

The role of the Lead Local Flood Authority



Andrew Turner – 24th November 2010

SW Branch of the Association of
Drainage Authorities

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What will be covered today:

- Legislation
- The role of the LLFA
- The role of the Internal Drainage Boards



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The devastating impact of flooding was demonstrated during the summer 2007 floods.

During these floods 13 people lost their lives.

7,000 people were rescued from flood waters by emergency services

55,000 properties were flooded (48,000 households and 7,000 businesses).

The floods also resulted in a cost of £3 billion to the insurance industry.

(Defra, 2010)

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In England, 5.2 million properties are at risk of flooding.

Of these, 1.4 million are at risk from rivers or the sea,
2.8 million are at risk from surface water and 1 million
are at risk from both.

(Defra, 2010)



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So, how is legislation helping to tackle the risk
of flooding?



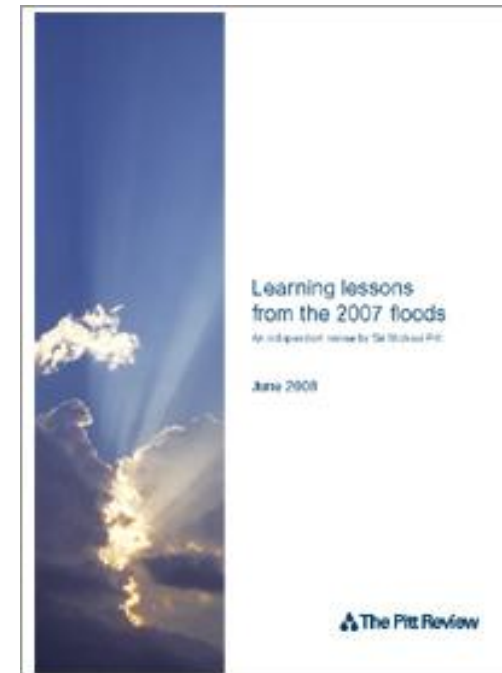
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Pitt Review – June 2008

- 92 recommendations resulting from the summer flood event in 2007



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EU Floods Directive – entered into force in November 2007

The Directive now requires Member States to assess if all water courses and coast lines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk.



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Flood Risk Regulations 2009 - the Regulations have been laid to implement the EU Floods Directive.

LLFA activities required by the Directive:

- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments (PFRAs) to determine areas of potential significant risk;
- Maps showing impact and extent of possible future significant flood events; and
- Flood risk management plans, identifying how significant flood risks are to be mitigated.

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The **Flood and Water Management Act 2010** aims to improve the way we manage flood risk, as recommended by the Pitt Review.

The Act provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, including the creation of a new lead role for local authorities in managing local flood risk.



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Environment Agency

- Sea
- Main rivers
- Reservoirs

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- Groundwater
- Surface water
- Ordinary watercourses

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Local Partnerships

The Act enables partnerships to be formed between the lead local flood authority and the other relevant authorities.

It requires the relevant authorities to co-operate with each other in exercising functions under the Act.

It also empowers a lead local flood authority or the Environment Agency to require information from others needed for their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.

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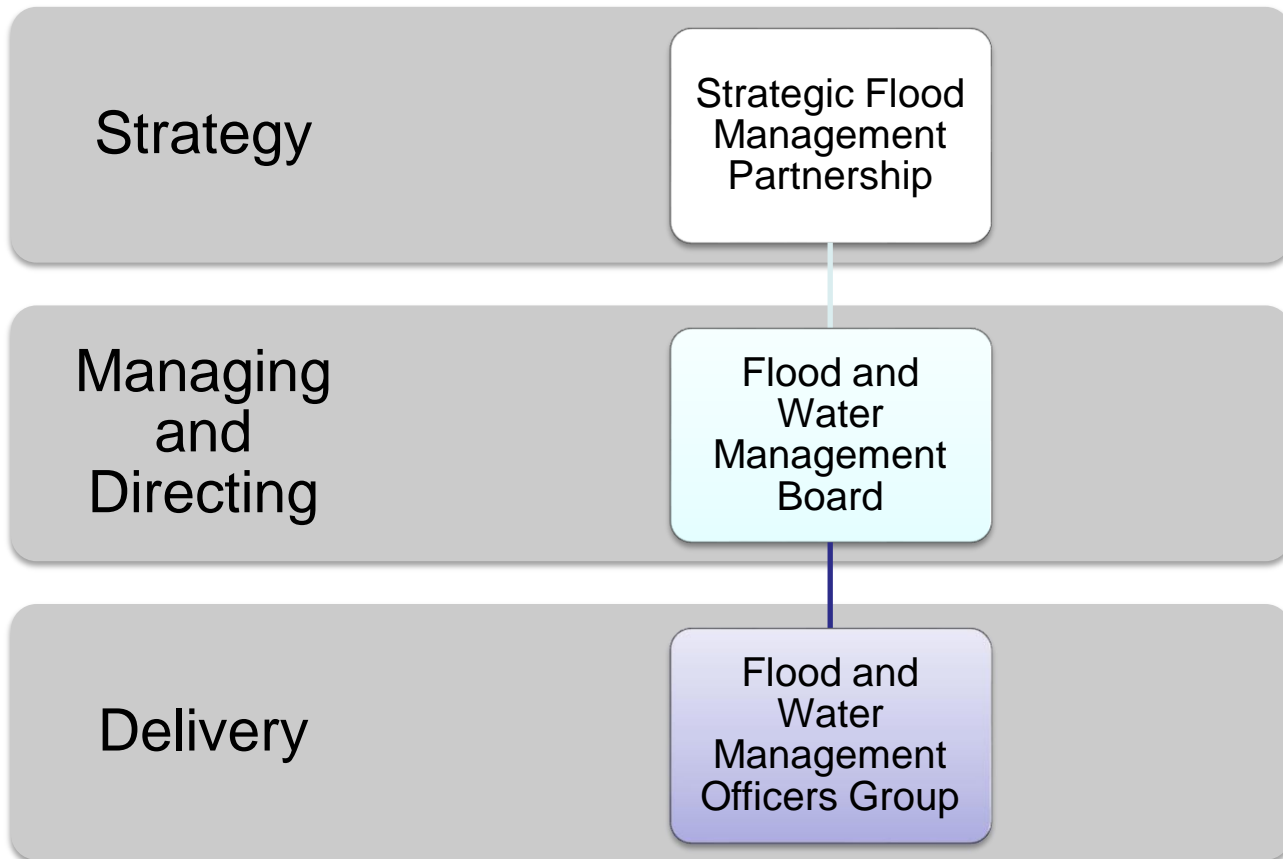
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Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Act requires a lead local flood authority to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area.

Local flood risk includes surface runoff, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses (including lakes and ponds).

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Duty to act consistently with local and national strategies

The Act will require local flood risk management strategies to be consistent with the national strategy.

The local strategy will not be secondary to the national strategy; rather it will have distinct objectives to manage local flood risks important to local communities.

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Duty to investigate and to maintain a register

To ensure greater co-ordination of information and avoid situations where bodies do not accept responsibility, the lead local flood authority will:

- investigate flooding incidents in its area and publish the results of any investigation; and
- maintain a register of structures or features which they consider have a significant effect on flood risk.

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Works powers

The Act provides the lead local flood authority with powers to do works to manage flood risk from surface runoff and groundwater.

Powers to do works on ordinary watercourses remain with either district or unitary authorities, or internal drainage boards.

All works must be consistent with the local flood risk management strategy for the area.

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Designation of third party assets

The Act provides lead local flood authorities, district councils, internal drainage boards and the Environment Agency with powers to designate structures and features that affect flooding or coastal erosion.

The powers are intended to overcome the risk of a person damaging or removing a structure or feature that is on private land and which is relied on for flood or coastal erosion risk management.

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Sustainable drainage systems

The Act establishes a SuDS Approving Body (the “SAB”) at county or unitary local authority levels.

The SAB would have responsibility for the approval of proposed drainage systems in new developments and redevelopments.

The SuDS Approving Body (SAB) would also be responsible for adopting and maintaining SuDS which serve more than one property, where they have been approved.

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Sustainable development duty and environmental works

The Act includes a duty for local authorities, highways authorities, and internal drainage boards to contribute to sustainable development in discharging their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.

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Levies

The Act will enable the Environment Agency to issue levies to the lead local flood authority for an area.

Funding

Defra is committed to funding all new net burdens on local authorities resulting from the new Act, and will monitor the situation as implementation proceeds.

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Conclusion

- We need to understand flood risk in our area and make plans to control and mitigate the risks;
- We should continue to strengthen our working relationship and seek new ways of working together;
- Communities need to be engaged, understand and plan for the risks (requests for service); and
- We need to manage expectations - we cannot stop flooding from occurring, but we can manage the risks more effectively.

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Thank you



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