CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Whole catchment flood risk management – progress and pressures

Alastair Chisholm – Director of Policy, CIWEM

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Foresight Future Flooding – catchment scale responses

Catchment scale responses	
Theme	**Examples**
Managing the Rural Landscape	Catchment-wide Storage
Managing the Urban Fabric	Urban Storage
Managing Flood Events	Forecasting and Warning Individual Damage Avoidance Actions
Managing Flood Losses	Land-Use Management Floodproofing
River and Coastal Engineering	Increasing River Conveyance River Defences Coastal Defences Coastal Defence Realignment and Abandonment

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Foresight Future Flooding – catchment scale responses

"…non-structural measures were found to be highly effective in reducing risks, and they also scored well on wider sustainability criteria: e.g. building regulation, land-use planning, and rural catchment storage."

"The key to realising these benefits will be for Government to ensure that the right systems of governance are in place."

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Making Space for Water / Pitt Review

"We will…encourage the development of catchment flood management plans and other river catchment management plans that will progress the integrated consideration of all flood risk management matters at a catchment level."

(Directing the Flow, Making Space for Water)

"Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England should work with partners to establish a programme through Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans to achieve greater working with natural processes"

(Pitt Review)

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Pitt – Coordination & capacity

"this activity is most effective and sustainable when there is proper dialogue between the authorities and landowners and it is carried out in a deliberate and pre-planned way"

"…the last twenty or thirty years have seen the technical departments of local authorities significantly diminished and in some places closed or merged. The tension in the system between demand for housing and risk of flooding is not always properly addressed."

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

House of Commons EFRA Committee – Future Flood Prevention

"Current flood risk management structures are fragmented, inefficient and ineffective"

"Current arrangements do not encourage widespread use of catchment scale approaches."

(We want to see) "…regional delivery of national plans, in partnership with local stakeholders."

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Fragmented(?) responsibilities in a catchment

- Environment Agency
- Lead local flood authority
- District councils
- Internal drainage board(s)
- Regional flood and coastal committee
- Highways authority
- Water and sewerage company
- Local planning authorities

Plus…

- Landowners
- Flood action groups
- Rivers trusts
- Natural England
- Forestry Commission
- Etc…

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Somerset Levels 2014

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

David Camer

"Now if it is g *ve need to make the argument* *for many more places... it is ti* *, the Environment Ag* *ents to sit round the table a* *proach that will make sure tha* *ork, frankly, for centuries is rein*

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Somerset Levels and Moors Flood Action Plan

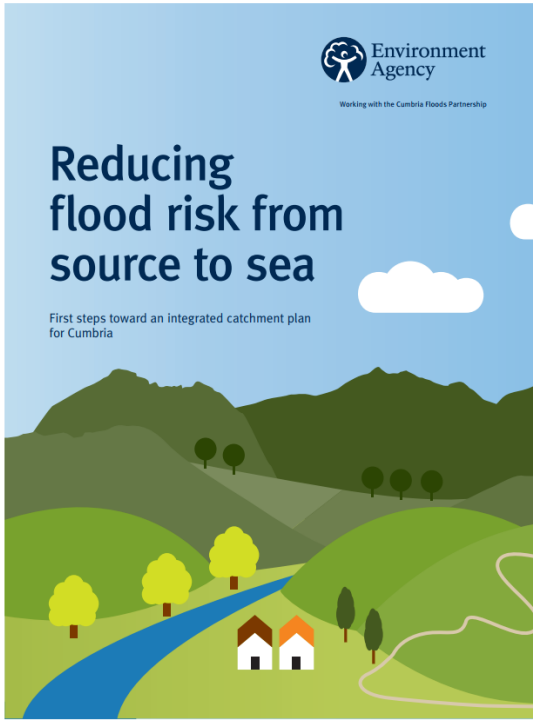
"We see the Somerset Levels and Moors in 2030 as a thriving, nature-rich wetland landscape, with grassland farming taking place on the majority of the land. The impact of extreme weather events is being reduced by land and water management in both upper catchments and the flood plain and by greater community resilience."

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Cumbria floods 2014/15

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Cumbria Flood Action Plan



- Catchment level leadership
- Improved evidence base
- Collaborative working
- Community-focused decision making

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

"The plan strikes a balance between our investments in flood defences and other Government investments in the environment, farming and water quality... This is a significant part of the Government's new 25 year environment plan which will have a powerful and permanent impact..."

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

A vision for land and water management in the Government's 25 year environment plan

Read more at:

www.ciwem.org/25-year-environment-plan

Thank you!

Alastair.Chisholm@ciwem.org