

# Building resilient communities, now and in the future

Paul Cobbing, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019



**Supporting and representing flood risk communities**

Its about  
people, not  
stuff



# National Flood Forum

As part of the flooded community, the National Flood Forum is a charity that supports communities to tackle the things that matter to them; creating hope and reducing the fear of flooding; helping people to work together to reduce flood exposure and its impacts, both physical and emotional.

**We do this by helping people and communities take control of their flood risk**



# England Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy consultation

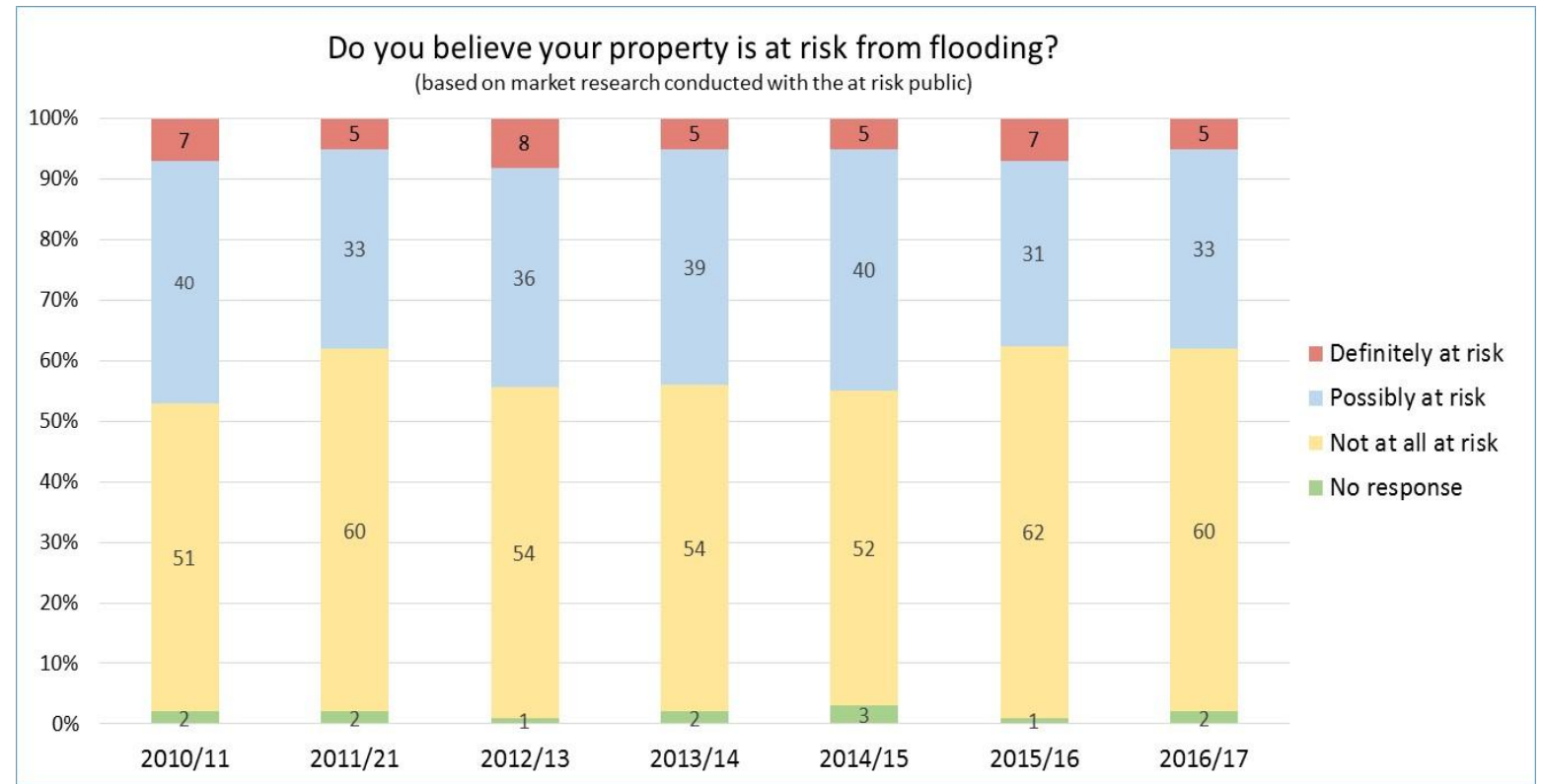


Communities working in partnership are an essential component to increasing flood resilience



Based on market research conducted with the at-risk public

Source: Environment Agency

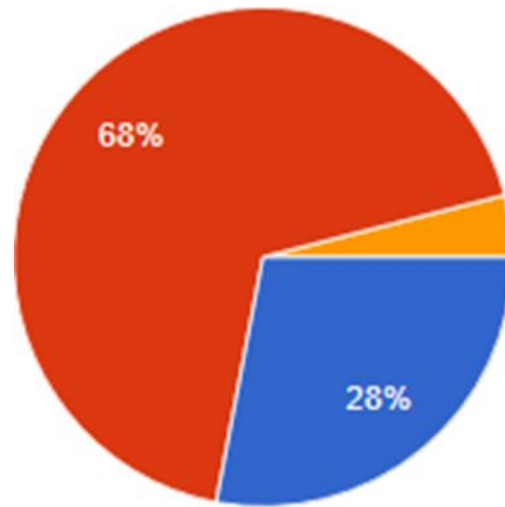


# Community leadership

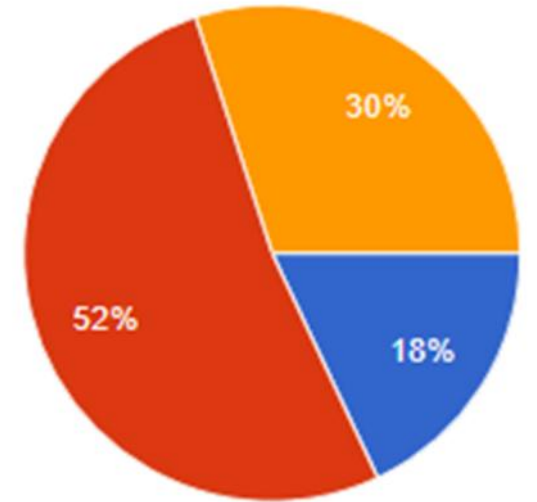
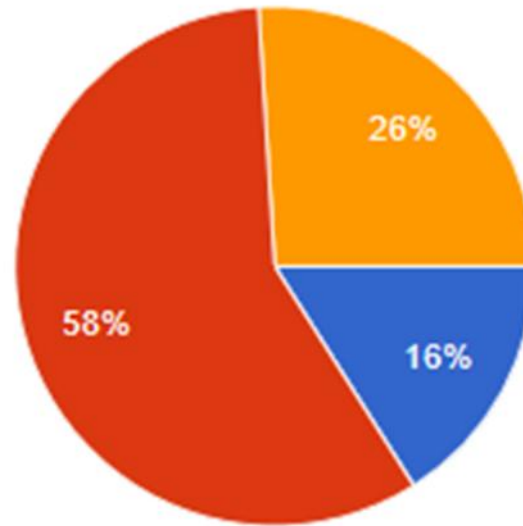


Do you think that the flood authorities show good leadership in terms of taking actions to reduce local flooding?

Councils/LLFA



Water companies Environment Agency



- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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# Moving home

## Welcome to Southwell

Welcome to Southwell, one of the most delightful market towns in Nottinghamshire and the place where you have chosen to live.



In the past, Southwell has suffered significant flooding events that affected the lives of many residents and left properties and businesses damaged.

Since the last major flood in 2013, measures have been taken to reduce Southwell's flood risk and prepare the community should another flooding event occur. Some of these measures include the formation of the Southwell Flood Forum, the Road Closure and Flood Warden Scheme, Natural Flood Management within the upper catchment area outside Southwell and Community Resilience Plans.

This leaflet has been designed in consultation with the Estate Agent through which you have bought your new home and the National Flood Forum, to help new residents of Southwell be prepared should an extreme weather event occur and provide pointers on how you can help the community reduce its flood risk.

### Insurance in flood risk areas



People sometimes worry about getting residential property insurance if they are at risk of flooding or if they have been flooded.

In a bid to help people, FloodRe was set up by the Government in partnership with home insurers to help bridge the cost gap. By working with home insurers behind the scenes, FloodRe may cover the flood risk element of your policy to help keep your premiums down. You deal with your insurers in the normal way. Should you make a valid claim, your insurer will pay the full cost of your claim but will be able to claim the flooding element back from FloodRe.

For more information on FloodRe please visit [www.floodre.co.uk](http://www.floodre.co.uk)

Or call National Flood Forum 01299 403055 for practical advice

### Being prepared

*Prevention is better than the cure* as the saying goes and although one might not be able to prevent a fast moving downpour, being prepared for one might just make it easier for you to cope with the aftermath should your home unfortunately flood due to the unforeseen weather conditions.



Below are a few helpful tips that can make life a bit easier in case of a flood

1. Sign up to the Environment Agency Flood Alert System - knowing if something is coming your way will help you plan better should the weather turn ugly.
2. Prepare Emergency Plans - having an emergency plan for the household will help everyone in the family know what to do, including the pet!
3. Southwell Community Resilience Handbook - this was put together by the Southwell Flood Forum to help people be prepared for any emergency. This is a free booklet available from the Southwell Flood Forum and can also be found on their website to download.
4. Who to contact in case of flooding - knowing who to contact first is important. Keep a list of your contacts somewhere handy such as by your phone or pinned to your fridge.
5. Southwell Flood Forum - the Forum is your community's voice on all matters concerning flooding within Southwell. Please visit their website at [www.southwellfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.southwellfloodforum.org.uk) to learn more about what is happening within your town and how they can help you be prepared.

### Who to contact:



If you would like further information or help on how to maintain your watercourse please contact Nottinghamshire County Council Flood Team: 0300 500 80 80 or Southwell Flood Forum 01638 815 739

If you would like further information on community resilience please contact Southwell Flood Forum 01638 815 739

If you would like further information on flooding please contact National Flood Forum 01299 403 055

Supporting and representing flood risk communities

The National Flood Forum is a Registered Charity No. 1121562

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We all have a  
role to play



# Flood disadvantage

## Testing approaches to flood resilience for disadvantaged areas

A pilot to test the flood resilience for disadvantaged areas project outputs for targeting support to communities at risk of flooding

Final Report

2017

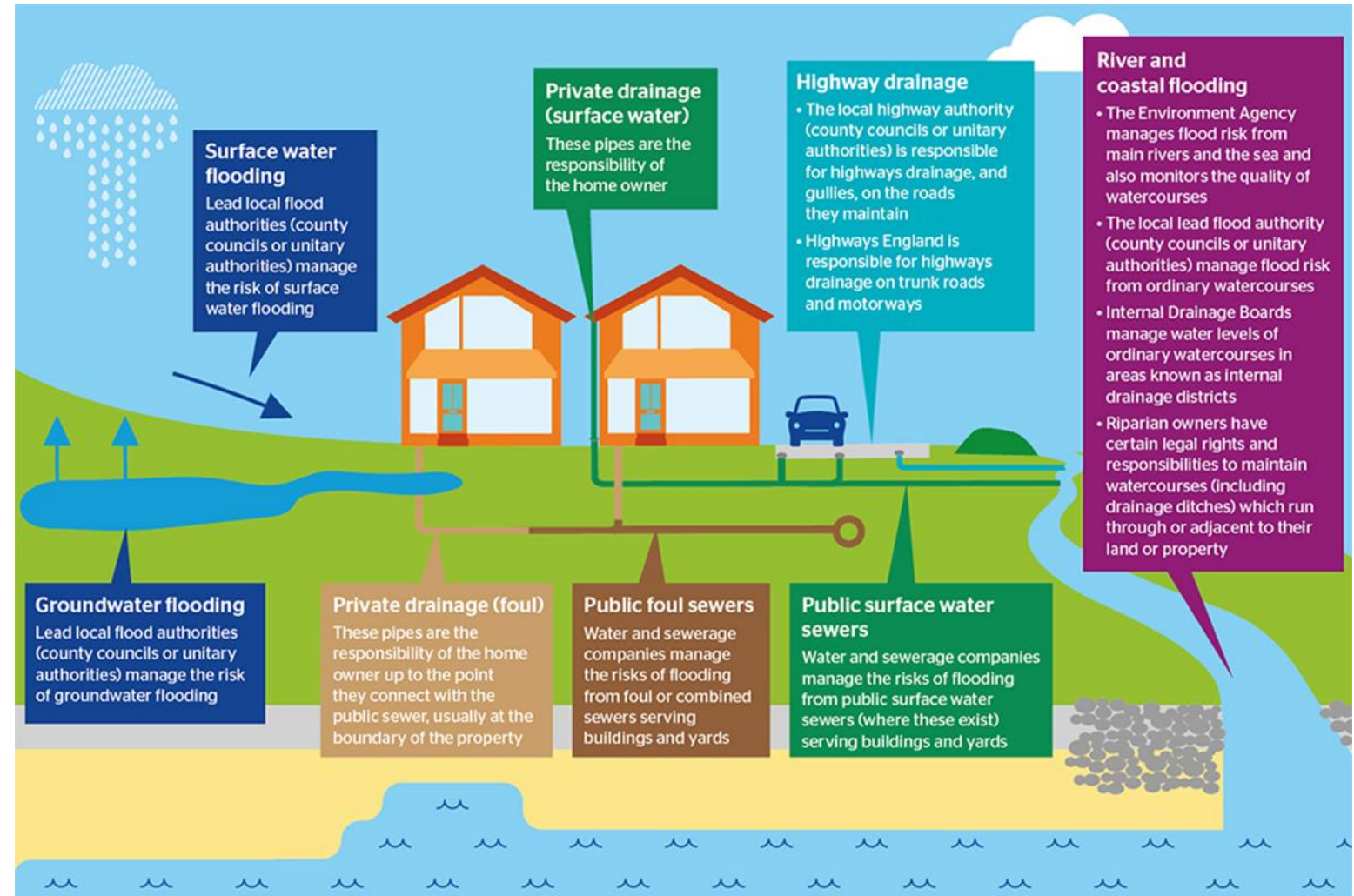
*This report was commissioned by Joseph Rowntree Foundation and delivered by the National Flood Forum. It is a contribution to part of EU Interreg FRAMES, Flood Resilient Areas by Multilayer Safety Approach*



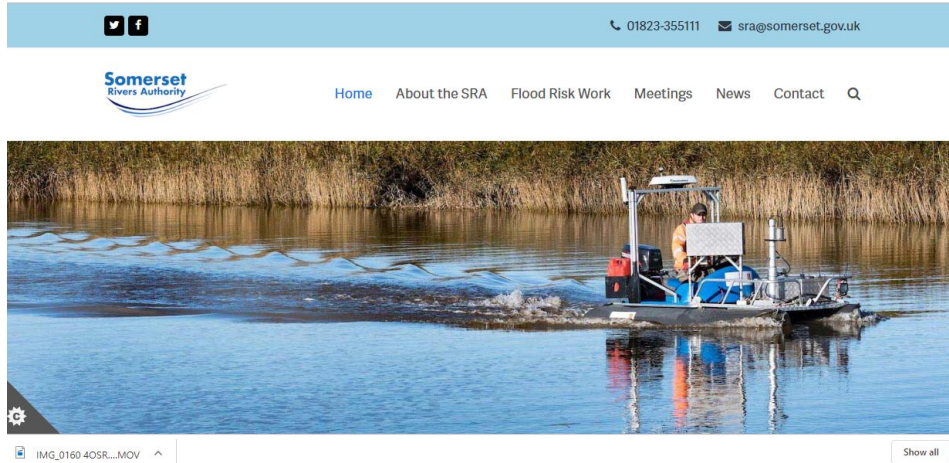
# Planning



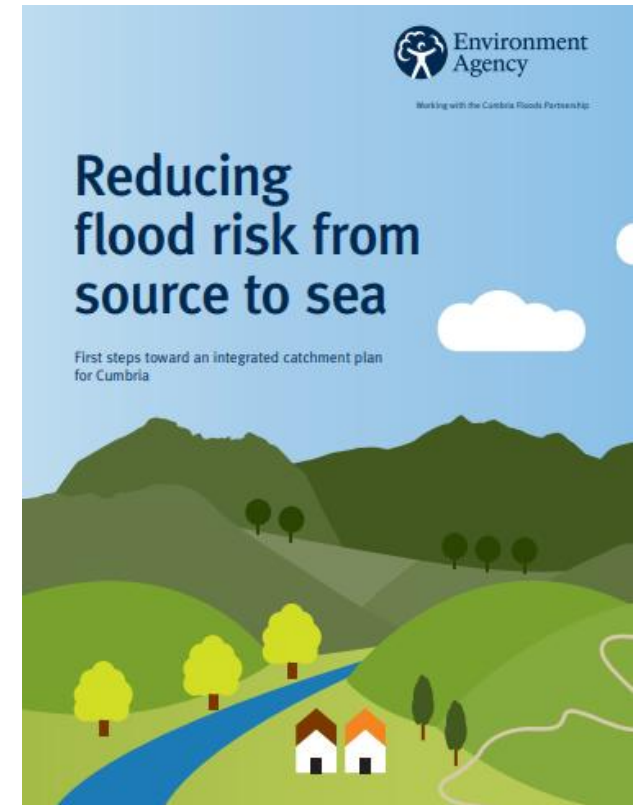
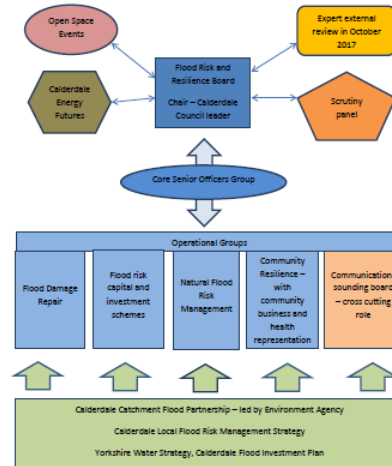
# Roles and responsibilities



# Strategic governance



Proposed Governance Structure:



# Insurance



# How well are we supporting communities?

Engagement Objectives	Actions	Indicators	Comments
<b>Stage 1</b>			
Forming the group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with individuals to identify existing community groups and leading individuals</li> <li>• Contact groups and individuals to understand the appetite for future flood risk work, interrelationships, etc.</li> <li>• Discuss with individuals setting up a flood group</li> <li>• Organise a meeting of interested parties</li> <li>• Gain agreement for further work using either an existing group or forming a new group</li> <li>• Organise a series of meetings to form/ consolidate a group</li> </ul>	A group in place with a chair	All complete A core group of 7, with new project officer. Could do with growing to 8 - 10
Communication with the wider community	Group to gather information from the wider community on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest in flood risk</li> <li>• Experience of flooding</li> <li>• Flood risk issues</li> <li>• Experience of working with partners</li> </ul>	Evidence of wider community engagement by the group	All complete Lots of experience of working with a wide range of partners
Articulating the flood risk issues	Through flood group/group meetings generate a common written understanding of flood risks and issues of concern.	A list of issues agreed by the group	All complete
Understanding roles and responsibilities of organisations	Through discussion at meetings, generate a common understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Risk Management Authorities and other organisations; what they can and cannot do	Session completed with the group	Done, but this issue could perhaps do with further work as not everyone is clear about what each organisation can do
Ability to work with partners	Through discussion at meetings agree how the group will work with Risk Management Authorities and other organisations	Multi-agency meeting	All complete

# Communities need to be at the heart of partnership working

- Engagement, partnership, leadership. Communities should be able to play a leadership role
- As in your workplace, people in communities have different skills
- Involvement doesn't mean clearing ditches alone
  - Galvanising communities
  - Building partnerships
  - Innovation
- It requires partners to work with communities as equals. It must be participatory
- No knowledge hierarchies



# Properties at risk from all sources of flood risk



Between 122,000 and 290,000 properties are at risk of flooding from groundwater - may include properties also at risk of flooding from surface water.

**Source:**  
Environment Agency (2017)  
Draft S18 Report



# Priorities

## To end the fear of flooding

- People need to be at the heart of flood risk management.
- They should live their lives without it being dominated by flood risk
- Adapt to climate change and a growing population, starting now
- An order of magnitude increase in ambition is required. Long term goals, short term plans and processes to monitor progress everywhere are needed
- Everyone and every organisation has an important role to play
- We need a new social contract between the state and society – coordinated change will be needed to achieve this
- There must be much greater clarity about where responsibilities lie, and systems in place to ensure accountability and transparency

England FCERM Strategy – put communities  
at its heart

Help us make the case – Join the Friends of  
the NFF

Thank you



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