

FUTURE FLOOD PREVENTION REPORT

Recent storms in the UK such as Storm Angus have highlighted the growing need for improved flood risk management and greater funding. The government has recently increased budgets for flood risk management, but it is acknowledged that this level of funding will not deliver the standard of protection required in the coming decades. The government must now publish its 25 year ambition for reducing flood risk by the end of 2017.

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee propose a new governance model, which the government must consider in relation to how it manages flood risk in England.

NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL

- Establishment of a new 'National Floods Commissioner' for England. The commissioner would be accountable for the delivery of long term, flood risk reduction strategies.
- Establishment of new 'Regional Flood and Coastal Boards'. These boards would take on current roles of Lead Local Flood Authorities and Regional Flood and Coastal Committees.
- Establishment of a new 'English Rivers and Coastal Authority'. This authority would take on current Environment Agency roles, focusing on the delivery of national flood risk management strategies.



ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS

- Water and Sewerage companies to become 'Water and Drainage Companies' with the remit to include land drainage responsibilities currently held by local authorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus towards a catchment scale approach - Natural flood risk management (i.e. tree planting, improved soil management etc).
- Farmland to be used as flood storage (where possible) – Defra and National Farmers' Union must develop new low impact approaches and incentives to recompense farmers.
- Flood risk communication must be simplified – movement away from using '1 in x year' terminology and providing flood risk information online and in a central location.
- Government must make developers who fail to comply with planning requirements liable for costs of flooding.
- Water companies should be made statutory consultees on planning applications.
- Removal of right to connect surface water to sewerage system.
- Flood resistant materials in new buildings mandatory (Buildings Regulations).
- Government should develop a grant scheme for small businesses unable to secure flood insurance in order to install resilience measures.

HOW COULD THIS IMPACT YOU?

- 🔹 Movement towards stricter controls on the management of surface water at new developments.
- 🔹 Focus towards natural drainage measures with catchment scale philosophy (e.g. Blue-Green approach).
- 🔹 Water companies to have greater control and influence on the management of water at new developments.
- 🔹 Flood risk information data would be enhanced and held in a central online location – aiding analysis and interpretation.
- 🔹 If the incentives are worthwhile, some farmers with land at high risk of flooding will lease or sell off land for flood storage – how will water quality and sediment be managed downstream?



ENVIREAU WATER CAN HELP

Envireau Water is one of the UK's leading independent consultancies, providing expert guidance on design, management and regulatory issues relating to water management and environmental issues.

Our dedicated Surface Water Group offers a full range of flood risk management consultancy services including:

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- 🔹 **Hydraulic Modelling and Analysis**
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- 🔹 **Water Framework Directive Assessment**
- 🔹 **River Restoration**
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Our team of specialist consultants offer a unique combination of expertise and experience, underpinned by robust science and technical knowledge, which enables us to deliver real solutions to our clients.

Get in touch to see how we can support you.



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