



# Local flood risk partnerships: The Environment Agency approach

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## The changing horizon

- ➔ Creating sustainable communities
- ➔ Climate Change
- ➔ 2007 floods and Floods Bill
- ➔ Working in partnership
- ➔ Strategic planning and effective delivery

## Why have partnerships for flood risk? Why now?

### Pitt Recommendations

- ➔ **5:** The EA should *work with partners* to....develop tools...
- ➔ **14:** LAs lead management of local flood risk, *supported by other organisations*
- ➔ **17:** All organisations should *share* info and *cooperate*

### Defra-CLG letters to LAs (Dec 08, Apr 09)

- ➔ Build local partnerships
- ➔ Put in place SFRAs in line with PPS25
- ➔ Develop Surface Water Management Plans



## Partnership examples

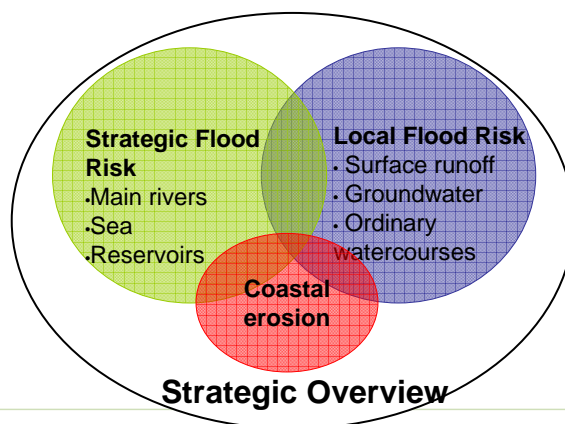
- ➔ Flood Forecasting Centre
- ➔ Local Resilience Forums
- ➔ Multi-Agency Flood Plans
- ➔ Fires and Rescue Services partnership





## The Strategic Overview

Flood risk from all sources is adequately assessed and managed using a strategic, risk-based approach



## Local Flood Risk Roles

### Lead Local Authority role

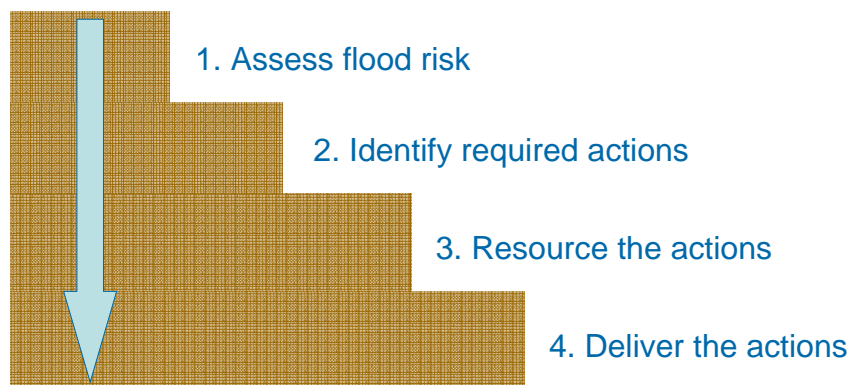
- Lead delivery of local flood risk management
- Bring organisations together in partnerships
- Produce and implement Surface Water Management Plans

### Environment Agency role

- Support Lead LAs
- Provide technical guidance
- Share data
- Implement relevant SWMP actions

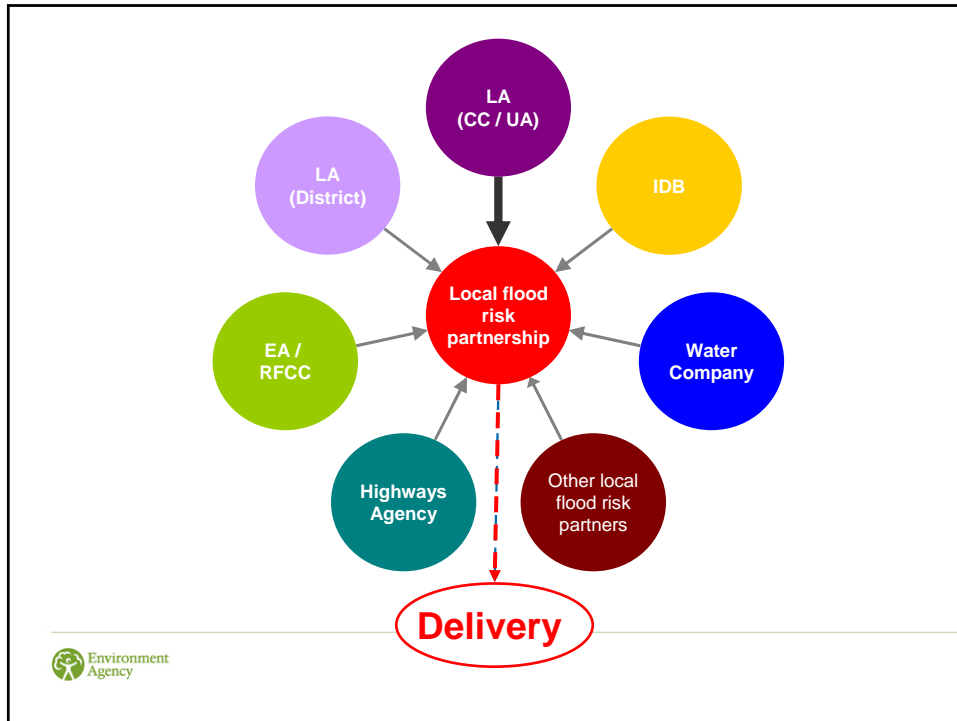


## Four steps to flood risk management



**Flood risk reduced**

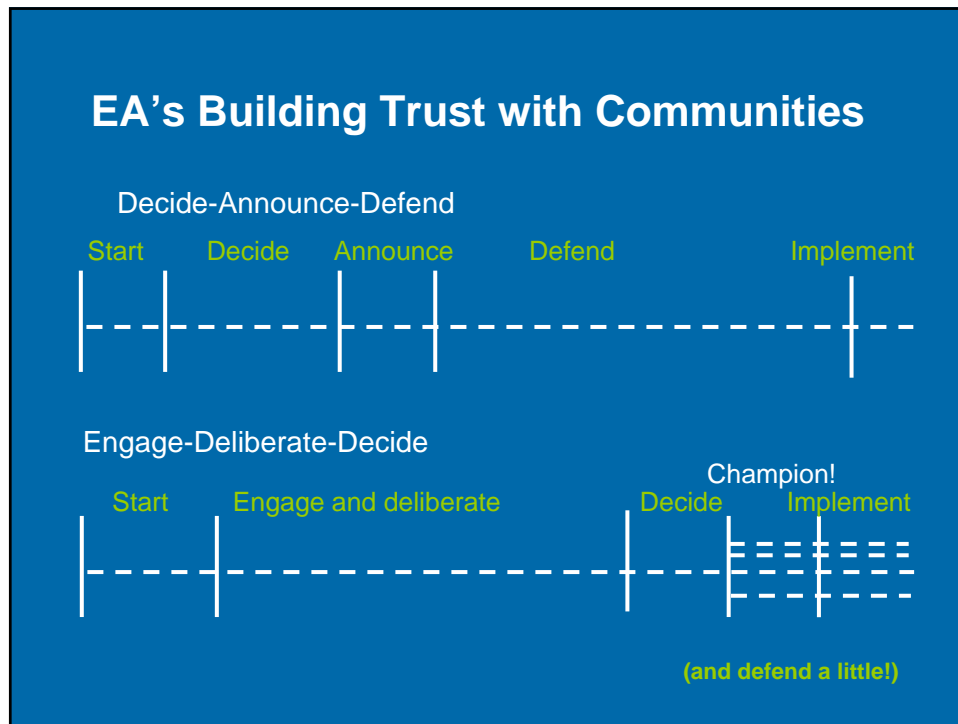




## Coastal approach

- Existing partnerships strengthened in new Coastal Groups:
  - Local Authorities
  - Environment Agency
  - Regional Flood & Coastal Committees
- Collaborative projects
  - SMP2s
  - Coastal monitoring
  - Erosion mapping
  - Sea defences
- Coastal consultations





### EA's Building Trust with Communities

- ➔ Training for planning & delivery
- ➔ Initial target Communications staff
- ➔ 60 mentors across 8 regions / 20 Areas
- ➔ Workshops for management teams and other staff
- ➔ BTwC slot in training programmes
- ➔ Training now available for specific functions

## Successful partnerships

- ⇒ All partners clear how they'll benefit
- ⇒ Utilise what each partner does best
- ⇒ Achieve more together than if done alone
- ⇒ Have top-level backing
- ⇒ Partners flexible to meet local situations
- ⇒ Take time to evolve
- ⇒ Receptive to using others' good practice
- ⇒ Focus on delivering outcomes



## Summary

- ⇒ Partnership working essential to reducing flood risk
- ⇒ Continue coastal and main river flood risk partnerships
- ⇒ Create local flood risk partnerships
- ⇒ Partnership working allows organisations to maximise efficiencies
- ⇒ Focussing on delivery enables partners to tangibly reduce flood risk for our communities

