strategic objective 3.2:**

Between now and 2030 people will understand the potential impact of flooding and coastal change on them and take action.

**Measure 3.2.1:** By 2022 government and risk management authority research programmes will identify how best to help people and businesses understand, accept and take responsibility for their risk to flooding and coastal change. This will help all risk management authorities better shape the way they work with people and businesses.

**Measure 3.2.2:** By 2021 all risk management authorities will develop and use digital tools to better communicate flooding and coastal change. This will help achieve greater awareness and responsibility of the risks people face.

### **Strategic objective 3.3:**

Between now and 2030 people will receive a consistent and coordinated level of support from all those involved in response and recovery from flooding and coastal change.

**Measure 3.3.1:** By 2021 the Environment Agency will work with government and risk management authorities to clarify roles of risk management authorities in relation to surface water flooding.

**Measure 3.3.2:** By 2022 the Environment Agency will have expanded their flood warning service to all places at a high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea.

**Measure 3.3.3:** By 2025 the Environment Agency will work with government to better join up the organisations involved in providing incident response and recovery to provide a consistent and coordinated service.

### **Strategic objective 3.4:**

Between now and 2030 the nation will be recognised as world leader in managing flooding and coastal change, as well as developing and attracting talent to create resilient places.

**Measure 3.4.1:** By 2022 the Environment Agency will continue to work with standards setting organisations to encourage flood resilience requirements to be incorporated into the building and materials standards for homes and businesses built in places at risk of flooding.

**Measure 3.4.2:** By 2025 the flooding and coastal change sector, including risk management authorities, will influence universities and colleges to ensure they develop the capabilities and skills required for both the public and private sectors.

**Measure 3.4.3:** By 2025 all public and private organisations in the flooding and coastal change sector, including risk management authorities, will support development

programmes that enable their professionals to continue to develop their flood and coastal risk management knowledge.



## Consultation questions

Before we finalise the strategy, including the vision, ambitions, strategic objectives, and measures, we'd like your feedback on the following questions. We've also included a free-text question, so you can tell us about anything important to you these questions don't cover.

### Draft flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy questions

**Question 1:** To what extent do you agree with the vision: a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100?

**Question 2:** To what extent do you agree with the Environment Agency's proposed strategic overview role as set out in the chapter 'setting the context for the draft strategy'?

**Question 3a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.1: Between now and 2050 the nation will be resilient to future flood and coastal risks. Over the next year the Environment Agency will work with partners to explore and develop the concept of standards for flood and coastal resilience?

**Question 3b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.1, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 4a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.2: between now and 2050 risk management authorities will help places plan and adapt to flooding and coastal change across a range of climate futures?

**Question 4b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.2, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 5a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.3: between now and 2030 all those involved in managing water will embrace and embed adaptive approaches to enhance the resilience of our environment to future flooding and drought?

**Question 5b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.3, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 6a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.4: between now and 2030 risk management authorities will enhance the natural, built and historic environments so we leave it in a better state for the next generation?

**Question 6b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.4, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 7a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.5: between now and 2030 risk management authorities will use funding and financing from new sources to invest in making the nation resilient to flooding and coastal change?

**Question 7b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.5, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 8a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.1: between now and 2030 all new development will contribute to achieving place based resilience to flooding and coastal change?

**Question 8b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.1, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 9a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.2: between now and 2030 all new development will seek to support environmental net gain in local places?

**Question 9b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.2, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 10a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.3: between now and 2030 all risk management authorities will contribute positively to local economic regeneration and sustainable growth through their investments in flooding and coastal change projects?

**Question 10b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.3, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 11a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.4: between now and 2050 places affected by flooding and coastal change will be 'built back better' and in better places?

**Question 11b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.4, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 12a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.5: between now and 2030 all flooding and coastal infrastructure owners will understand the responsibilities they have to support flood and coastal resilience in places?

**Question 12b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.5, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 13a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.6: now and 2050 the Environment Agency and risk management authorities will work with infrastructure providers to ensure all infrastructure investment is resilient to future flooding and coastal change?

**Question 13b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.6, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 14a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.1: between now and 2030 young people at 16 should understand the impact of flooding and coastal change, but also recognise the potential solutions for their place, and opportunities for career development?

**Question 14b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.1, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 15a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.2: between now and 2030 people will understand the potential impact of flooding and coastal change on them and take action?

**Question 15b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.2, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 16a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.3: between now and 2030 people will receive a consistent and coordinated level of support from all those involved in response and recovery from flooding and coastal change?

**Question 16b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.3, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.



**Question 17a:** To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.4: between now and 2030 the nation will be recognised as world leader in managing flooding and coastal change, as well as developing and attracting talent to create resilient places?

**Question 17b:** Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.4, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

**Question 18:** Please provide any other comments

## **Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) questions**

Do you agree with the conclusions of the environmental assessment?

Are there any further significant environmental effects (positive or negative) of the draft strategy you think should be considered?

Are there further mitigations for potential negative effects or opportunities to achieve positive effects that should be considered for the final national FCERM strategy?



# Taking the draft strategy beyond the consultation

## How we will communicate the consultation responses

The Environment Agency will publish the consultation feedback in a summary document on the GOV.UK website and on Citizen Space before the final strategy is published.

Working closely with those implementing the strategy we will take into account all of the consultation responses received and finalise the strategy.

## Implementing and reporting on the final strategy

All risk management authorities are responsible for managing and planning for their own sources of flooding and coastal change. Although each place is different, all lead local flood authorities must ensure that their local FCERM strategies are consistent with the final national strategy. In addition, all risk management authority plans and strategies, even if they are not FCERM focussed, must be undertaken in a manner which is consistent with the national strategy.

There are already several existing plans concerned with flooding and coastal change with slightly different emphases, including flood risk management plans, local flood strategies, shoreline management plans, river basin management plans and water company business plans. Creating more plans will not necessarily make things any easier.

As outlined in the draft strategy, the Environment Agency will:

- develop and consult on standards for flood and coastal resilience and a national suite of tools that can be used in combination to deliver flood and coastal resilience in places
- develop a national framework to help risk management authorities, people, businesses and public bodies identify the steps and decisions needed to take an adaptive approach to planning for flood and coastal resilience in a place

This will help risk management authorities integrate place-based resilience standards and adaptive approaches into all their existing strategies and plans.

Effective collaboration means we all know everyone else is playing their part. Alongside the final strategy the Environment Agency will publish an action plan detailing how it will work with partners to deliver the ambitions, strategic objectives and measures included in the strategy.

Trust is built from openness and confidence. Early discussions about the scope of the draft strategy made it clear a collaborative approach was needed to ensure improved performance of all risk management authorities. This is not about one organisation taking accountability beyond their own remit. Neither is it about unfairly challenging organisations who have had to make difficult decisions about priorities and funding. It's about us all committing to the final strategy and then working together to review and report publicly on progress.