AGENDA

- Flood management in Britain and why it fails
- Why “most-at-risk” creates economically perverse incentives
- The case for a stand-alone flood agency
- The catchment system operator model
- Natural Capital accounts for river catchments
- The Cumbria pioneer
- Coastal and low lying areas
WHY DOES FLOOD MANAGEMENT FAIL?

- Short term finance for a long term problem
- Political expediency dominates long term planning
- EA not fit-for-purpose – an EPA and a floods body
- Little connection between planning, land use and flood defences

WHY “MOST-AT-RISK” CREATES PERVERSE INCENTIVES

- Deals with the impacts, not the causes
- Incentive to build on flood plains
- Lack of incentive to mitigate risks by property owners
- Creates permanent problems
THE CASE FOR A STAND ALONE BODY

- EA is regulator, prosecutor, policy advisor and flood operator and flood investor (& much more as well.....)
- No management can combine all these skills
- EPA duties inevitably neglected

A single flood agency would provide a focussed long term approach

THE CATCHMENT SYSTEM OPERATOR

CSO → CS PLAN

Recreational Land & conservation → Water companies → Flood defences → Farmland → Urban Areas
NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS FOR RIVER CATCHMENTS

Renewable Natural Capital + Non-renewable Natural Capital

Assets at risk

Balance Sheet

DEBT

Capital Maintenance

Capital maintenance

THE CUMBRIAN PIONEER

Estuary | Towns | Lowland | Uplands
Coastal Containment | Hard flood defences | Farm water holding | Trees
Meandering rivers | Mosses | Woodlands
COASTAL & LOW LYING AREAS

• The Somerset levels examples
• Sea walls and sea defences
• Soft coastal marshlands & managed retreats
• Ditches, sluices, pumping and traditional maintenance

A PROGRAMME FOR REFORM

• A clear long term objective
• A clear set of catchment plans
• A direct link between catchment plans and planning & development land use
• A simple Flood Agency
• A CSO to integrate all the parts
• A regulated Asset Base/Utility long term financing model