

Holyrood Sustainable Flood Risk Management in Scotland Conference Interactive Session

Thank you for taking part in the interactive round table discussions at *Holyrood's* recent Sustainable Flood Risk Management in Scotland conference. Delegates had many varied opinions and proposed a number of exciting potential solutions to the challenges confronting the implementation of this important legislation.

Following the conference, we have collated all of your comments and will be utilising these within the conference report, which will be submitted to the Scottish Government, relevant parliamentary committees and other statutory bodies. In addition to the conference report, which will be published shortly, we have collated all your feedback below for your information.

Theme	Challenges Identified	Potential Solutions Identified	Action Plans Proposed
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more money • Getting flooding funding prioritised within SOAs (focus is always on health and education etc) • Incentivising downstream landowners to assist in funding upstream prevention works • Need greater clarity on funding allocations in advance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-instate block grants • Give SEPA overall funding responsibility • Ring fencing • Align funding systems and programmes within different organisations • Increasing pressure through community councils (bottom up strategy) • Set aside pot of money for compensation for buying up flood lands • Ensure that cost-benefit ratio for councils for flood defences are good • Improving education for “decision-makers” • Encourage communities to put pressure on local authorities • Utilise a mix of central and local government funding • Generate local income for maintenance • Create local “drainage board” to coordinate funding • Retain some funding centrally and issue guidance on basic minimum spend on flood risk management for local authorities or on a catchment basis • Compulsory levy on insurance policies to be incorporated into funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify efficiencies/where public spending can be cut/reduced • Make funding mechanisms more transparent • Local taxation powers • Tax on developers who want to build on flood plains • Work with ABI and others on potential insurance based funding sources

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Partnership Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty of breaking silos or organisational boundaries • Challenges of working across geographical boundaries • Integration of different agencies • Establishing who decides what the most appropriate measures to prevent flooding are (relationship between SEPA and local authorities) • Catchment scale planning which affect a number of local authorities • Developing a cultural shift within organisations, developing a “can-do” attitude • Mismatch of priorities between organisations (in reference to SUDS) • SEPA has a conflict of interest as a regulatory and a implementing body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase information sharing • Implement joint funding • Agree roles and responsibilities across all disciplines • Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership is good example of successful practice • Give planning authorities ability to pull different partners into one governing body • Establish lead local authority agreements • Establish one independent statutory authority who can fund, regulate and impose sanctions • Extend Section 7 partnerships • Provide greater transparency in collaborative working arrangements, and within SEPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to be open/honest and agree to work for the common good • Set targets and timescales collaboratively • SEPA to re-assess their role in providing advice, particularly to local authorities • Establish regular reviews of partnerships following implementation, review legislation if required
Education/Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have the people with the technical skills? • Communication of opportunities available • Re-training of staff and encouraging new staff into the sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment of staff training and re-training • Improve pay and staff retention within local authorities • Maximise opportunities for training across organisations • Compulsory re-training/re-deployment • Improve retention of skilled individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving technical proficiencies • Host local education surgeries • Send out information leaflets • Establish a national skills programme (mapping of needs and advanced succession planning)
Communication (with the Public and stakeholders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing expectations and aspirations • Awareness/understanding of timescales, raising profile of issues • Enhancing flood warning systems, accuracy and communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politicians could do more • Provide more/targeted information • Publicity campaign • Establish clear lines of sight between national policy and local delivery • Establish a lead group and carry out “customer surveys” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political involvement • Use of media • Increase householders awareness of their responsibilities • Teach public to “live with water”

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing clear communication plans for public and developers • Raise awareness of different kinds of flood protection • Provide better post-flood information on resiliency in rebuilding 	
The Planning System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to keep building to meet housing needs • Ban on developing on flood plains • Moving targets particularly regarding climate change • Lack of concrete information on climate change predications for planning purpose • Bringing older drainage systems (particularly in urban areas) up to modern standards of sustainability • Balancing traditional defences and natural flood management techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in more accurate flood maps • Met office should communicate information more effectively • Providing more, better defined local information • Develop better ways to sustainably use contaminated land • Encourage acceptance of changed land use policies • Invest in greater long term studies of effectiveness of natural flood management techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design schemes that can be added to in the future • Take hard decisions, i.e. move people where necessary, particularly in older areas • Make more education/forward planning available for affected communities • Enhance SEPA flood maps to include Pluvial and sewer flooding
Integration of other legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive • Civil Contingencies Act (2004) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy review to be undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-evaluate necessary policy changes over time