



North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Consultation Response

Consultation

The draft Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Business Plan was published for public consultation on the 7th December 2018 for nine weeks until the 8th February 2019. Partners and the public were offered the opportunity to respond to the consultation online via the Flood Hub or Citizen Space websites, by email or by post. The following report summarises the responses to the consultation.

Overview

The North West RFCC business plan was produced to structure the objectives and principle work streams for the period April 2019 and March 2022.

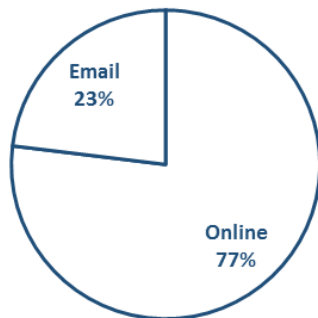
The plan sets out the committee’s priorities to ensure it fulfils its responsibilities now and looks ahead and outwards to better understand future challenges.

The business plan looks to compliment the Government’s 25 year Environment Plan and the refreshed National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy currently in development.

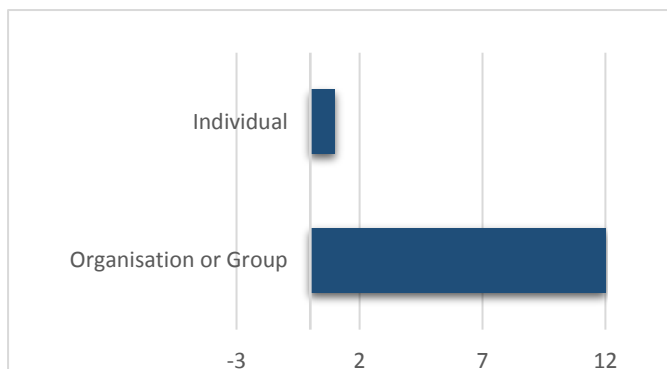
Consultation Questions and Response Summaries

About You

Method of response



1. Please tell us if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group



Organisation respondents

- Wirral Council
- Institution of Civil Engineers (NW)
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Merseyside FCERM Partnership
- Mersey Rivers Trust
- Association of Drainage Authorities
- Eden Rivers Trust
- Natural England
- Fylde Council
- United Utilities
- West Lancashire Borough Council



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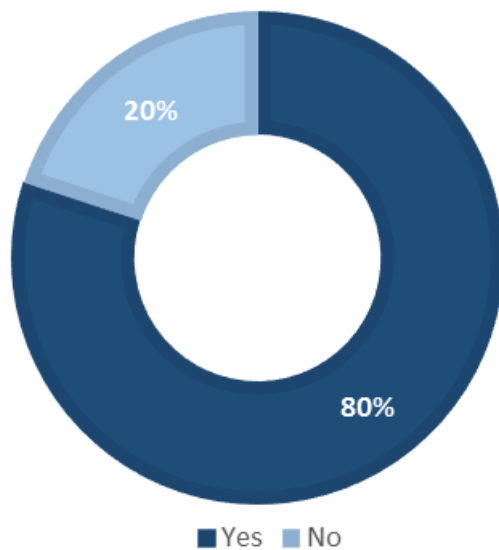
2. Can we publish your response?

- All respondents replied yes

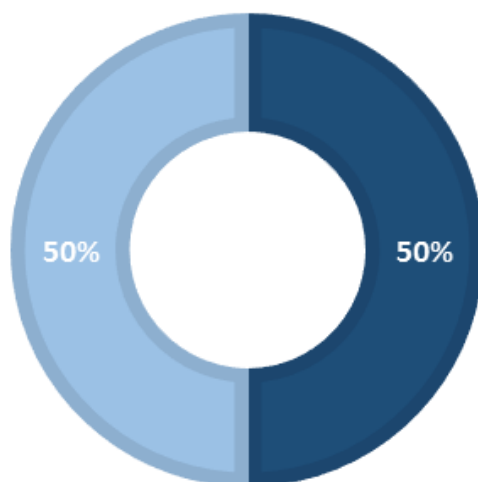
Your Views

(The following responses are based on the 10 online consultation questions responses)

1. Do you consider yourself or those you represent to be at risk of flooding or coastal erosion?



2. How familiar with the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee were you before reading this business plan?



- Very familiar with what the Committee does
- Somewhat familiar with what the committee does



North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Consultation Response

3. Having read the business plan, do you have a better understanding of:

a) The role of the RFCC

b) What we are aiming to achieve

100% Yes

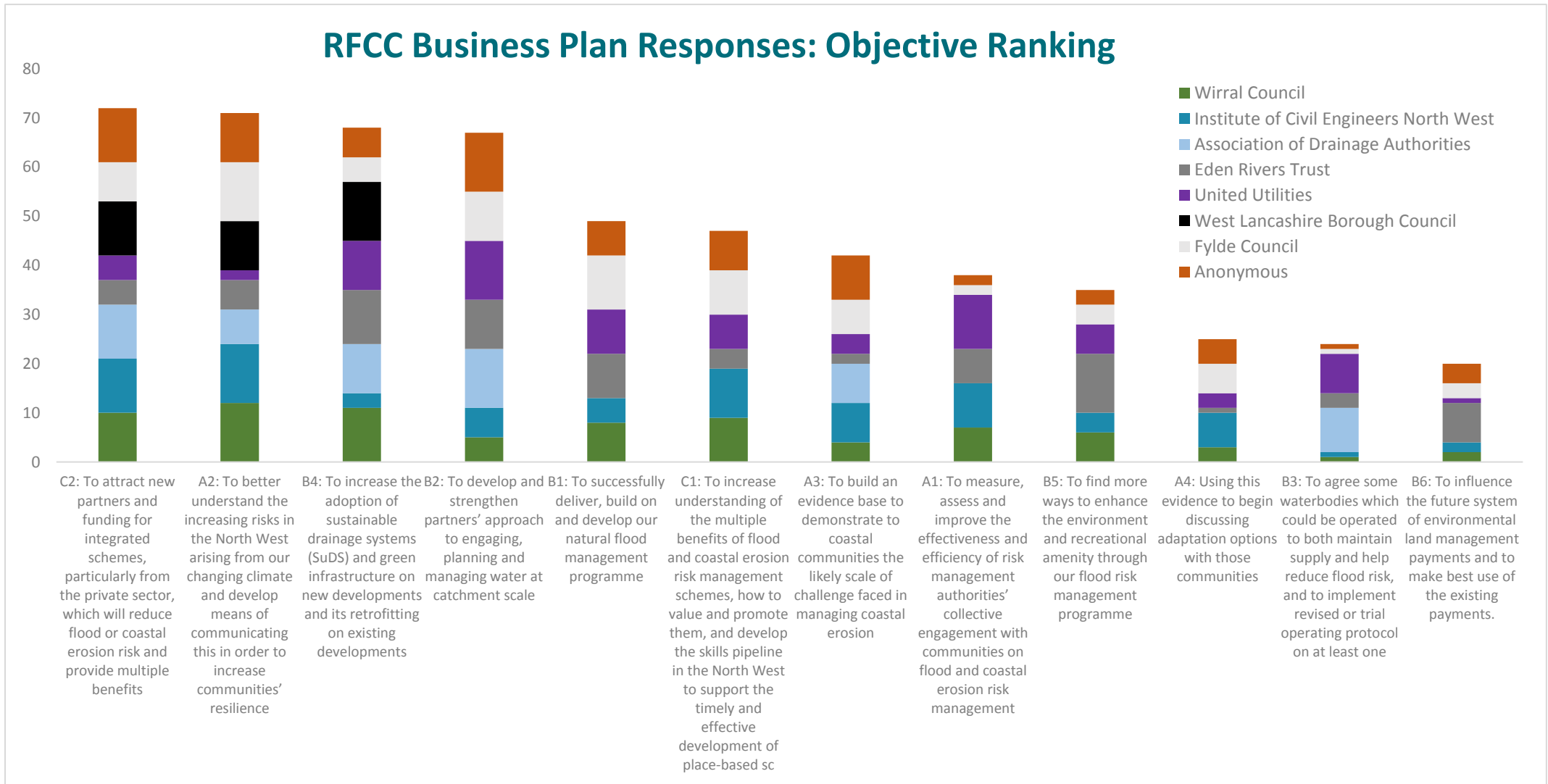
90% Yes

10% Maybe



North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Consultation Response

4. In the draft business plan, there are 12 proposed objectives. Please rank these in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 12 being the least important.





North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Consultation Response

5. Please tell us if you have any other comments on the priorities set out in the business plan.

- Comments are included in the general comments box below

6. Please tell us if you are a potential partner with similar objectives and provide details of any opportunities for us to work together.

<p>“The joined up approach to partnership resources and engagement/empowerment of communities seem particularly pertinent.”</p>	<p>“Keen to support the NW RFCC in strengthening its role across the North West and finding ways of developing local delivery mechanisms where the EA and Local Authorities, on their own, struggle to deliver work.”</p>	<p>“Options we consider for reducing flood risk align with the RFCC’s business plan objectives; embracing SuDS opportunities and considering their adoption, natural flood management as an alternative to hard engineering solutions and slowing the flow as part of catchment based solutions. As a company we are also interested in the natural capital benefit to any potential partner opportunities.”</p>
<p>“We are implementing Natural Flood Management (NFM) by delivering NFM projects in the Mersey catchments and we would like to do more. We already work with members of the catchment partnerships and we are keen to work in partnership with the NW RFCC.”</p>		<p>We would be interested to see how we could work together with the EA to develop and deliver critical flood embankments.”</p>

General Comments

- A common theme in the responses was that the business plan could benefit from a clearer structure which includes sharper images and clearer graphs and tables
- Coastal risk could be expanded and integrated into the document more
- Pleased to see that the business plan supports Defra’s 25 Year Environment Strategy
- As well as the risk to homes which is a strong message throughout the plan, businesses and infrastructure need to feature more strongly
- Approval for the move from vision themes to longer term goals
- The Flood Hub is a great resource and its development and maintenance should therefore be a priority
- As a business plan, an action plan and cost expenditure profile would be expected
- Surface water flooding is raised as an issue throughout, but could this be expanded on to discuss how the RFCC is going to invest in surface water flood risk
- Good to see an ambitious plan
- Respondents found it difficult to rank the objectives as they were all considered equally important



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Next Steps

The Business Plan will now be amended taking the feedback into account as far as possible. This includes the following commitments:

- To make it more concise and more clearly structured, simplifying the presentation of our aims (mission statement, themes, goals and objectives)
- To move some of the existing content to The Flood Hub website, especially that which is likely to change over time
- To increase the emphasis on coastal flood risk and erosion management throughout the plan
- To provide more detail on how we will address surface water flood risk as a priority

A final version Business Plan will be presented to the Committee for approval in July 2019. It will then be published on The Flood Hub website.