



# North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

**20 October 2023**

# Agenda Item 2

Minutes of the RFCC meeting  
held on 21 July 2023

# Agenda Item 3

## Flood Incidents Update

# Agenda Item 4

## Update from the Finance & Business Assurance Sub Group

Introduced by Neville Elstone,  
supported by Laura Lamb and Sally Whiting





# **North West Investment Programme Update**

**Presented by Laura Lamb**

# North West RFCC Investment Programme Overview: 2023-24

What outcomes are we delivering?

		<b>* North West Target</b> 3,598	<b>North West Forecast</b> 4,379	<b>Actual to date</b> 495
---	--	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------------

*\*No official North West RFCC target. Targets are split by Area.*

Are we spending the funding we have secured?

	<b>Capital funding available</b> £109.220 million	<b>Capital forecast</b> £115.433 million
---	--	---

North West Overview:  
2023-24  
Maintenance Programme

EA Revenue Programme financial summary 2023-24  
(inc. Asset Maintenance, Staff Costs and Revenue  
Projects)



North West  
Regional  
Flood &  
Coastal  
Committee

	<b>Budget (£m)</b>	<b>Forecast (£m)</b>	<b>Forecast Variance to Budget (£k)</b>
CLA	11,457	12,385	-928
GMC	9,598	10,965	-1,367
<b>NW Total</b>	<b>21,055</b>	<b>23,350</b>	<b>-2,295</b>

# North West RFCC Risks – 2023-24

- **Forecasts and allocations**
- **Cost of materials**
- **Lead times**
- **Industrial action**
- **Resources**
- **Framework changes**

# Recommendations

- **Note** the progress on delivering the 2023-24 Capital and Resource programmes
- **Note** the risks to the North West Programme in 2023-24

# **2024/25 Indicative Programme & Local Choices**

**Presented by Laura Lamb**

# CLA Capital Maintenance, Defence and Property Level Protection Indicative Allocation & Local Choices

	GIA 24/25 (£m)	TPE 24/25 (£m)	Properties 24/25
Bid	£ 74.7m	£84.57m	1155
Indicative Allocation	£59.4m	£67.98m	1021
Local Choice Response	£63.6m	£72.15m	1021

- This year the national programme team deferred several projects to create a national over programme. The national advice is that the allocation is a minimum spend.
- We have assessed each project and in collaboration with the project teams made some decisions over delivery confidence as to whether to bring these projects back in.
- Within CLA we have decided to bring back in £4m of spend and intend to continue with other work as planned with this forming part of our over programme.
- We had reduced our bid by 20% to create a local over programme and with the national reprofiling the CLA over programme stands at 30-35% (based on the local choice return). This helps us balance the construction risks.

The Top 3 projects affected by the national over programming were:

Project	Bid	Indicative Allocation	Local Choices
Blackpool Beach Nourishment (LA)	£7m	£0	£1m based on current position
Rivermede Embankment (EA)	£1.66m	£0	£200k based on PM info
Little Bispham (LA)	£1.6m	£0	£0 based on current contract negotiations they believe it will be a delayed start

# GMMC Capital Maintenance, Defence and Property Level Protection

## Indicative Allocation & Local Choices

	GIA 24/25 (£m)	TPE 24/25 (£m)	Properties 24/25
Bid	£ 38.9m	£42.7m	144
Over-Programme	£4.1m	£4.1m	1709
Indicative Allocation	£32.5m	£36.2m	704
Local Choice Response	£32.5m	£36.9m	704
Revised Over-Programme	£7.1m	7.1m	1809

- This year the national programme team deferred several projects to create a national over-programme. The national advice is that the allocation is a minimum spend.
- We have assessed each project and in collaboration with the project teams made some decisions over delivery confidence as to how we proceed with the projects, whether that be via a bid for an official allocation, or to strengthen our over-programme position to capture the expected slippage.
- Within GMMC we have decided to strengthen our over-programme and factor in the local levy and partnership funding in a local choice bid to ensure National have the most up to date figures.
- Our over-programme has increased from 10% of the Refresh, to 20% of the indicative allocation which, judging by the minor the amendment during local choices is unlikely to change..

The top delivery risks that support the strengthening of the over-programme are:

1. Rochdale and Littleborough (EA)
2. Asset Reconditioning allocation (EA)
3. National Operational Instruction



## Enabling & Support Programme and Asset Reconditioning

Programme	CLA Allocation	GMMC Allocation	NW Total Allocation
Reconditioning	£1,345,000	£7,675,000	£9,020,000
Bridges	£315,000	£0	£315,000
Flood Resilience	£0 (£3,500 resource)	£20,000	£20,000 + £3,500 resource
Hydrometry & Telemetry	£625,000	£95,000	£720,000
Modelling & Forecasting	£1,025,000	£214,000	£1,239,000
Strategy	£31,000	£185,000	£216,000
National Coastal Monitoring Program	£0	£1,402,000	£1,402,000

### CLA

- Strategy - £804k has been deferred to 25/26 by National, we may seek to accelerate some as over programme
- Capital Reconditioning – 38 assets with a total of £1.9m not funded, we may add some via over programme

### GMMC

- Strategy - £730k deferred by National, £621k added to over-programme as part of Local Choices
- Modelling & Forecasting - £545k deferred by National, £369k added to over-programme as part of Local Choices
- Flood Resilience and Hydrometry & Telemetry: confirmation received that no further funding required at this time.

## **Asks of the RFCC**

- Consider the FCRM GIA Local Choices Return
- Discuss the confidence in delivery across the programme to meet the minimum spend.
- Endorse the FCRM GIA Local Choices Return

# **Local Levy Programme Update**

**Presented by  
Laura Lamb and Sally Whiting**

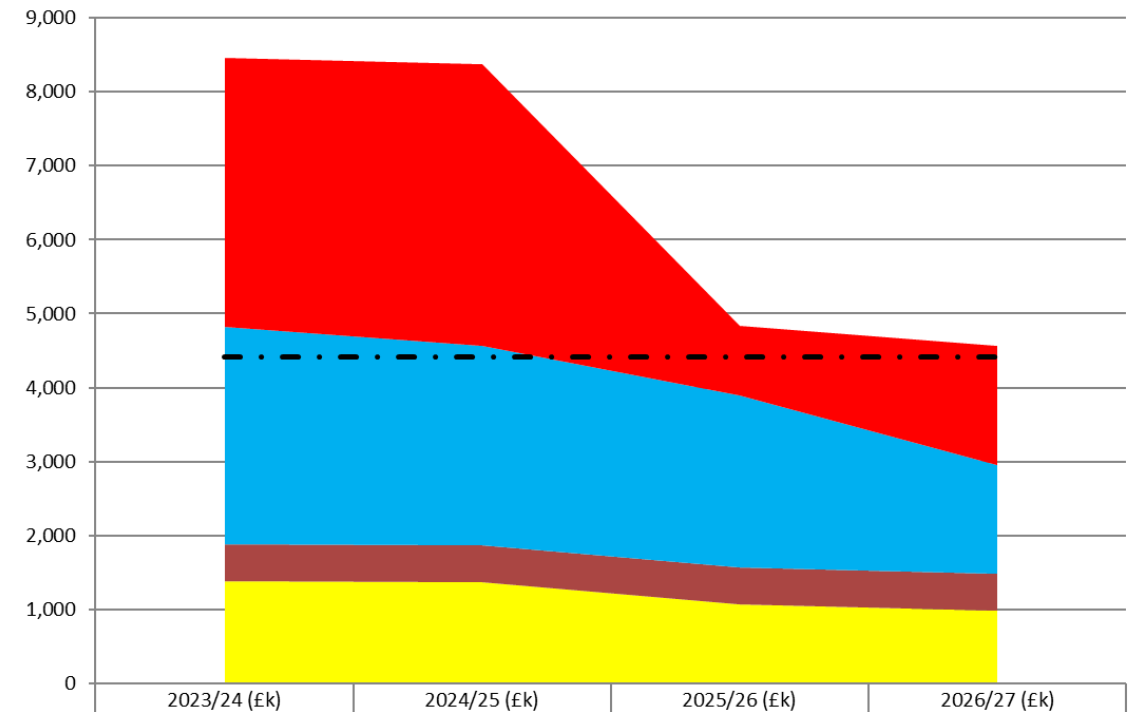
# Review of Local Levy scheme contributions

- Confirmed as no longer required or not progressing in current programme timeframe: £1.657 million
- Level of confidence in scheme cost, Levy need and timeframe assessed
- Schemes where there is currently low or medium confidence account for an additional £4.43m – these remain in programme
- Able to provide a more realistic and nuanced view of programme
- Local Levy balance now expected to reduce more gradually to around £3m by the end of 2024/25
- Capacity for further investment

# NW RFCC Local Levy Programme – 2023-24 and Beyond

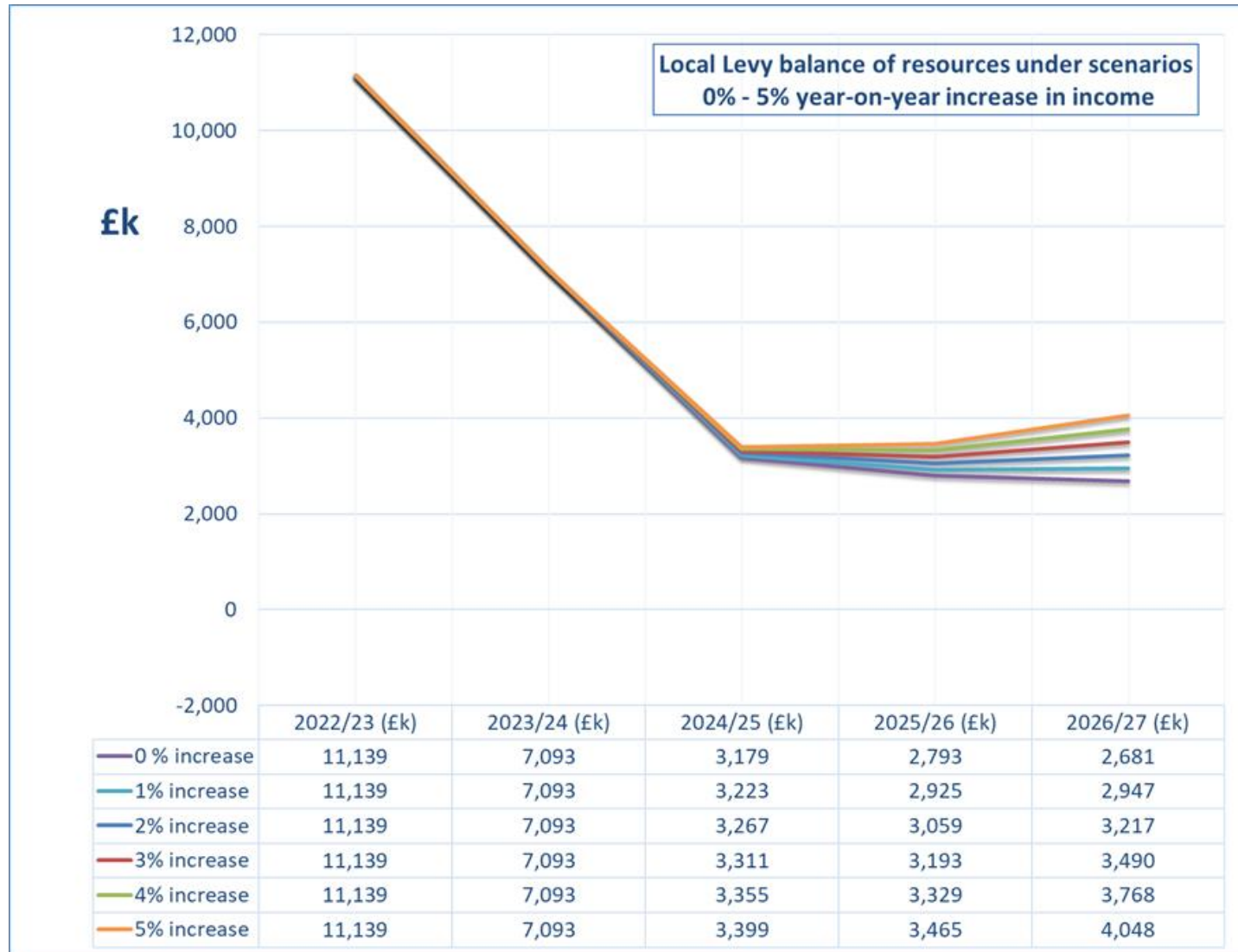
2023-24	
<b>Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)</b>	
Cash balance at start of year	11.139
Local Levy income	4.411
Total available balance	15.550
Allocation	8.457
Expected remaining balance at year end (based on allocation)	7.093

## Local Levy Income & Expenditure Scenario



	2023/24 (£k)	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)
Priority capital schemes => £1m (Levy)	3,630	3,800	947	1,613
Smaller capital schemes	2,943	2,701	2,331	1,466
Partnership Quick Wins	500	500	500	500
RFCC Business Plan (inc Innovation & Change Fund )	1,384	1,369	1,064	989
Sub Total Expenditure	8,457	8,370	4,842	4,568
Local Levy Income	4,411	4,411	4,411	4,411

# NW RFCC Local Levy Programme – 2023-24 and Beyond



# Local Levy Strategy Refresh

Additional principle of transferability of Business Plan outputs

15% cap on Local Levy contributions to FCERM schemes and the threshold above which this applies

Possible re-consideration of a maximum Local Levy contribution to FCERM schemes

Additional clarity on how unused Local Levy allocations will be managed

Further consideration on how Local Levy funded resources are reviewed

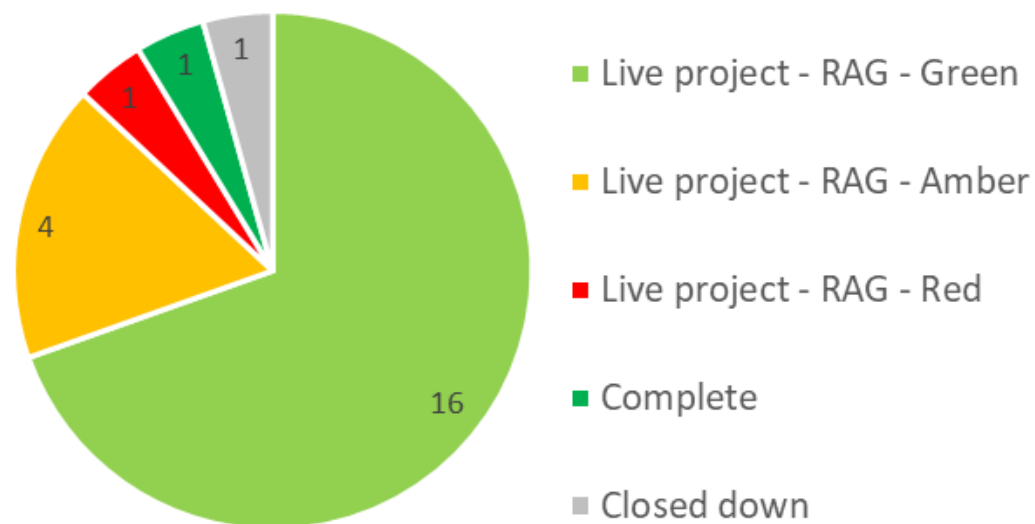
# Recommendations

- Note the outcome of the review of Local Levy contributions to FCERM schemes and the more gradual reduction in the Local Levy balance currently forecast.
- Note the main aspects of the Local Levy Strategy that will be refreshed and respond to the survey if not already done so.

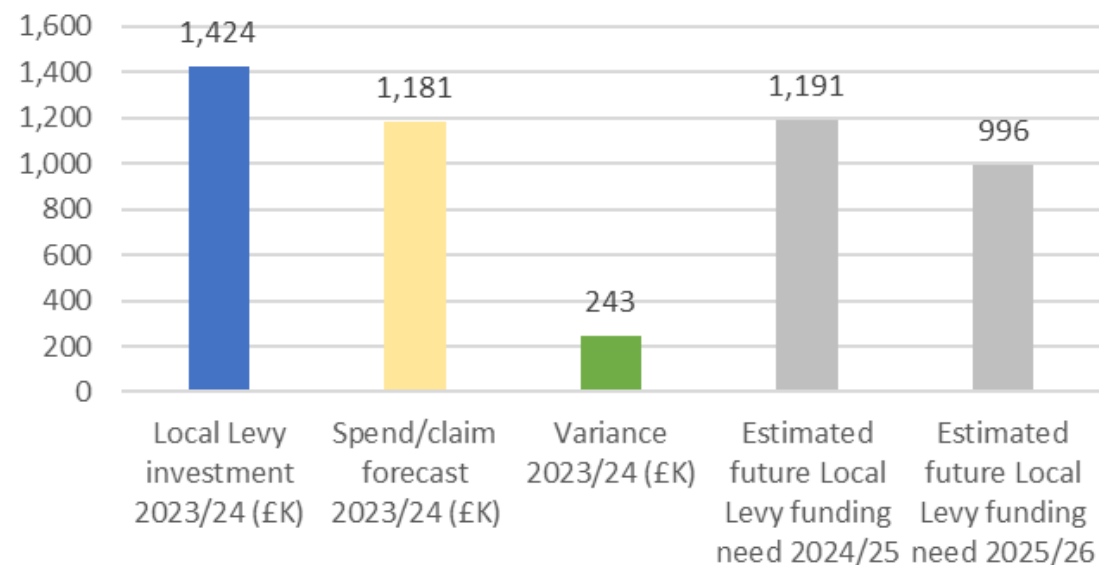


# RFCC Business Plan - Overview

Project RAG Summary



Programme Investment Profile



# RFCC Business Plan – Action the RFCC is taking

## Accessing investment and funding

Action ID3A Investment in  
the Wyre NFM Community  
Interest Company



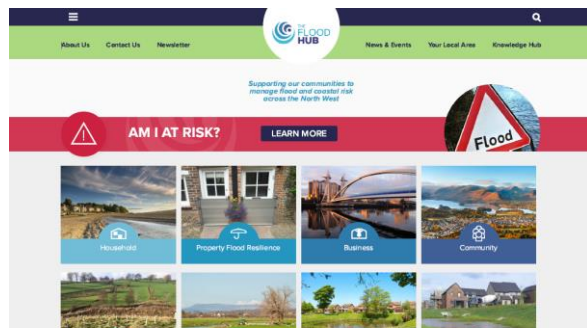
# RFCC Business Plan – Action the RFCC is taking

## Accessing investment and funding Building community resilience

Action ID5  
Flood Hub

Action ID7 Flood resilience –  
Action campaign

Action ID8 Flood  
Poverty project





# RFCC Business Plan – Action the RFCC is taking

Accessing investment and funding  
Building community resilience

## Managing water at catchment scale with nature

Action ID9 Sharing learning  
from the GM WIMP



Action ID19 NFM projects



# RFCC Business Plan – Action the RFCC is taking

Accessing investment and funding  
Building community resilience

Managing water at catchment scale with nature

## Achieving climate resilient planning, development and infrastructure

Action ID10 Evidence gathering (Student projects)



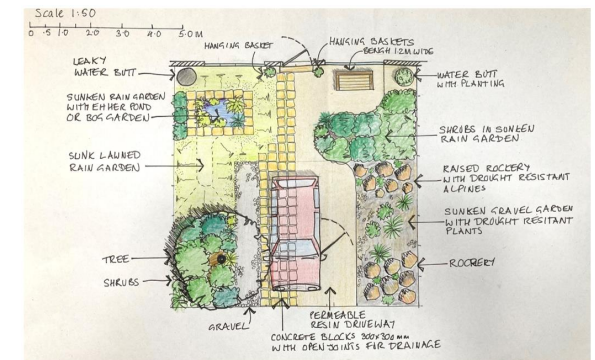
Action ID21 Highway SuDS Design Guide



Action ID4/13 Asset mapping and data sharing



Action ID12 Paving over Front Gardens project



# RFCC Business Plan – Action the RFCC is taking

Accessing investment and funding

Building community resilience

Managing water at catchment scale with nature

Achieving climate resilient planning, development and infrastructure

## Increasing RMA capacity and collaboration

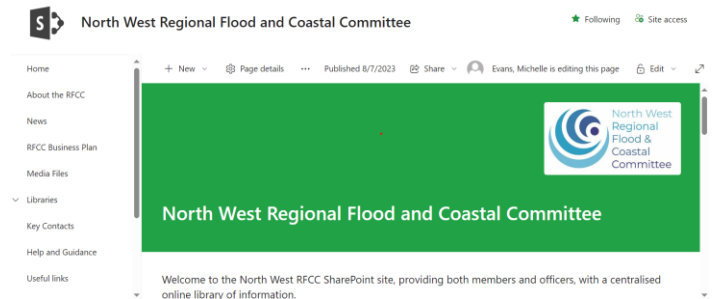
Action ID15 & 16 RMA Capacity Building Programme and additional capacity to support LAs with project delivery



Action ID17 Coastal Centre of Excellence



Action ID18 RFCC Sharepoint site





# Projects complete

- ID19 NFM Delivery Projects (Carryover)



Smithy Brook

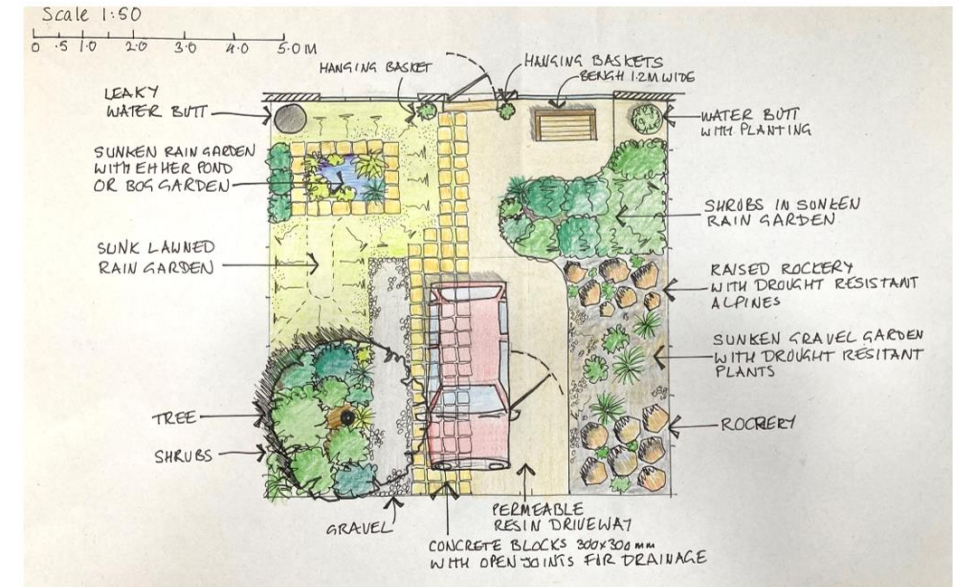
- ID14 LA capital project delivery challenges



The screenshot shows a SharePoint site interface. At the top, the title 'Supporting Flood and Coast Projects' is displayed next to a logo. Below the title, there is a navigation menu on the left with items like 'News & Updates', 'Developing a Project', 'Strengthening the Pro...', 'Project Resource Direct...', 'Project Theme Directory', 'Yammer Community', 'Partnership Funding', 'Adaptation Pathways', and 'FCERM Climate Chang...'. The main content area features a large banner image of a river flowing through a residential area with a stone wall. Below the banner, the text reads 'Supporting Flood and Coast Projects - Home Page' and 'Welcome to the Supporting Flood and Coast Projects SharePoint site'. At the bottom, it says 'The new Investment and Partnership Funding Community site'.

# Proposed funding changes

- ID12 Paving over Front Gardens project
  - £30K of Local Levy to enable delivery of show feature garden and associated promotion and awareness raising
  - Recommended for approval by the FBA Sub Group
- Continued funding for Capital Programme Co-ordinator resource (part of ID16)
  - Deferred to enable provision of additional information





# RFCC Business Plan – Sub Group recommendations

- Recognise projects ID19 and ID14 as complete
- Approve £30K Local Levy contribution for ID12 Paving over Front Gardens project

# Agenda Item 5

## Biodiversity Net Gain

Presented by Philip Carter and Dermot Smith

# Today we will cover

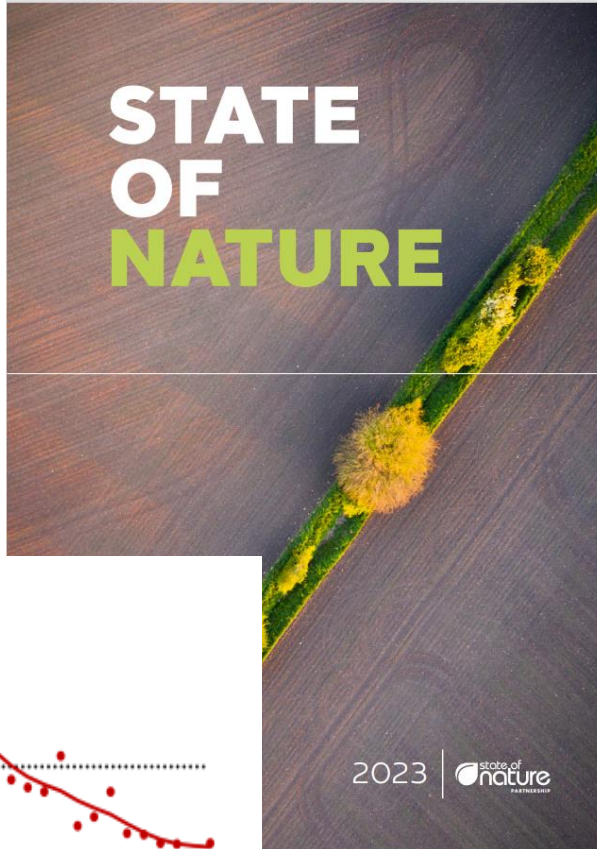
- Biodiversity Crisis
- What is BNG
- Requirements
- Measuring BNG
- BNG in the Environment Agency
- Opportunity and Risk
- Our approach
- Summary and Questions



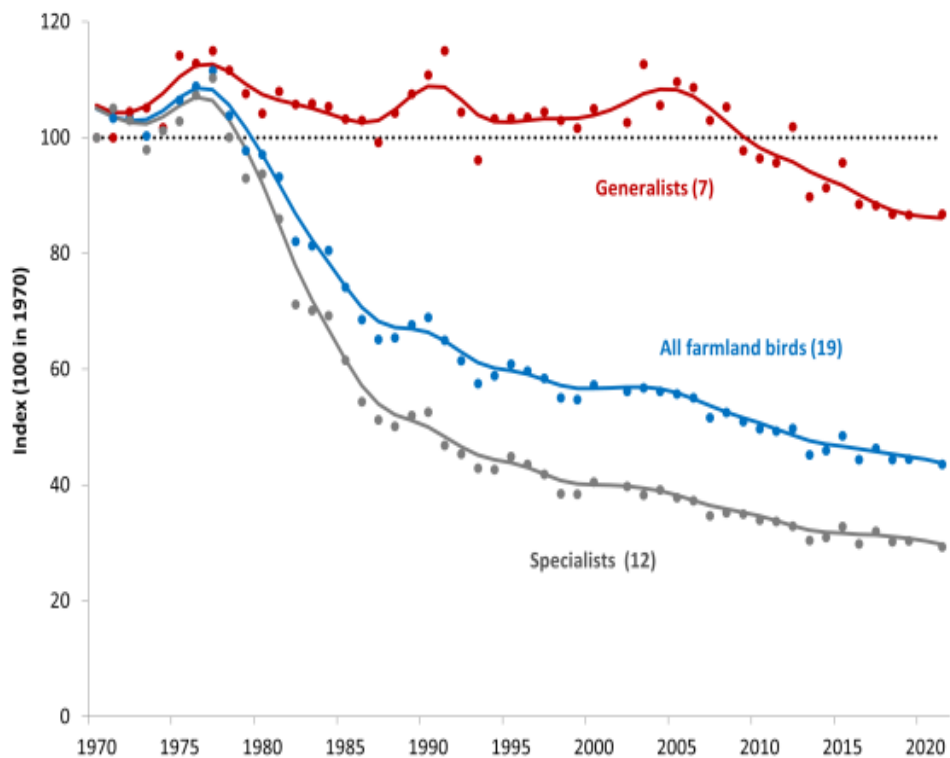


# Biodiversity Crisis

## STATE OF NATURE



2023 | state of nature PARTNERSHIP



## Terrestrial and freshwater



The abundance of 753 terrestrial and freshwater species has on average fallen by 19% across the UK since 1970.

Within this average figure, 290 species have declined in abundance (38%) and 205 species have increased (27%).



The UK distributions of 4,979 invertebrate species have on average decreased by 13% since 1970.

Stronger declines were seen in some insect groups which provide key ecosystem functions such as pollination (average 18% decrease in species' distributions) and pest

control (34% decrease). By contrast, insect groups providing freshwater nutrient cycling initially declined before recovering to above the 1970 value (average 64% increase in species' distributions).



Since 1970, the distributions of 54% of flowering plant species and 59% of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) have decreased across Great Britain.

By comparison, only 15% and 26% of flowering plants and bryophytes, respectively, have increased. In Northern Ireland, since 1970, 42% of flowering plant species and 62% of bryophytes have decreased in distribution, compared to 43% and 34%, respectively, that have increased.

Turtle dove, Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com); Forester moth, Mike Read (rspb-images.com); Heath Spotted-Orchid, Andy Hay (rspb-images.com); Ladybird Spider, Ian Hughes (rspb-images.com); Kittiwake, Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com); Grey Seal, Ben Hall (rspb-images.com); Atlantic Yellow Nosed Albatross, Steffen Opiel (rspb-images.com)



10,008 species were assessed using Red List criteria.

2% (151 species) are extinct in Great Britain and a further 16% (almost 1,500 species) are now threatened with extinction here. In Northern Ireland, 281 (12%) of 2,508 species assessed are threatened with extinction from the island of Ireland.

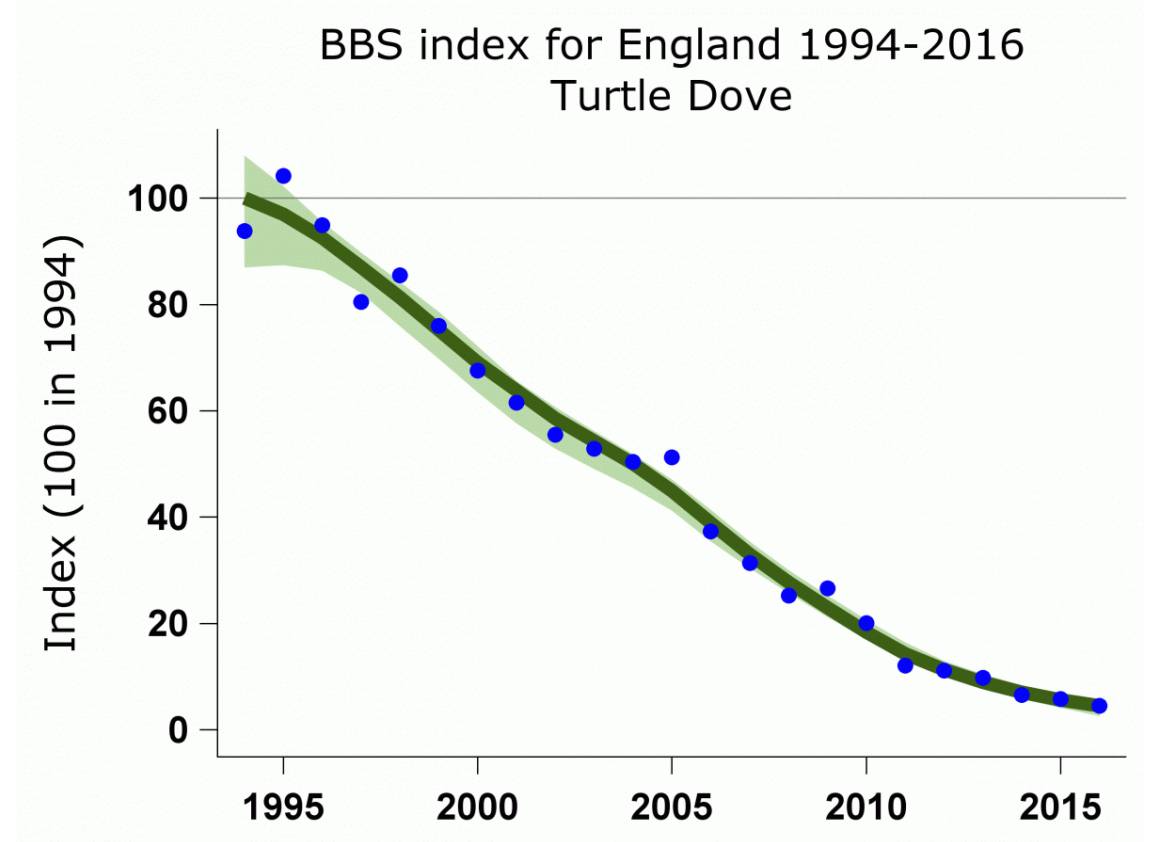
## Marine



The abundance of 13 species of seabird has fallen by an average of 24% since 1986.

The situation is worse in Scotland, where the abundance of 11 seabird species has fallen by an average of 49% since 1986. These results pre-date the potentially major impact of the ongoing outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

# Turtle Dove



# Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

## What is it?

*Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is a way to contribute to the recovery of nature while developing land. It is making sure the habitat for wildlife is in a better state than it was before development.*

[Understanding biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

# The story so far...

- **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)**
- **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**
- **Environment Act 2021**
- **Natural England Biodiversity Metric**



# What does BNG require?

- **Minimum 10% post-development BNG**
- **BNG measured in “units”**
- **Biodiversity Net Gain Plan**
- **BNG on-site and / or off-site**
- **Ongoing maintenance commitment (30 years)**



# When will BNG be required?

- **Now in accordance with BNG policies in adopted Local Plans**
- **For new applications, from:**
  - i) January 2024 for most development (delayed from Nov 2023)**
  - ii) April 2024 for small sites**
  - iii) 2025 for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)**

# What to expect before January 2024?

- **Government preparing statutory instruments to cover following issues:**
  - i) Exemptions**
  - ii) Irreplaceable Habitats**
  - iii) The Register**
  - iv) Planning System**
  - v) Commencement regulations**
- **Expected by end of November 2023**

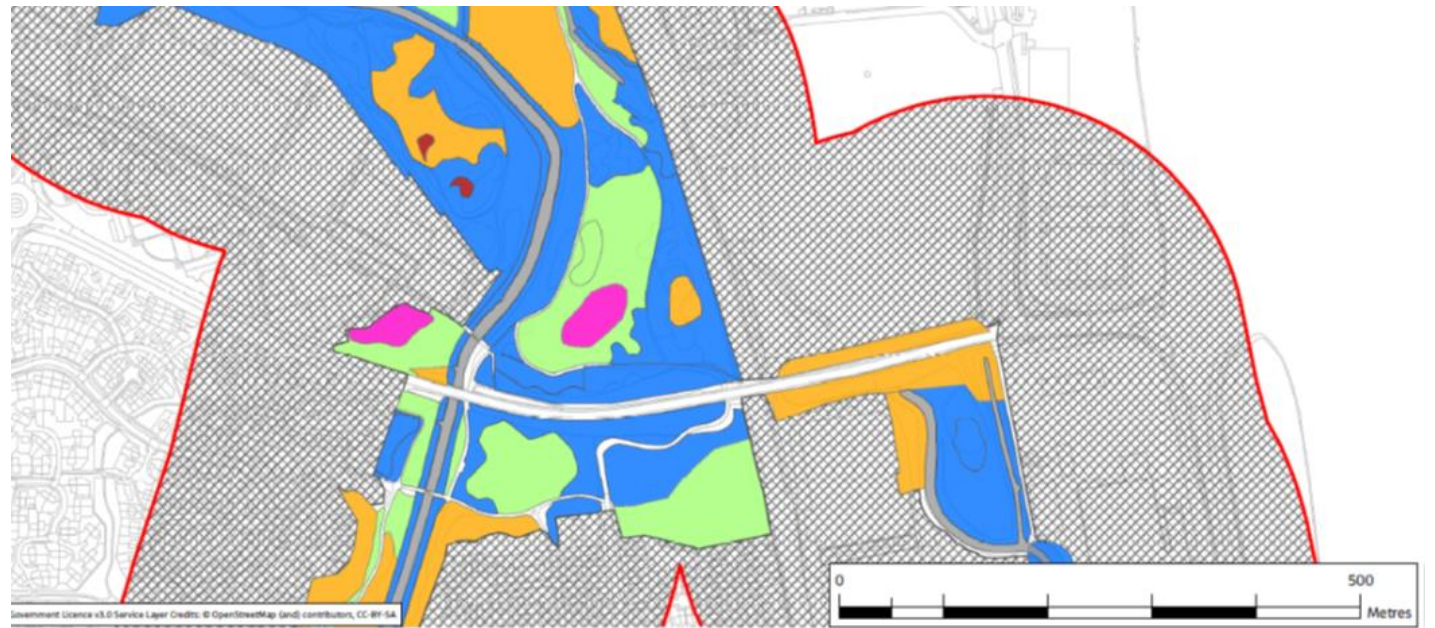
# Biodiversity Net Gain in the Environment Agency

- **Environment Act** requires all projects needing planning permission to increase biodiversity by 10% from ~~November 2023~~ **January 2024**
- **EA Emission2030**, 20% biodiversity net gain on all operational activities

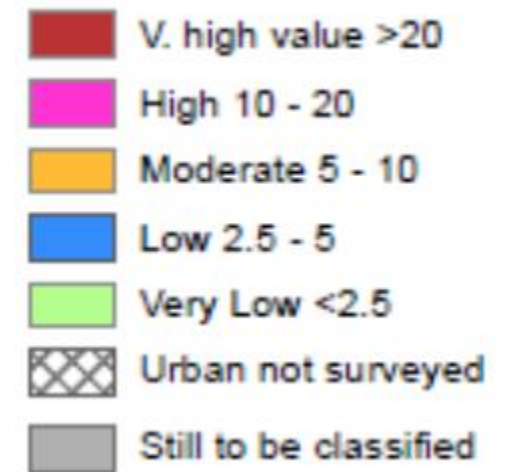


# Measuring BNG

- NE metric
- Baseline units before
- Units after
- 10% increase
- Protect existing habitats
- Three elements
  - Terrestrial
  - Hedgerows
  - Rivers and Streams (includes ditches)



## Units per Hectare





# Capital Delivery Opportunity and Risk

- NW hub 250 FCRM projects spending £450 million by 2026. Almost all need 10% BNG legal requirement
- Creating a Better Place opportunity
- Significant risk
- Cost increase can use OM4/RO4
- Partners
- Complexity
- Planning permission risk
- Will change our approach



# GMMC and CL Area Approach

- Uncertainty
- 80:20 Area approach: focus on EA FCRM capital programme, not revenue or environment programme
- Delivery Board set up **GMMC and C&L BNG Assurance Group** to
  - Prepare the Areas and support projects
  - Work with national teams
  - Provide assurance
- Accountable to Strategy and National Adaptation Boards and Delivery Boards<sup>42</sup>





# Working with others

- Planning Authorities enforce and facilitate
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- Offsite via schemes or pay into BNG Credits Scheme
- Opportunity for us?
- Very competitive field
- We need partners who can maintain for 30 years
- May need different procurement approaches



# BNG Tracker

Project Id	Scheme Name	Very farm org	BNG On- site?	BNG On- site?	BNG Status	On-site Baseline (units)			On-site post-intervention			On-site Net Gain (%) (calculated automatically)			Off-site Baseline			Off-site post- intervention (Net Gain units)			Total net unit change (calculated automatically)			Total Net Gain (%) (calculated automatically) (Net on-site plus off-site surplus)		
	Burrow Beck					2.70	0.90	0.97	3.33	0.00	0.97	23.3%	-100.0%	0.0%							0.63	-0.90	0.00	23.3%	-100.0%	0.0%
	Caldew																									
	Fleetwood & Copse Brook																									
2019-20 - 000088	Pegs Pool and Wardleys Pool, Hambleton						10.26			16.00			55.9%									5.74			55.9%	
	Kendal Phase 1																									
	Kendal Phases 2 & 3																									
	Low Crosby		Yes	No		53.30	0.77		145.80	0.50		173.5%	-35.1%					92.50	-0.27		173.5%	-35.1%				
	Padiham		Yes	Yes		91.96	0.84	15.97	90.99	0.43	15.97	-1.1%	-48.8%	0.0%	5.39	0.00	0.00	13.21	0.00	0.00	6.85	-0.41	0.00	7.4%	-48.8%	0.0%
	Preston & South Ribble Phases 1&2		Yes	No		30.84	4.99		38.08	5.30		23.5%	6.2%								7.24	0.31		23.5%	6.2%	
	Preston & South Ribble Phases 3-5																									
	South Ulverston																									
	Southport Back Sluice																									
	Crossens Pumping Station		Yes	No		13.82	1.34		20.48	5.51		48.2%	311.2%								6.66	4.17		48.2%	311.2%	
2019/20-000081	Bessy Brook, Bolton																									
2019/20-000098	Inwell Vale to Chatterton																									
2019/20-000081	River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough Phase 1		Yes	No		55.56	0.00	14.76	73.24	2.56	15.21	31.8%	100.0%	3.0%	21.48	0.00	17.48	32.06	0.00	17.48	28.26	2.56	0.45	50.9%	100.0%	3.0%
2019/20-000083	River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough Phase 2																									
2019/20-000130	Penketh and Whittle FRM Scheme		Yes	No		8.86	6.22	1.61	12.39	7.81	1.53	39.8%	25.6%	-5.0%							3.53	1.59	-0.08	39.8%	25.6%	-5.0%

<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>C&amp;L</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>GMMC</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>2%</b>



# Managing the Risk

- Link projects
- Work with planning authorities
- Engaging with eNGOs
- RFCC could help
- Strategic purchase/  
underwriting BNG



# Summary

- All projects needing planning permission from **Jan 24** need to increase biodiversity by 10%
- Should be **on site**, offsite carries a multiplier
- EA has target of **20%** we are applying it **across programme**
- Applies to revenue but not sure how
- Will increase **cost and complexity** of projects
- Requires **30-year maintenance**
- **Great opportunity but also significant risk**
- GMMC and C&L **BNG Assurance group** to provide coordination and support
- RFCC could help reduce the risk



# Questions



# Agenda Item 6

## Local Levy vote

# Agenda Item 7

## Surface Water: A Strategic Update

A summary of what's changed since 2022

**Presented by Laura Bigley, Paul Shaffer & Johnny Phillips**

**Principal Flood Risk Officer**  
Lancashire County Council  
&  
**Co-chair of the Association of  
SuDS Authorities (ASA)**

**Director of Innovation and  
Delivery**  
Chartered Institute of Water  
and Environmental  
Management (CIWEM)

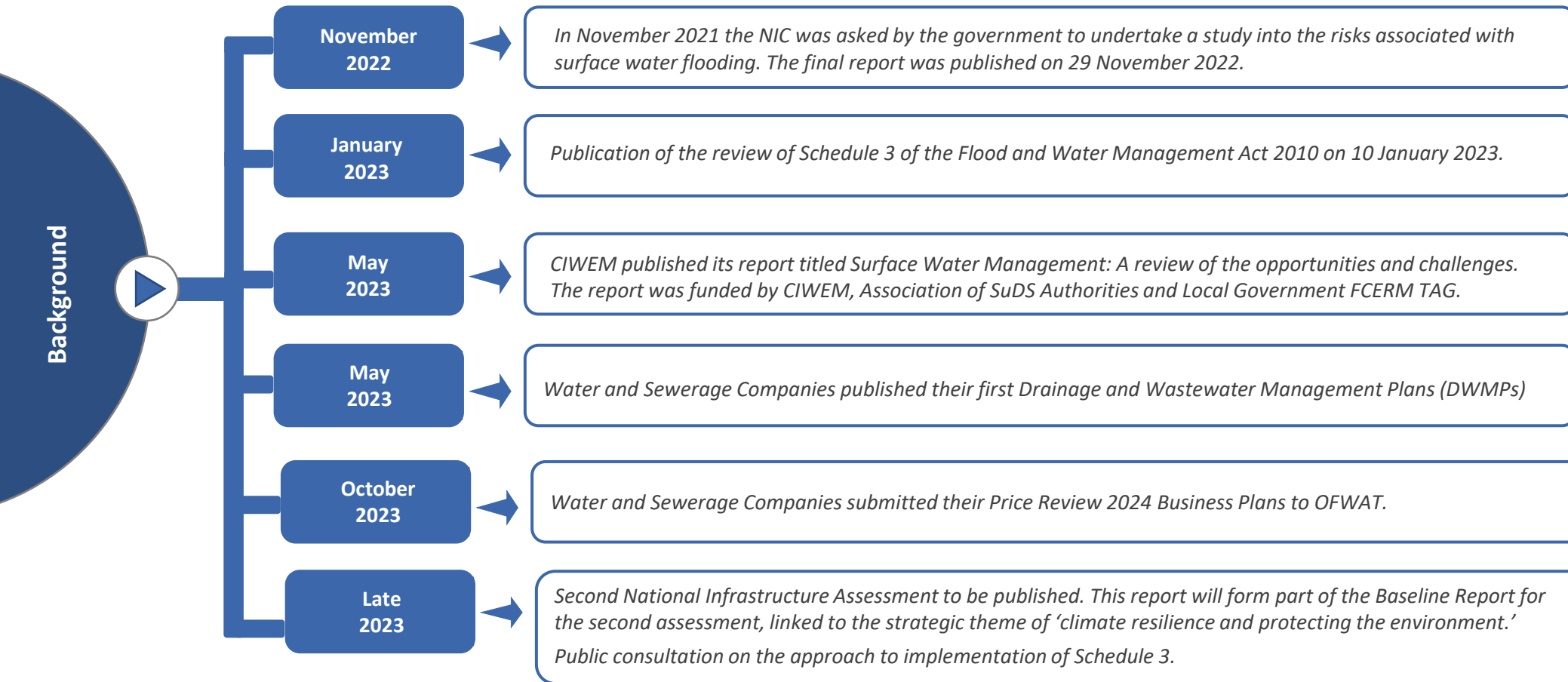
**Business Development  
Manager, Rainwater  
Management Team**  
  
United Utilities



Water for the North West



# Background



Background



# NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION

## National Infrastructure Commission

Reducing the risk of surface water flooding report

Published: 29 November 2022



# Who are the National Infrastructure Commission?

Who NIC are



NATIONAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMISSION

Better infrastructure for all

The Commissioners provide expert, impartial advice to the government on infrastructure, shape and develop the national infrastructure assessment and specific studies and engage with government and other stakeholders to promote the NIC and gather views on future infrastructure needs and solutions.

Specifically in relation to water and floods, it advises on how government can work with industry and stakeholders to mitigate flood and drought risks in the context of extreme weather events and climate change, with long term plans for adaption and resilience.

- **Chair:** Sir John Armitt CBE
- He is currently joined by eight other Commissioners.
- [More information about the Commission can be found here](#)





# Risks and opportunities

Over 300,000 properties in England are currently in high surface water flood risk areas, compared with 240,000 at risk from river and coastal flooding.

- The chances of these high risk areas experiencing surface water flooding is 1 in 30.
- Without action it estimates that by 2055 up to 295,000 further properties could be put at high risk.
- The report finds that up to 600,000 properties could be at high risk of surface water flooding over the next three decades.

Stop as much of the water as possible getting into drains

Stricter controls on new developments connecting to existing drainage systems



Expand the capacity of drainage systems

£12bn in additional investment in drainage infrastructure



Create more joined-up, targeted governance and funding

Move up to 250,000 properties in England out of this high risk category.



# Risks and opportunities

To put this into a North West context, here is the current number of properties at risk of surface water flooding across each of our Partnership areas

Area	Total High Risk	Total Medium Risk	Total Low Risk	Total at Risk
Cumbria Partnership	3,270	3,783	17,495	24,548
Lancashire Partnership	8,304	11,544	55,880	75,728
Greater Manchester Partnership	9,379	17,115	100,307	126,801
Merseyside Partnership	14,941	15,449	58,444	88,834
Cheshire Mid-Mersey Partnership	3,716	7,342	41,067	52,125
<b>North West Total</b>	<b>39,610</b>	<b>55,233</b>	<b>273,193</b>	<b>368,036</b>



# Recommendations

Recommendations



Reduce the amount of run-off water entering drainage systems



Expand the capacity of drainage systems



Create more joined-up, targeted governance and funding



# Recommendations



Reduce the amount of run-off water entering drainage systems

Government should strengthen legislation and standards to discourage new developments from connecting to existing drainage infrastructure in favour of wider uptake of sustainable systems

Review options for managing the unplanned growth of impermeable surfaces



# Recommendations



Expand the capacity of drainage systems

Better maintenance of existing drainage networks

Expanding the use of lower cost above ground measures (such as channels and drains) should be considered before new pipes and sewer

Priority should be given to nature-based solutions such as roof gardens, drainage ponds and rain gardens.

Ofwat should ensure that water and sewerage companies play their part, by enabling efficient investment in both above and below ground drainage infrastructure



# Recommendations



Create more  
joined-up, targeted  
governance and  
funding

The Environment Agency should be actively involved in assessing surface water flood risk

Government should set national risk reduction targets

Local authorities and water companies should work together to develop fully costed joint plans which deliver locally agreed targets, with public funding devolved to local areas.



# The Committee is asked to consider:



## ***Knowing the results of the Commission's report***

*What are the Committee's aspirations for surface water in the North West?*

*Is there anything we could do as a Committee to 'get ahead' to deliver benefits to communities across our region?*

*How can we use these recommendations to influence the refresh of the Committee's Business Plan and Local Levy Strategy?*





Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Sustainable Drainage Systems Review

Review of the benefits and impacts of making sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) a legal requirement for new developments.

Published: 10 January 2023



# Timeline and Background

**18 December 2014**

Eric Pickles MP announced SuDS would be implemented through the planning system with LLFAs becoming statutory consultees for major development

**1 April 2020**

Water and Sewerage Companies started to adopt some SuDS components on a voluntary basis

**July 2021 - August 2022**

NPPF and PPG significantly updated to place more emphasis on SuDS

**10 January 2023**

Review of Schedule 3 of the FWMA published

**2024**

SAB implementation

i

i

i

i

i

i

i

i

i

**6 April 2015**

LLFA statutory consultee role commenced

**26 August 2020**

Jenkins Review recommending re-examining the case for implementation of Schedule 3

**December 2022**

Letter to Prime Minister encouraging implementation of Schedule 3

**Late 2023**

Public consultation



# Sustainable Drainage Systems Review

What?

Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 provides a framework for the **approval and adoption of drainage systems**, an **approving body (SAB)**, and **national standards on the design, construction, operation, and maintenance** of SuDS.

It also makes the **right to connect surface water runoff to public sewers conditional upon the drainage system being approved** before any construction work can start

Why?

Making sustainable drainage systems mandatory for new development will help address the pressures of **climate change**, **increasing population** and **urbanisation** whilst achieving **multiple benefits**, such as reducing surface and sewer flood risk, improving water quality, and harvesting rainwater to meet current and future needs.

Outcome

The review recommends that the government **must act and implement Schedule 3** to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as written, **with the unitary authority or the county council as approving bodies**.

This will mean that sustainable drainage systems will no longer be assessed through the planning system, but instead as a separate technical assessment by the SuDS Approval Body alongside the planning application for the site.

The Welsh Government has published a [post-implementation review](#) of the effectiveness of SABs in Wales. Lessons learnt from the Welsh experience are anticipated to be incorporated in English legislation.

# What may require approval from the SuDS Approval Body (SAB)?

## Expected to require SAB approval



All projects larger than 100m<sup>2</sup> or more than one property, unless exempt, will need to incorporate a sustainable drainage system that complies with new national standards and is approved by the SuDS Approval Body before construction can commence.



Approval from the SuDS Approval Body will be required prior to commencement of construction and will be in addition to any planning and highway requirements.



The SuDS Approval Body will adopt sustainable drainage systems where applicable, and which meet the mandatory national standards.

## Expected to be exempt from SAB approval



The following are exemptions under Schedule 3 as it is written today.

- Permitted development under 100m<sup>2</sup>
- Single buildings under 100m<sup>2</sup>
- Construction work carried out by an Internal Drainage Board (IDB) in exercise of its functions under the Land Drainage Act 1990
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), HS2 Phases 1 and 2a and the Bicester to Bedford Improvement scheme
- Crown Estate land



The SAB is not under a duty to adopt any drainage system, or part of a drainage system, which only provides drainage for single properties.



# Next steps: Public consultation

## Implementation Approach

The Government will now consider how Schedule 3 will be implemented, subject to final decisions on **scope, threshold and process**.

A public consultation will help to shape the new approach, with **implementation expected during 2024**.

## Regulatory Impact Assessment

**Costs to set up the SAB:** A new burdens funding assessment will identify any new burdens grant that may be provided by the Government.

**Running costs of the SAB:** Developers will pay an application and inspection fee, which will fund the SAB's operational costs.

**Operation and maintenance costs of SuDS:** There will be a fee to cover maintenance of SuDS adopted by the SAB.



# The Committee is asked to:

Note the importance of responding the public consultation on the implementation of Schedule 3 in England.

Note that things could change, and nothing is guaranteed until the legislation is passed.

Unless or until Schedule 3 comes into force it is very much **'business as usual'** for Local Authorities and other risk management authorities in relation to SuDS.





」

# Surface water management – review of the opportunities & challenges

Paul Shaffer, CIWEM





## Why and how

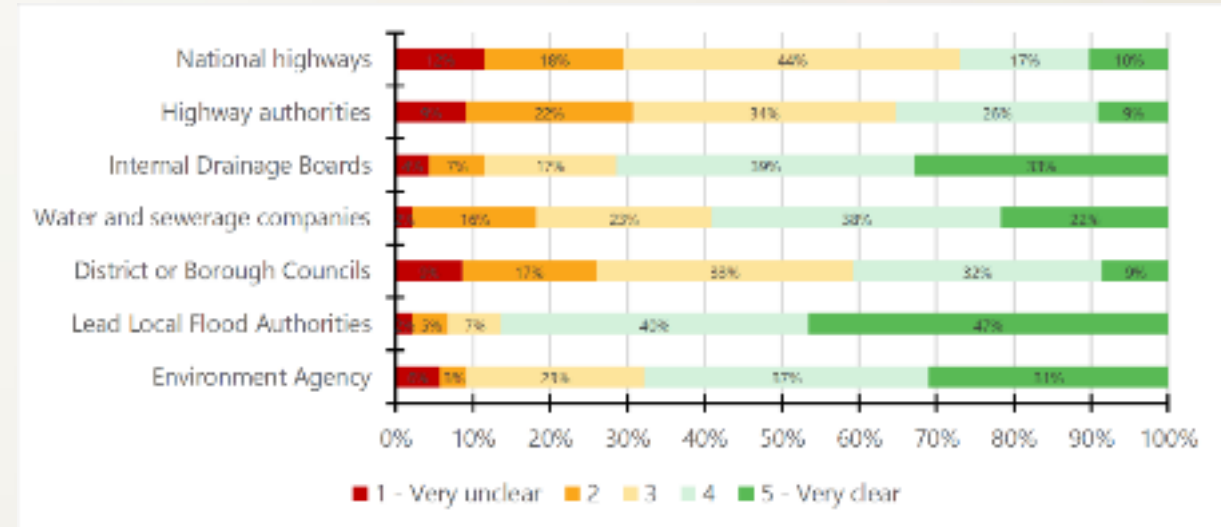
- ASA, LG FCERM TAG & LODEG wanted independent evidence on the opportunities & challenges relating to surface water management for RMAs.
- The remit of the review was:
  - Cooperation & collaboration
  - Funding
  - Capacity & skills
- Survey collected responses in summer 2022, augmented with two focus groups.
- 89 responses, 77% were from local government, 10% from WaSCs.





# Cooperation

- 63% of respondents very clear on their own RMA responsibilities but this dropped to 48% clear on other RMAs
- 47% respondents suggested LLFAs were very clear on their responsibilities, this dropped to 31% for the EA
- There was a lack of clarity at an operational level e.g. asset ownership, maintenance and the EA's Strategic Overview.
- 60% of respondents suggested that surface water should be coordinated by one RMA. 69% suggested it should be LLFAs



Clarity of RMA responsibilities about their own SWM responsibilities





## Cooperation 2

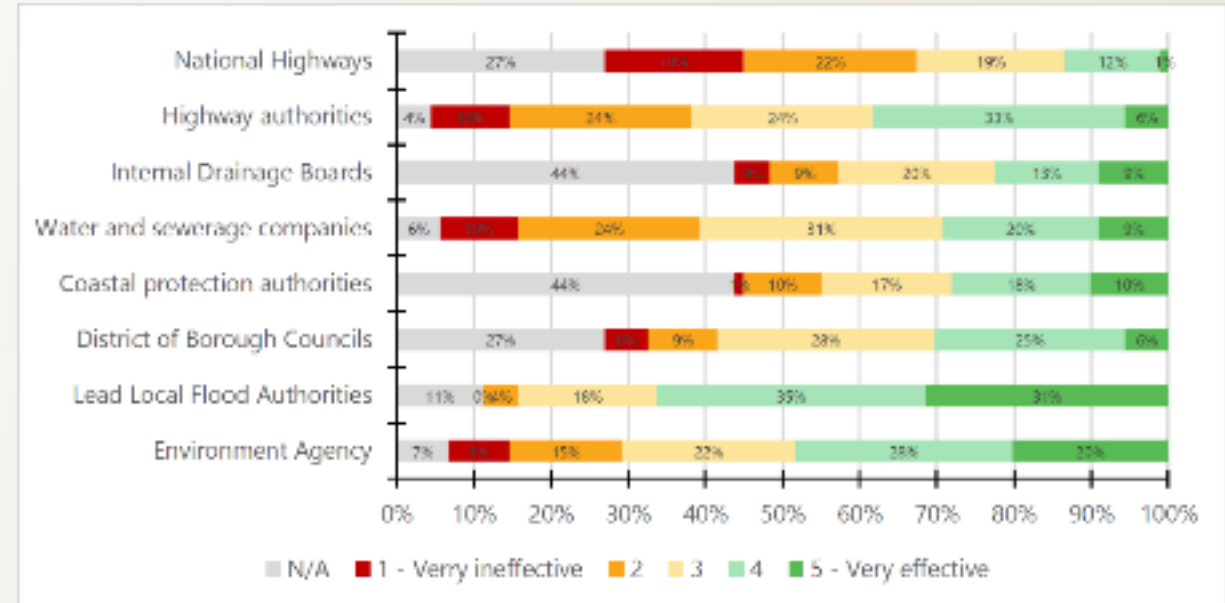
- Some confusion around what the EA's Strategic Overview meant for surface water management.
- The RMA duty to cooperate is delivered inconsistently regionally & organisationally.
- Some concern for data sharing & the development of asset registers.
- Recognise the need for coordination to deliver SuDS – particularly retrofitting.





# Collaboration

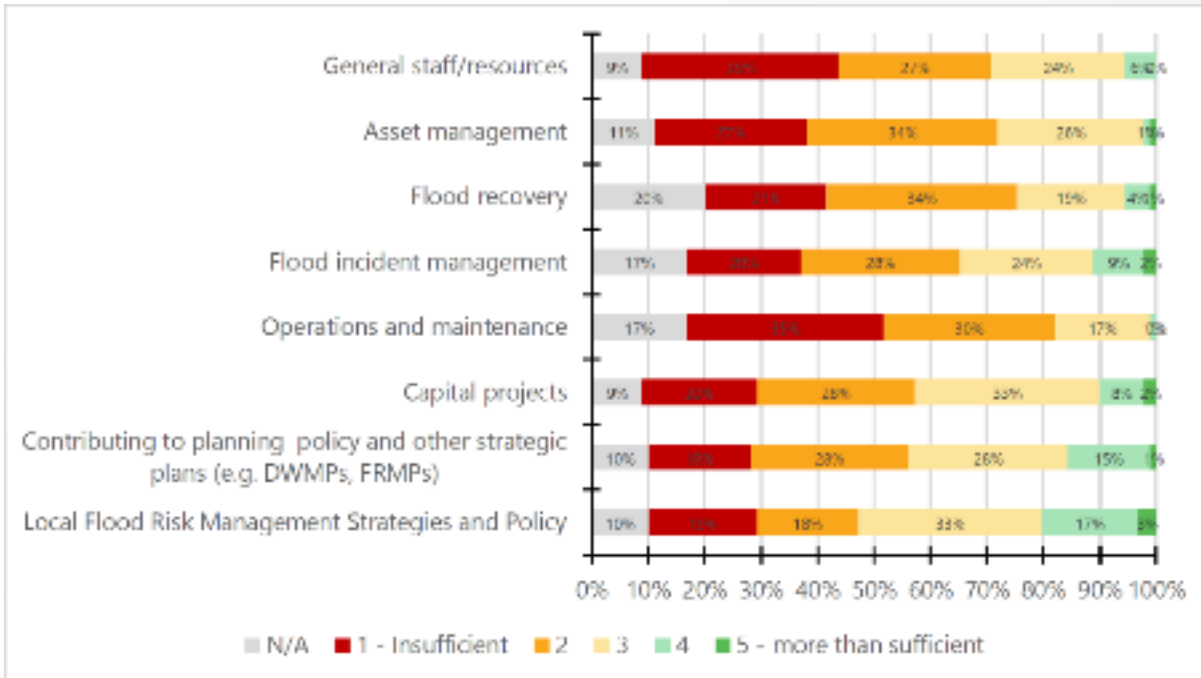
- LLFAs & EA were regarded as best collaborators. Highway authorities, WaSCs & IDBs were less so.
- Only 35% of respondents suggested that approaches to support cooperation were effective.
- Collaboration challenges related to:
  - Cooperation underpinned collaboration & partnerships.
  - Uncertainty on roles, responsibilities & duties made engagement difficult.
  - Collaboration & partnership requires resourcing.



Effectiveness of RMAs at collaboration on SWM



# Funding

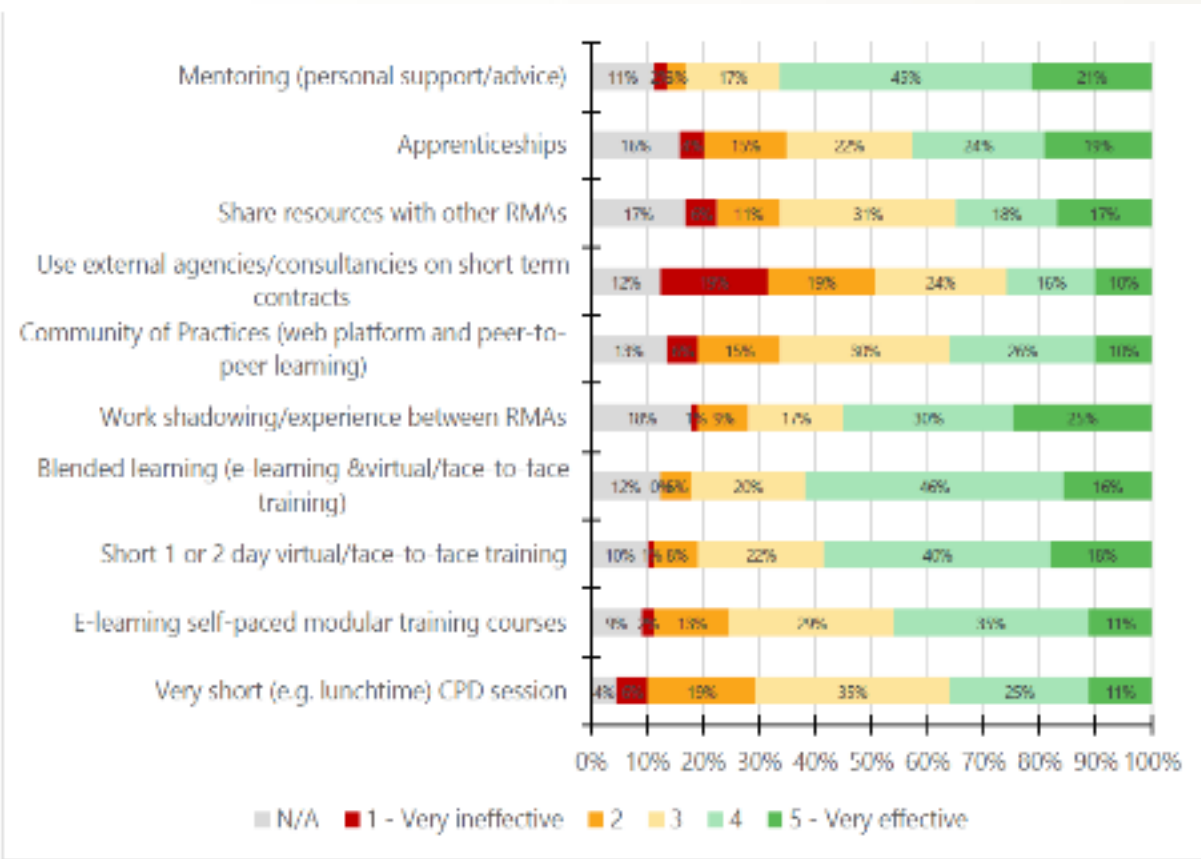


How sufficient is funding for the certain management activities

- 52% of respondents had an allocated (ring fenced) budget for surface water mgt.
- 21% respondents have long term certainty on budget.
- Insufficient budget & certainty contributed to poor resourcing, challenges in undertaking statutory duties including capital delivery & maintenance.
- Stated challenges related to:
  - Alignment of funding (benefits & timescales) is problematic
  - Burdensome funding applications & requirements.
  - Processes for funding are more suited to coastal & fluvial flood defence schemes.



## Capacity & skills



- About a third (34%) of RMAs have a full complement of staff.
- Recruitment/retention is a significant challenge. 74% of RMAs find it challenging to fill posts.
- Many RMAs are recruiting less experienced candidates & then providing training.
- Over half (58%) have enough skills in their RMA.
- The required skills are changing – SuDS, biodiversity, engagement.
- More funding, accredited training, on the job training (apprenticeships) & shared resources could help.

Effectiveness of approaches to improve skills within their RMA





## Recommendations – cooperation & collaboration

- 7 recommendations to improve cooperation & collaboration were considered to be deliverable within 2 years. Broadly covering **leadership, engagement, clarity and improving practice**



**Leadership** – Government to establish & share a (co-created) vision for surface water management. Setting clear requirements for roles, responsibilities & coordination.



**Engagement** – Government & RMAs need to underpin cooperation, collaboration & coordination with good engagement of all disparate RMA groups.



**Clarity & improving practice** – Government & the EA have a role in clarifying the EA's Strategic Overview & the regulatory framework for surface water management. Government & the EA need to enable RMAs to improve data sharing, development of asset registers & flood investigations.



## Recommendations – funding

- Funding is a persistent & pervasive challenge. 5 recommendations to improve funding. These cover the **funding application, availability of funding, allocation and alignment of funding**.



**Funding applications** – The application & funding appraisal process should be more proportionate & specific to the needs for surface water management. Visibility & transparency of the process/progress should be improved.



**Increased availability of funding** – more funding needs to be allocated to enable capital delivery & maintenance of SWM schemes. Government needs to consider activities undertaken by LLFAS but not currently funded – particularly maintenance.



**Allocation & alignment of funding** – Devolving/delegating funding decisions at a local level was suggested for surface water management. Mechanisms to enable alignment of different funding sources for surface water management should be introduced.



## Recommendations – capacity & skills

- There were 7 recommendations to improve capacity and skills. These cover **dissemination & training, on the job training & apprenticeships, knowledge management and local hubs.**



**Dissemination & training** – Changes to regulations & procedures should be appropriately communicated to RMAs & supported with training.

A skills gap analysis could help identify what accredited training could be developed. Facilitated peer to peer learning & structured mentoring would also be useful.



**On the job training & apprenticeships** – apprenticeships to formalise approaches to on-the-job-training could support developing capacity & resources.



**Knowledge management** – Improving approaches to knowledge management, documenting procedures would support succession management.



**Local hubs** – the local sharing of resources, knowledge & expertise between different RMAs could be beneficial.



# Thank you

Paul Shaffer

[paul.shaffer@ciwem.org](mailto:paul.shaffer@ciwem.org)

[For further information:](#)





## Stronger, Greener, Healthier: Our plan for the North West

The North West is an exciting and diverse region; it's where we live, work and play. We've built a plan for the next five years which has been shaped by, and adapted to meet, the diverse needs of the North West.



## How our plan provides a stronger, greener and healthier North West

### STRONGER

We deliver an essential service, help customers in vulnerable situations, invest in local communities, and support jobs and the economy, giving the North West resilience in a changing world.



Helping people with their bills – doubling our support to

**£525m**



**590,000**

customers helped by our financial support schemes



Investing in our region, enabling growth by upgrading

**950km**

of water mains



**22m**

additional litres of water to ensure a reliable supply of water



Reducing leakage by

**13%**

reduction in interruptions to your water supply



**50%**

reduction in the likelihood of a hosepipe ban



Helping homes and businesses save

**9m**

litres of water



Creating

**7,000**

new high quality skilled jobs



## How our plan provides a stronger, greener and healthier North West

### GREENER

We protect and enhance urban and rural environments, and adapt to the challenges of climate change, allowing people, wildlife and nature to thrive, making the North West a better place to live now and for the future.



Investing

**£3.1bn**

to reduce spills from over 400 overflows



Protecting and enhancing over

**500km**

of rivers, spending over £900m to reduce nutrients



Investing around

**£660m**

to improve bathing and shellfish waters



**25%**

reduction in the number of pollution incidents



Improving over

**11,500**

hectares of land to enhance biodiversity and water quality



Spending £196m to reduce carbon emissions by

**43%**

(against 2020 baseline)



## How our plan provides a stronger, greener and healthier North West

### HEALTHIER

We provide great quality water that people love to drink, safely remove and recycle used water, while taking care of beautiful landscapes in the North West every day.



Delivering a

**32%**

reduction in sewer flooding in homes and businesses



Replacing lead pipes at

**30,000**

homes



**26%**

reduction in water quality contacts



Upgrading

**65km**

of the Vyrnwy Aqueduct, improving water quality for over 500,000 people



Enhancing safety at

**25**

reservoirs for people to enjoy their visit



Improving bathing waters for recreation





## Highlights

- Surface water management is third in our hierarchy of priority of solutions behind reducing service demand through behavioural change and by monitoring, studies and investigations.
- The best value approach was selected for use following customer engagement which totalled £1.7bn of investment across 512 areas. This excludes investment to meet overflow targets.
- 22% of this (£290m) is identified as surface water management measures, and we have requested within the business plan to deliver the first block of this investment as a programme of activity in AMP8.
- Following Strategic Planning Group events, we refined the 1,000 potential opportunities against asset locations and UU areas of interest to identify those most suited to the DWMP to 200. These are mapped and now can be used to help support and deliver our DWMP and WINEP programmes.

### Key Points

- UuW has taken a robust approach to the development of the DWMP.
- The plan set out in this document would enable significant performance improvements to achieve the DWMP planning objectives.
- An adaptive approach is, therefore, critical to delivering long-term resilience to drainage and wastewater services in the North West.

In summary the DWMP, and AMP8 WINEP, seek to deliver the following key benefits, despite the significant adverse pressure from climate change:

#### AMP8 WINEP 2025-2030

- 29,000 spills/annum reduction through AMP8 overflow programme to achieve 2030 SODRP trajectory;
- 7,987 hectares of SSSIs improved;
- 412 kilometres of rivers improved; and
- Reduced impacts on 27 shellfish waters and 30 bathing waters.

#### DWMP 2025-2050

- Full achievement of SODRP targets and trajectory;
- 62% improvement reduction in internal flooding;
- 28% reduction in external flooding;
- 57% reduction in pollution incidents; and
- 36% reduction in sewer collapses.

## Long Term Planning

We have developed a **25-year Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)**, which sets out our long-term approach for sustainable drainage and wastewater management across the North West and how we intend to make sure that the region thrives now and in the future.

## Climate Change

We need to **act now to ensure long-term resilience** to the growing impacts of climate change. If we do not act now, we risk leaving customers and communities at risk of having larger problems, requiring ever larger and more complex solutions for future generations to resolve.

## Nature based solutions

A blend of solution types defined in our hierarchy will be required to deliver our plan. However, we will **prioritise and maximise how nature is used** through blue and green infrastructure to deliver solutions that are adaptable and resilient to provide a healthy, green and strong North West.

## Changing Regulation

The Environment Act and Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan (SODRP) has introduced a statutory obligation that all **storm overflows activate less than ten times per year** on average by 2050. Our target starts by meeting a 20 activation average by 2030.

## Rainfall

The North West is impacted by some of the wettest weather in England, with **40% more urban rainfall than the industry average**. In addition, the region has experienced numerous, and more frequent, extreme storms in recent years, causing major disruption to communities and infrastructure, including our own.

## Partnerships

**We can't achieve this on our own.** Other infrastructure providers and risk management authorities face similar challenges to work with us to deliver our shared goals of a green, healthy and resilient North West.

## Added Value

Rainwater Management not only delivers water quantity benefits, but also water quality, amenity and biodiversity outcomes too. It is important we understand and quantify these to assess how we can **scale up their delivery through new markets**.





## WINEP

Reduce spills activations to 10 at over 170 areas through a hybrid solution of rainwater management and conventional storage.

## DWMP

Deliver our Drainage and Wastewater Management ambitions on increasing network capacity across the North West through sustainable and multifunctional solutions.

## Advanced WINEP

Inform and change how we plan and deliver future programmes of work by putting green, blue, and partnerships first, through co-ordination through the GM IWMP.

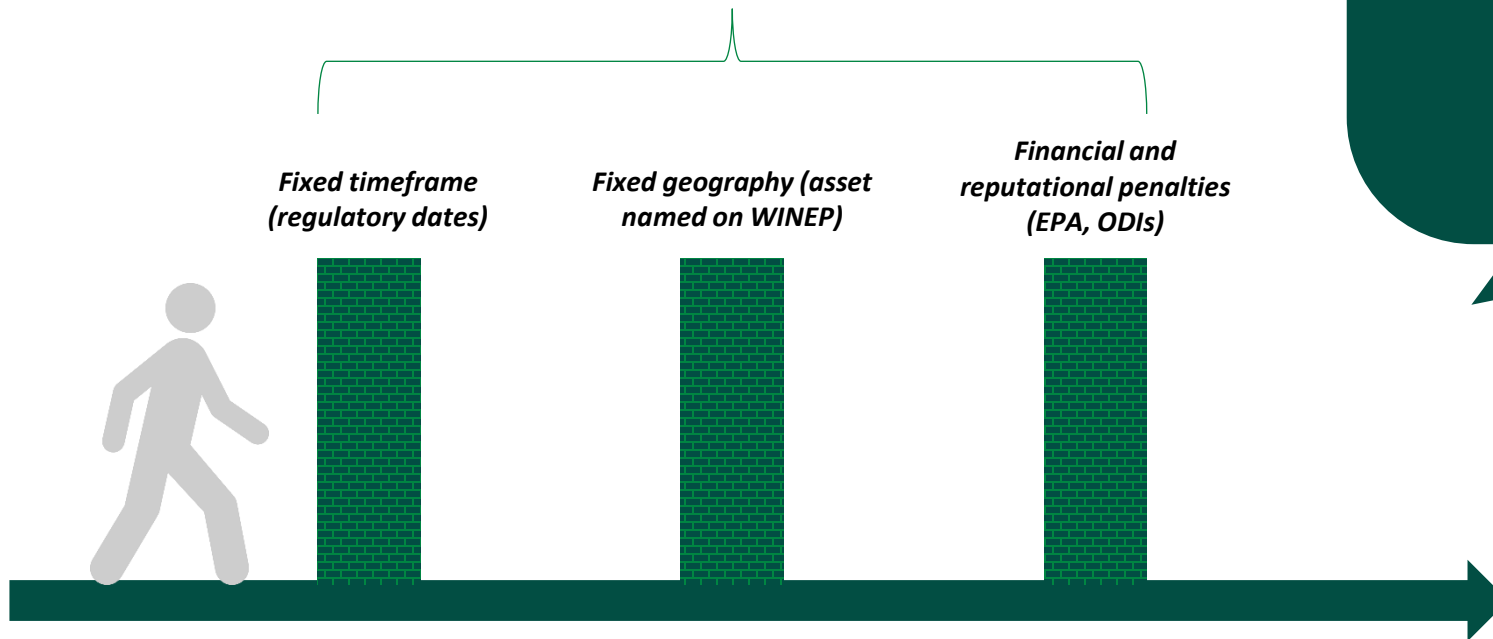


## The case for change

### Current WINEP regulatory barriers...

1) disadvantage rainwater management solutions that cannot be delivered to hard deadlines or benefit multiple locations

2) make co-funding and aligning with partners difficult as we are output focused and inflexible



### Unlocking Benefits

Wider social and environmental outcomes will be measured:



Flooding



Biodiversity



Rainwater Harvesting



Amenity



Carbon Sequestration



Water Quality

- Health
- Building temperature
- Air Quality
- Treating wastewater
- Crime
- Traffic Calming
- Watercourse flows
- Education
- Pumping
- Enabling development
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Economic growth
- Groundwater recharge
- Noise

We will work collaboratively to develop how we work in partnership and incentivise what, where and how Natural Flood Management (NFM) is installed within catchments.

There is approximately 2,000km of surface water sewer connected into combined sewers in the North West. We will identify where these can be disconnected without compromising water quality and flood risk.



## Uplands

## Disconnection



## Attenuation

Controlling everyday rainfall at source. By managing the first 5mm of rainfall, to reduce peak flow to sewers.

This can be achieved through use of blue green infrastructure (BGI) in domestic, commercial and public realm environments.

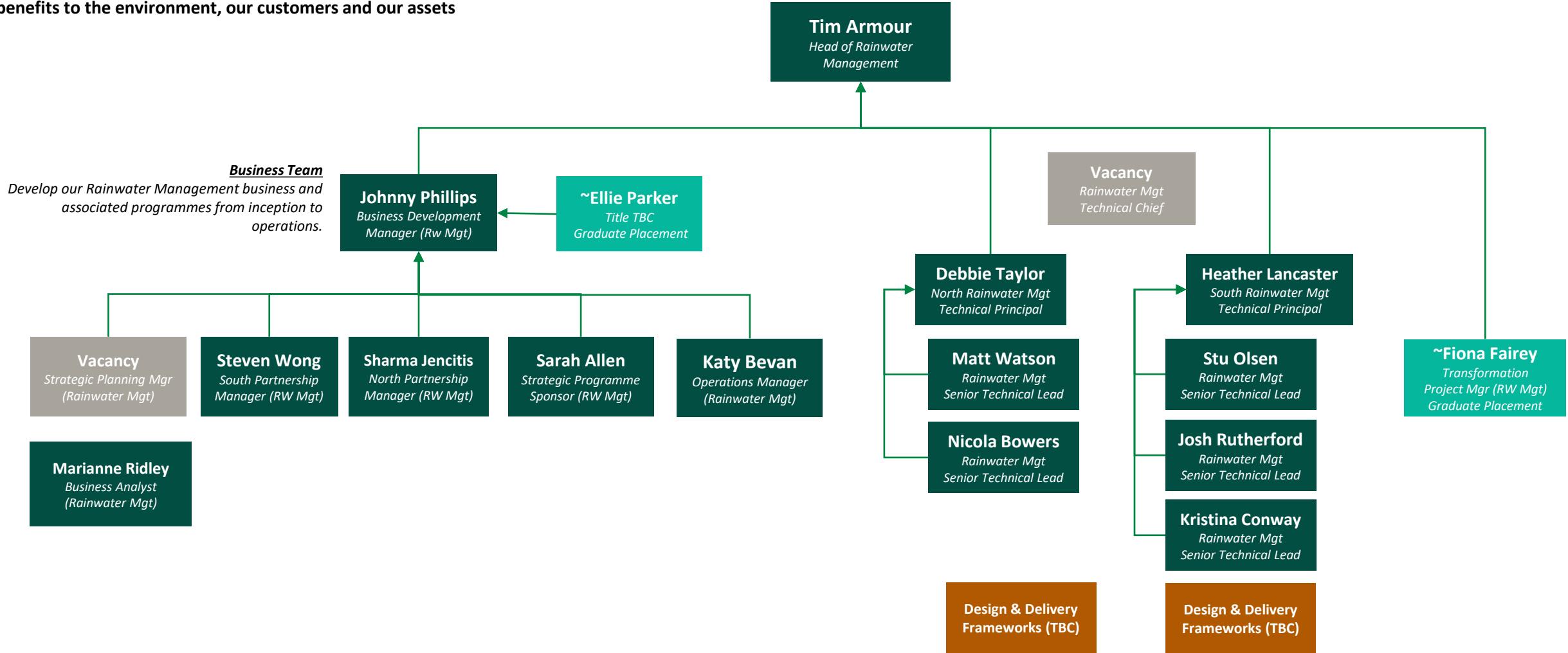


## Reuse

This strategy embraces rainwater as a valuable resource by recycling and reusing surplus surface water.

# Rainwater Management – Team Launch October 2023

A new business function improving our management of rainwater entering sewers; supporting UU to create Better Rivers, reduce sewer flooding and provide multiple benefits to the environment, our customers and our assets





# Thank You

Any questions?



Water for the North West



# Agenda Item 8

## Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management Plan – Approach and Learning

Presented by David Hodcroft (GMCA) and Dee Grahamslaw (United  
Utilities)



**Enhancing  
Life** through   
**Water** 



# Integrated Water Management Plan

• 20 October 2023





# Outcomes

1. Why an Integrated Water Management Plan is important for Greater Manchester
2. Features of the Plan
3. Early learnings from development



# • History of Partnership in GM

Though we have spent 12 months developing the Integrated Water Management Plan, we've been on a journey to get to this point...



Building relationships, growing rapport, developing organisational understanding...



# • Developing the IWMP in Greater Manchester


Though we have spent 12 months developing the Integrated Water Management Plan, we've been on a journey to get to this point...



Building relationships, growing rapport, developing organisational understanding...

# Why develop a plan now?



 HM Government

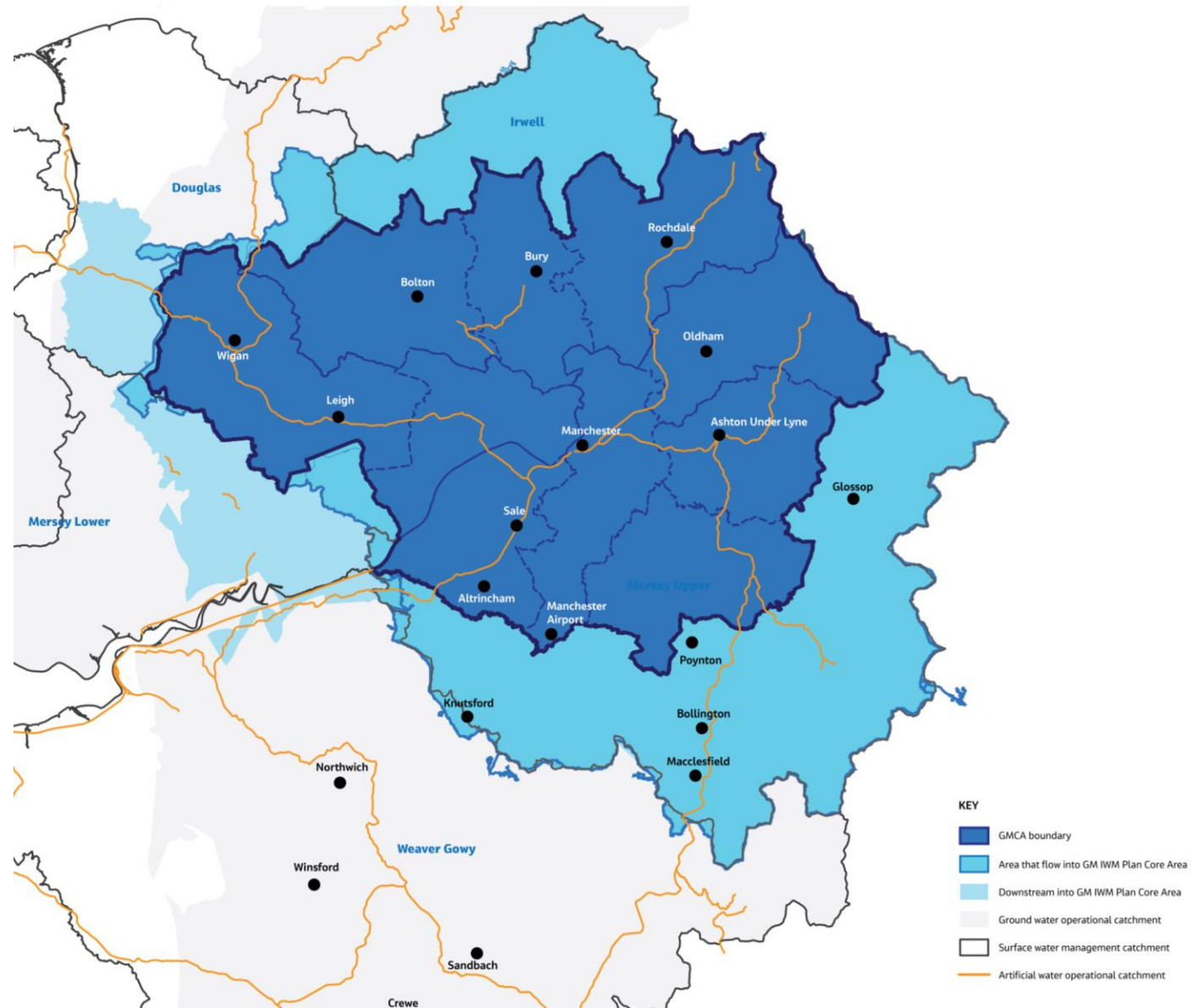
**GMCA** GREATER MANCHESTER  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority Trailblazer deeper devolution deal

Subject to ratification of the deal by all partners and the statutory requirements referred to within this document, including public consultation, the consent of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and its constituent local authorities, parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this deal, and accompanying accountability arrangements.

15 March 2023

# • Boundary of IWMP







## Vision

**Working together, we will manage Greater Manchester's water wherever it falls, to enhance the environment, support people and forge prosperous places.**

**We will collaborate to break barriers to manage water in an integrated way to enable the delivery of sustainable growth in Greater Manchester.**

**We will ensure that all interventions consider water neutrality, flood resilience, water quality improvement and build in climate adaptation.**

**We will involve businesses and community stakeholders to deliver resilient, diverse and inclusive public spaces.**

The plan will create value through how we deliver collaborative schemes, through wider benefits to environment and society and, critically, through organisational resilience.

### Adding value through integration

Co-investing and co-creating schemes will:

- Fund schemes to go ahead that otherwise would not
- Reduce collective delivery costs
- Create more benefits for the environment and society
- Enable more efficient delivery
- Reduce disruption for communities
- Enhance asset resilience
- Increase skills, resources and system resilience
- Enable development and growth

### Achieving outcomes across the City Region

Economic, social and environmental benefits will be realised from:

- Coordinated management of water as a valued resource
- Increased resilience to flooding, drought, improved water quality and enhanced natural capital
- Biodiversity net gain
- Adaptation to climate and population change
- Increase in green/nature-based drainage systems
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Health and wellbeing benefits

### Organisational resilience for long-term water management

Cross and intra-organisational benefits will be realised as the IWMP and partnerships mature:

- Established partnership, relationships and efficient processes and tools to deliver aims
- A resilient organisational system with embedded understanding, knowledge sharing and cross-organisational and sector engagement
- Development of skills, capacity and jobs to deliver solutions





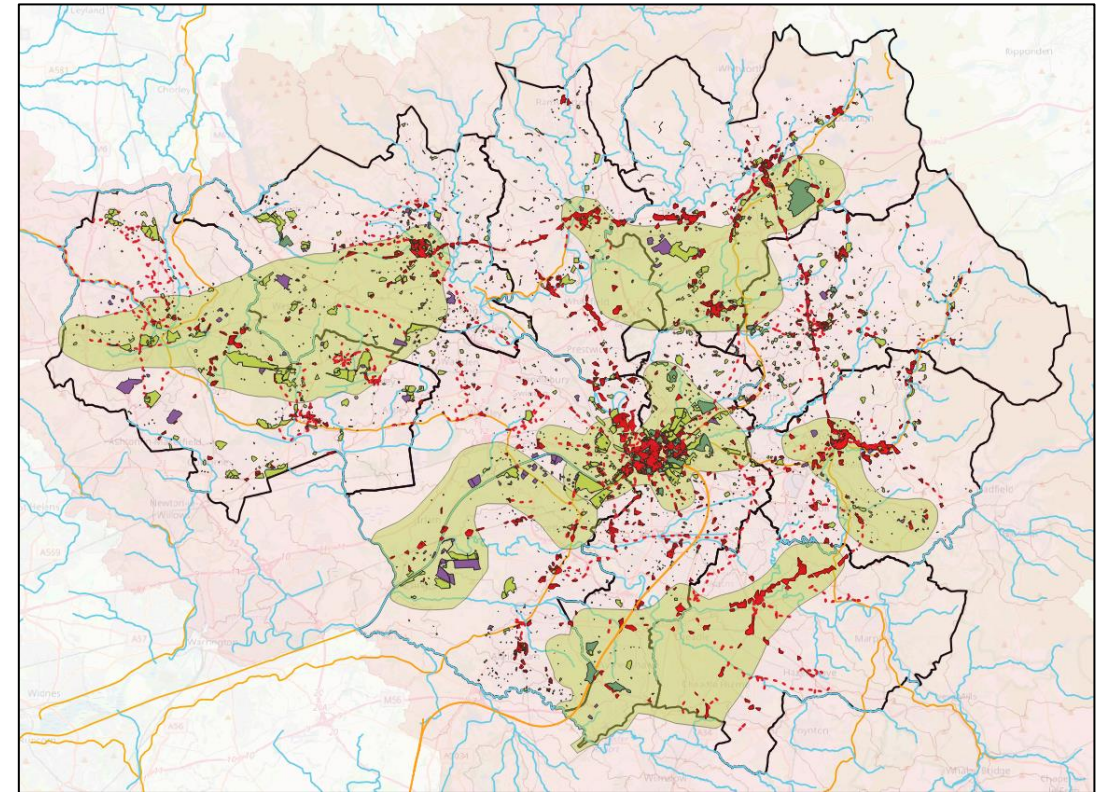
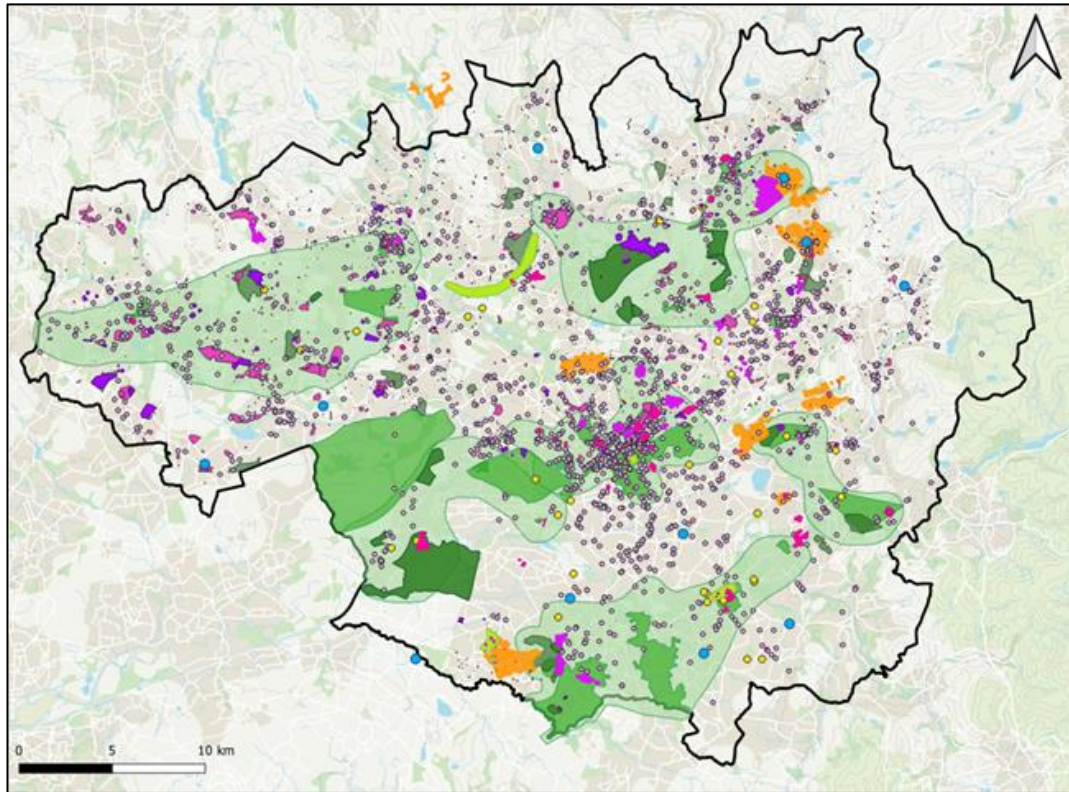
# Seven Interdependent workstreams





# • WS 1 - Living Integrated Opportunity Programme

The programme will join opportunities up that align spatially, driving investments and solutions that deliver better value compared to traditional solutions, leveraging funding from other sources where there is an alignment in objectives and by challenging delivery to be more efficient.







## Collaborative People

Senior sponsor mandating data sharing early on

People who are keen to collaborate, share information with the right 'soft' skills to maintain energy and momentum

Keep the core group small to guarantee delivery – but remember to involve wider stakeholders

## Set your Stall

Set a timeframe – 1 year was great to keep momentum

Confirm the scope of the challenge and immediate stakeholders

Get a balance of face to face and virtual engagement

Define early on the payment protocol

## Document the Outputs

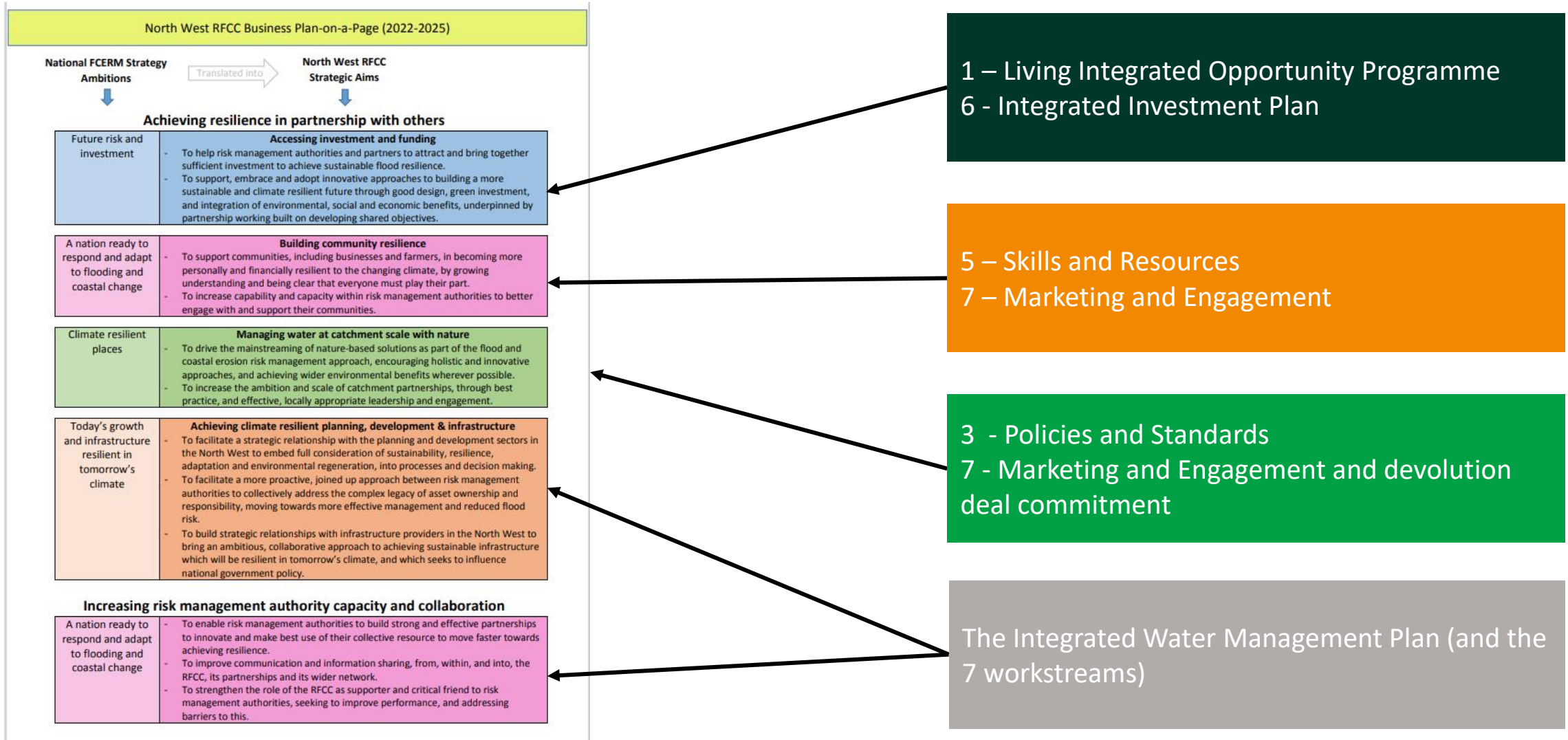
Collaborative shared working areas with good structure so can be easily navigated by partners

Capture the learning to ensure no problems with knowledge sharing in the future within and outside of the team (as new members come in)





# • How IWMP aligns to RFCC Business Plan



Enhance  
Life through  
Water 

Thank you

Questions welcome





# Agenda Item 9

# Flood Poverty Project

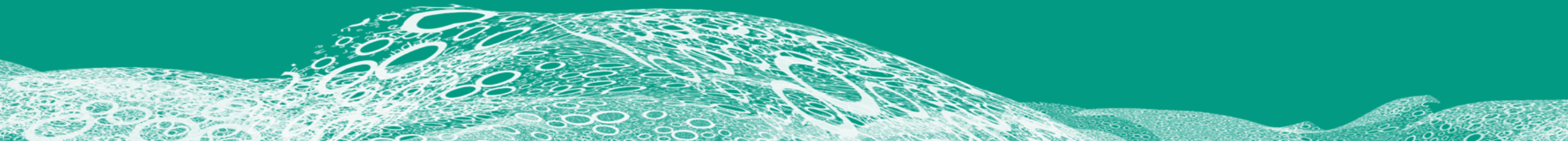
Presented by Fran Comyn (Rochdale BC, Paul Cobbing (independent)  
and Paul O'Hare (MMU)



ROCHDALE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# NWRFCC - Flood Poverty

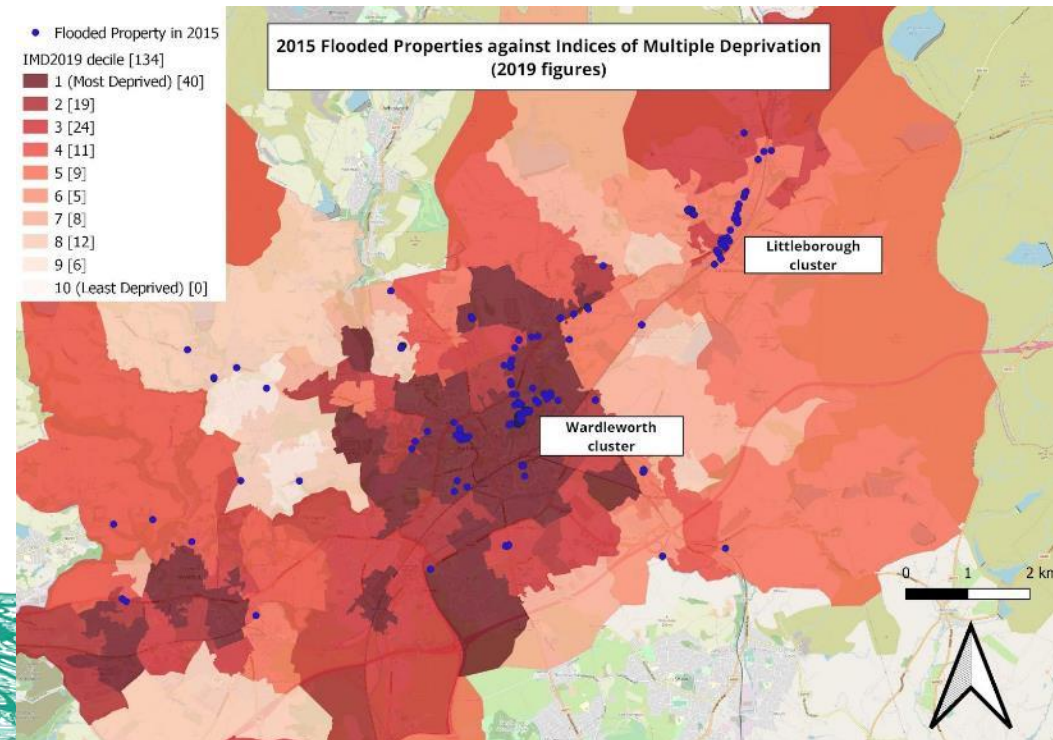
20<sup>th</sup> October 2023





# Agenda

1. Presentation
2. Discussion
  1. Queries, clarifications and questions
  2. Significant issues
  3. Sign-off
3. Dissemination
4. Next steps



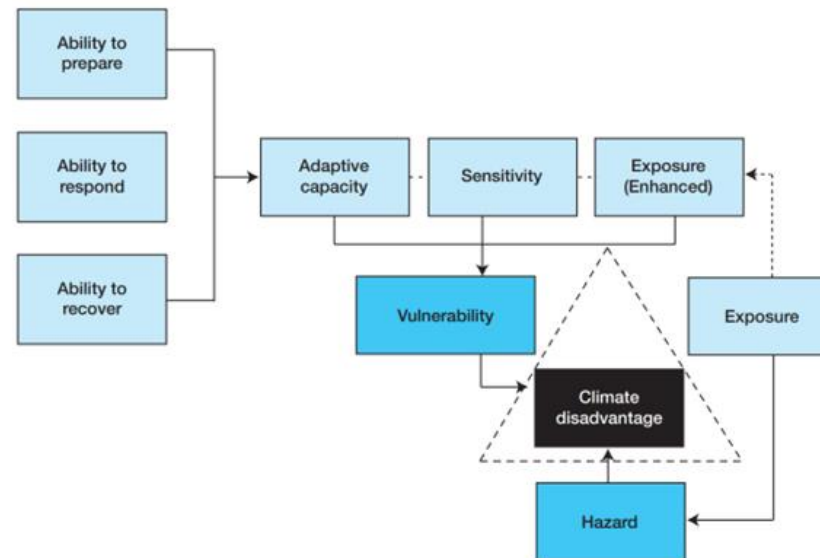
## What we did

- A desk-based review
- Social vulnerability mapping
- 2 Questionnaires with 103 responses
- PfR health check on 162 properties
- 2 Workshops
- 4 Focus groups
- 28 Qualitative (semi-structured) interviews
- Qualitative coding of the data



# Principles

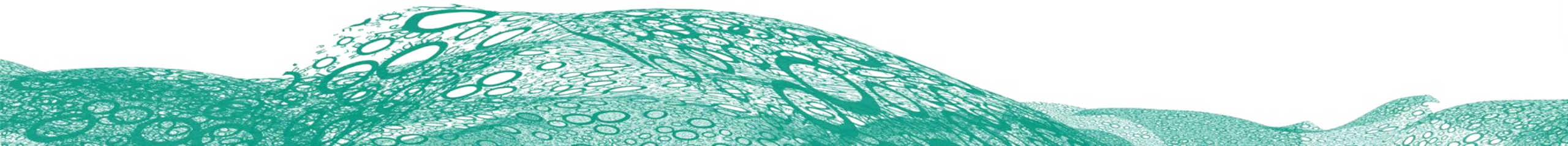
1. Recognising risk and disadvantage
2. 'Just' adaptation
3. Avoid unintended consequences
4. Adaptation that links to broader social, economic, environmental and public policy agendas
5. Collaboration & networking
6. Working with communities
7. Targeted engagement
8. Embed lessons learned





## What we found

- There is a strong association between flooding and deprivation
- There are significant opportunities to increase resilience and reduce residual risk to the impact of flooding through taking an integrated, cross sectoral approach to policy and service delivery.
- In a disadvantaged community there cannot be an assumption that long term property maintenance will occur without long term support and intervention from third parties such as a local authority or a housing provider.
- There is a question about how we incentivise other sectors, such as the insurance industry, how we reach out to these more challenging markets.
- FCRIP provides an opportunity to develop and implement many of the report's recommendations further.





### **Financial resilience**

Access to property insurance has become more limited e.g. loss of insurance brokers, the focus on digital and the limited understanding of the need for insurance

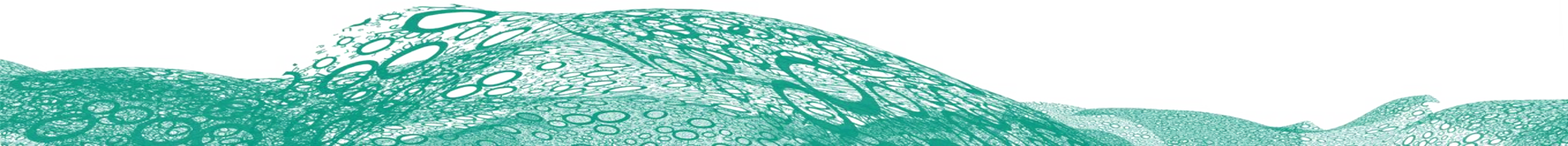
Insurance is just not affordable, or a priority, for many – alternatives are needed

### **Property level flood resilience**

Expecting households and property owners to maintain PfR does not work

Investing in PfR alongside addressing poor build quality and energy efficiency addresses flood impacts, poverty and quality of life

Support and intervention for longer term maintenance is needed and was piloted.



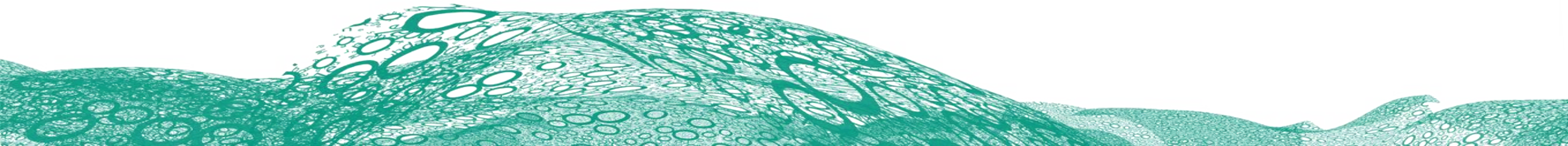
### **Housing and property management**

There is a strong association between flooding and deprivation both for tenanted properties and homeowners

Some landlords have bought cheap properties in flood risk areas to generate rental income but not invested in them

Letting agents, managing agents and landlords are not always clear about, or interested in, their responsibilities

Enforcement can be difficult and complex, but was shown to be possible



### **Flood and climate literacy**

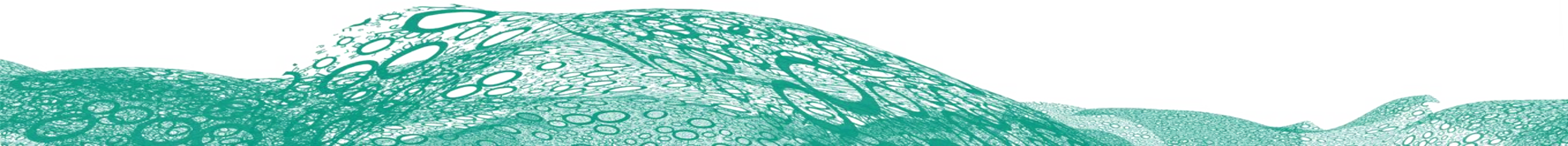
There is a lack of flood, water and climate literacy amongst both professional stakeholders and communities

Professional stakeholders in different sectors are important enablers. Many were keen to get involved

There are many micro communities, each requiring a separate approach.

Nuanced integrated, multi-sectoral approaches are needed that reflect the complex diversity of (micro) communities

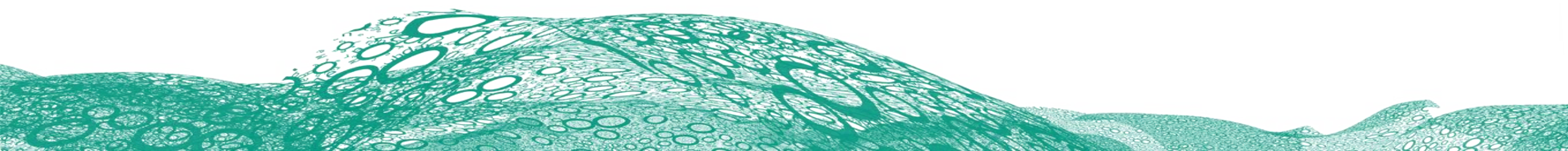
There are existing networks of civil society, faith-based and advocacy organisations that are working in these communities





## How findings and recommendations are set out in the report

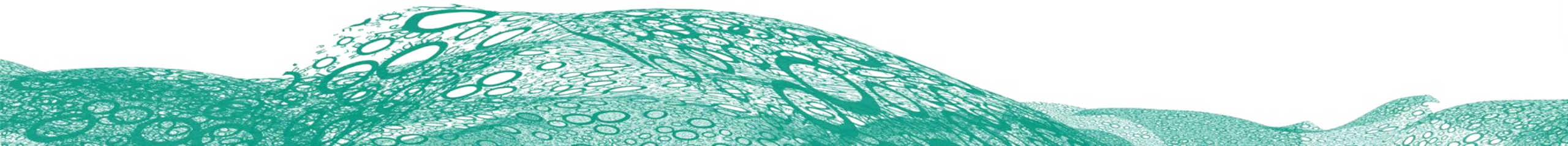
<b>Chapter 3 The relationship between Flooding, Housing and the Neighbourhood Investment Programme in Rochdale</b>	<b>1 Physical Measures</b>	<b>2 Financial Resilience</b>	<b>3 Stakeholder and community engagement</b>
1) The impact of flooding in Rochdale is not distributed evenly.			
2) High flood risk areas in Rochdale often have high Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) populations partly because housing is relatively cheap for both homeowners and tenants. Compared to other areas, housing is relatively cheap because of different combinations of the risk of flooding, poor build quality and a lack of maintenance. But there is also a multi-layered and multi-faceted evolution of the communities that contributes to this. This all leads to a self perpetuating cycle.			
3) Significant investment is required to tackle low build quality, energy efficiency, damp, mould and services in cellars that are at risk of inundation			





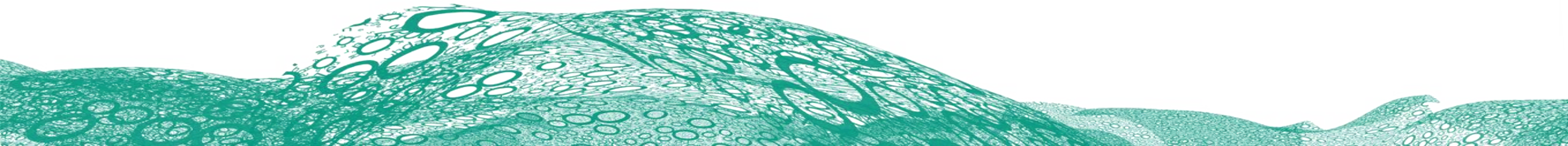
## Summary of recommendations

1. Integration across sectors at a local level. Operational delivery offers the best way of dealing with residual risk.
2. Professional stakeholder awareness and participation across sectors is needed, as well as residential and business communities
3. Use existing networks from many sectors to deliver flood resilience



## Summary of recommendations

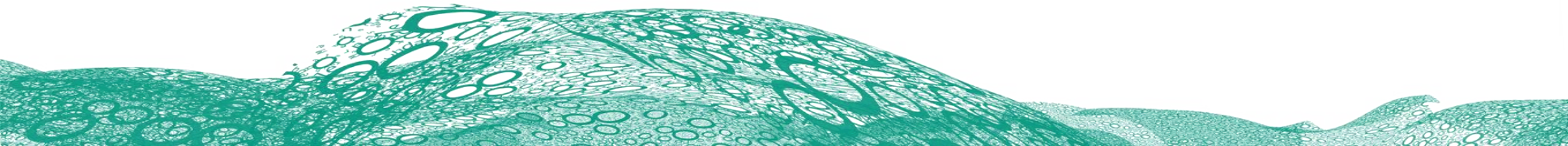
4. Insurance that is appropriate
  - a. People registered for social housing have access to appropriate insurance.
  - b. That is accessible in the place that people live in and the way that they wish (new models are required)
  - c. The value of insurance is promoted.
  - d. Requires cross sector projects to deliver (insurance, credit unions, CAB, Responsible Providers, local authorities), including support for delivery.



## Summary of recommendations

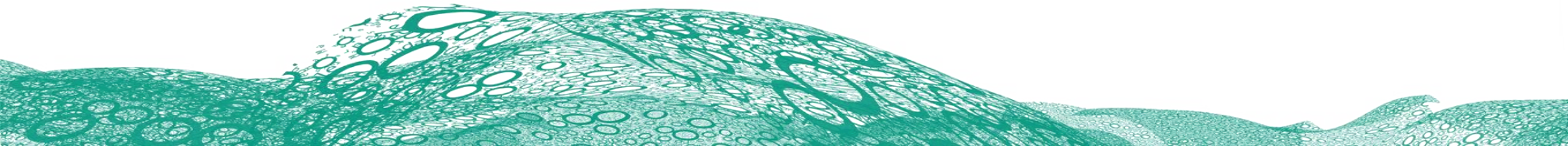
### 5. Private rented sector

- a. Letting and management agents and landlord roles and responsibilities are “clarified”, tightened, publicised and training provided.
- b. New legislation may be required.
- c. Enforcement of legislation needs focus
- d. Ensure that tenants and lessees know about their obligations and those of others, as well as how to secure them.



## Summary of recommendations

6. Property Flood Resilience (PfR)
  - a. New maintenance models are needed for householders and Responsible Providers
  - b. In order to avoid social justice issues, Flood Performance Certificates should be for all residential properties, not just homeowners with the ability to pay and those receiving local authority grants.
  - c. A whole building, whole street approach is needed to build resilience
  - d. An integrated cross sector approach – flood, energy efficiency, energy production, health, fit to live in approach delivers all round benefits.





# What we want from you

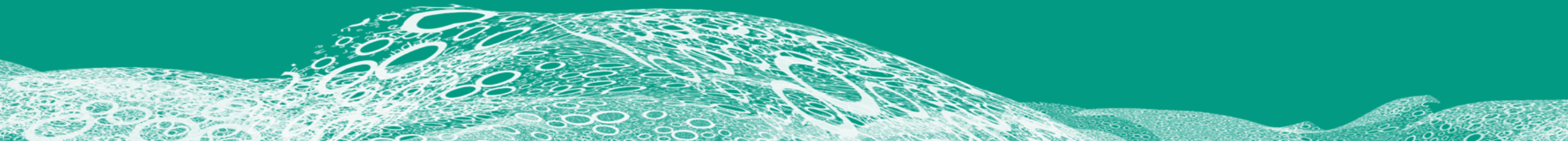
1. Discussion
  - Queries, clarifications and questions
  - Feedback of significant issues
  - Sign-off?
2. Dissemination
  - Who, what, where?
3. Next steps
  - A bridge in to FCRIP





ROCHDALE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Thank you



# Agenda Item 10

## Any Other Business