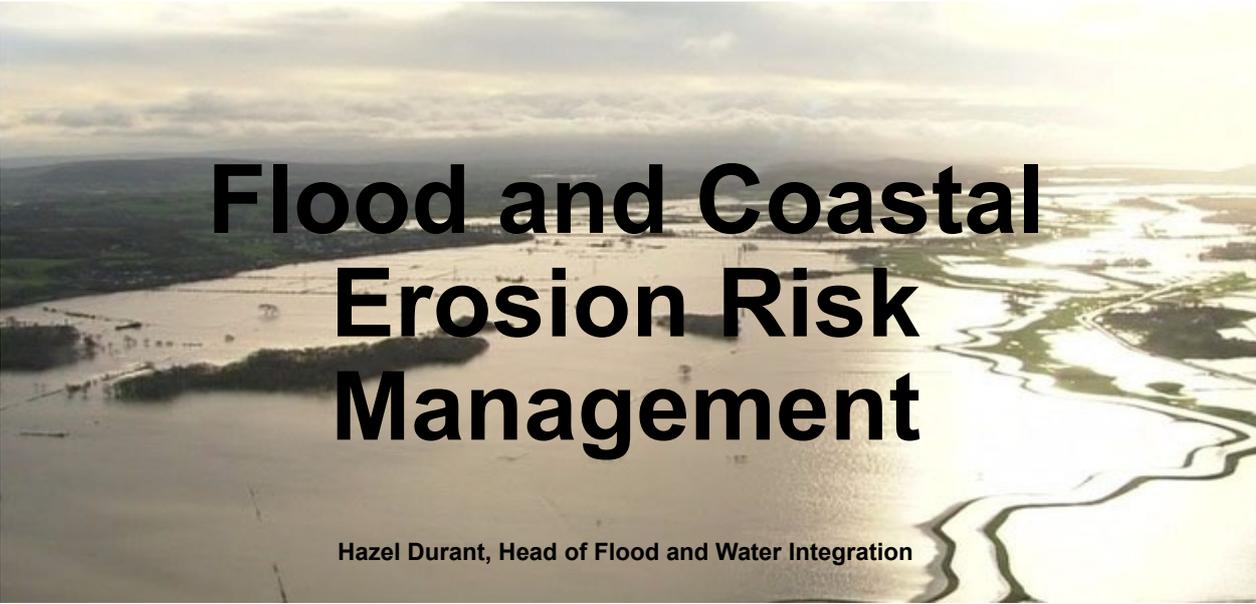


Flood and Water Management Policy

Hazel Durant and Margaret Read, Defra



Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Hazel Durant, Head of Flood and Water Integration

Defra sets the national policy to manage the risk of floods and lead the government's response to flooding incidents

To reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding and coastal erosion on people, communities, businesses and the environment

REDUCE

Make it less likely that homes and businesses will suffer from serious flooding events, and that the country is in a strong position to manage the threats of coastal erosion

IMPROVE

Encourage and support resilience to enable people and businesses to get back on their feet as quickly as possible

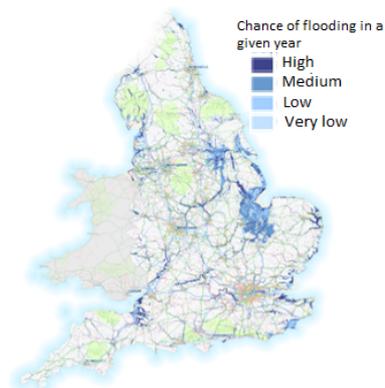
3

In England, around 5 million (1 in 6) properties are at risk of flooding from rivers, surface water and the sea.

The 2007 floods were the most severe in the last decade. 55,000 households flooded, leading to £3 billion in insurance claims.

The 2015/16 winter floods saw 13,500 households and 4,100 businesses flooded. 3% of people are still out of their homes.

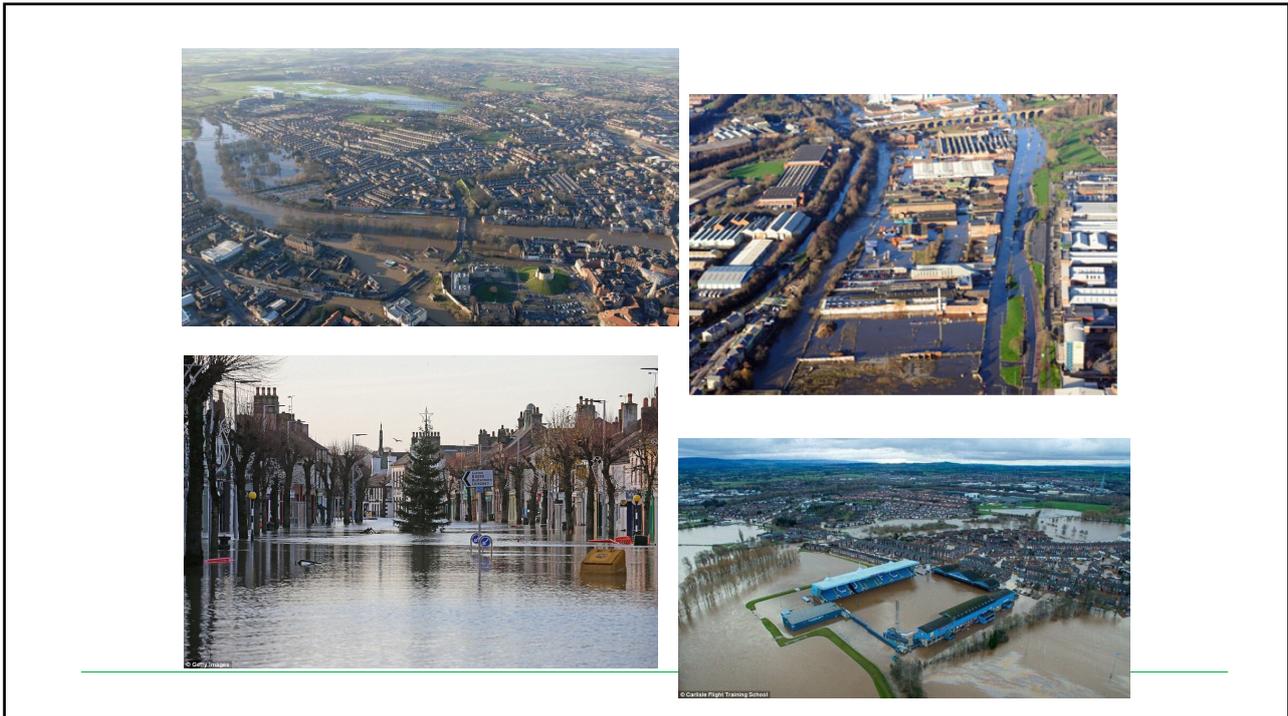
The government spent over £250 million on recovery. Insurance costs are estimated at £1.3 billion



Climate change could substantially increase the number of properties at risk and associated costs

Text in footer

4



So what have we been doing....

..... In the last 12 months?

25 Year Environment Plan – January 2018

- A long-term 25 year plan, because a strategic approach is needed. It takes us away from economy vs environment.
- Underpinned by natural capital; whole environment is an integrated system, focus on stocks, helps understand trade-offs.
- Sets the direction for future environment, land and sea use policy. It is a positive narrative about a green Brexit.

The environment is something personal to each of us, but it is also something which collectively we hold in trust for the next generation. And we have a responsibility to protect and enhance it"

Theresa May, UK PM, 11 January

2018

Text in footer

7

The Surface Water Management Action Plan

- It was published on 17 July 2018 and sets out steps to strengthen surface water management.
- Surface water flooding happens when intense rain overwhelms local drainage capacity. Its often associated with storms, which tend be local and can develop very quickly.
- It is a growing challenge, with climate change bringing more frequent heavy storms, new developments also increasing the need for drainage and an ageing sewerage infrastructure which is costly to maintain and upgrade.
- The action plan has 22 actions for Government, the Environment Agency, ADEPT, Water UK, Ofwat and the Met Office.
- The key themes are:
 - improving risk assessment and communication;
 - making sure infrastructure is resilient;
 - clarifying responsibilities for surface water management;
 - joining up planning for surface water management; and
 - building local authority capacity.



- **National Planning Policy Framework** – strengthened flood risk protections and the need to take into account future flood risk not just present risk
- **Investment** - additional **£13m in Budget in November** for surface water, expansion of **flood alerts and boosting take-up of property resilience measures**
- **Agriculture Bill** - to deliver greater public benefits through farming and land management, including to help manage natural hazards like floods and erosion
- **Public Appointments** – four new RFCC Chairs
- **With the EA** – £15m Natural Flood Management Programme, De-Maining Pilots, on-going £2.6bn capital programme,
- **Case-Work** – Transport and Works Act Orders, CPOs, Arun....
- **Property Level Resilience** - two resilient showcase properties in Cumbria; launch of the www.floodguidance.co.uk website, launch of surveyor training packages by the BRE & PCA*

IDBs:

Statutory Orders for 3 IDBs, byelaws, Policy Advisory Group, supporting ADA with the Good Governance Guide



*Building Research Establishment and Property Care Association,

9

On the (immediate) Horizon

- Spending Review
- Environment Land Management Scheme
- Policy Statement for Flood and Coastal Risk Management
- The EAs National Strategy
- Environment Bill
- National Infrastructure Commission
-



Text in footer

10

The Here and Now

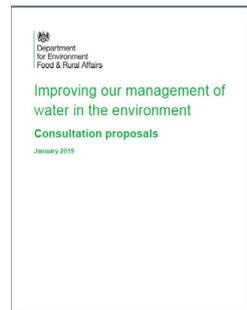
River Authorities and Land Drainage Bill

- Enables the establishment of Rivers Authorities
- Allows for new ratings data – enabling (where needed and wanted) new or expansion of IDBs

Consultation: Improving our Management of Water in the Environment

For flooding we want your views on

- The new charging methodology for Internal Drainage Boards
- enabling the Somerset Rivers Authority to be incorporated and establishing it as a flood Risk Management Authority
- And to proffer ideas and thoughts on whether we need to, and if so how, new local funding mechanisms should be raised to tackle flooding and coastal erosion



Text in footer

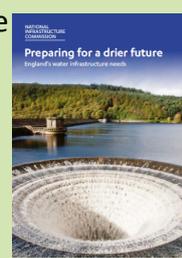
11

Four government priorities for water

Improving financial and corporate governance



Securing long-term resilience



Improving the environment to deliver clean and plentiful water



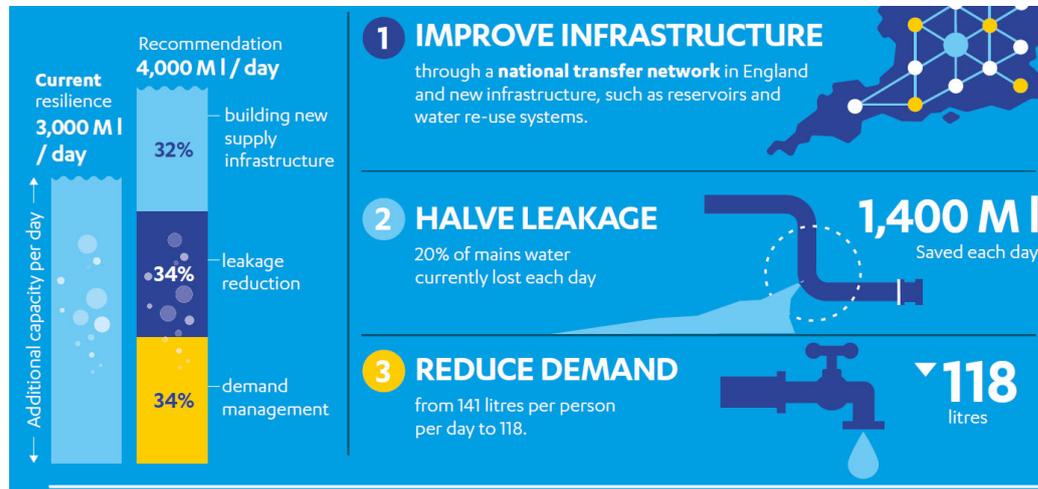
Protecting vulnerable customers



Long-term resilience, consumer protection and the role of markets

2

Securing Long Term Resilience



Long-term resilience, consumer protection and the role of markets

13

Securing Long Term Resilience

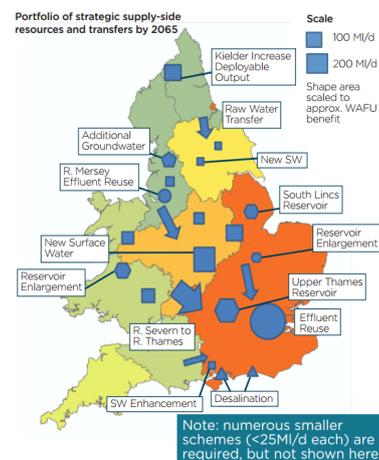
Solving the public water supply deficit will require all the tools in the box. No single option will suffice.

The government supports a balanced strategy of:

- **boosting supply** – developing new water supply infrastructure and enabling water transfers across regions
- **managing demand** – tackling leakage and reducing household consumption.

No major new water supply infrastructure has been built since 1989.

- The forthcoming **national policy statement for water** will unblock barriers to development of new infrastructure.
- The **Environment Agency's national framework for water** will support better regional planning and more transfers of water between regions.



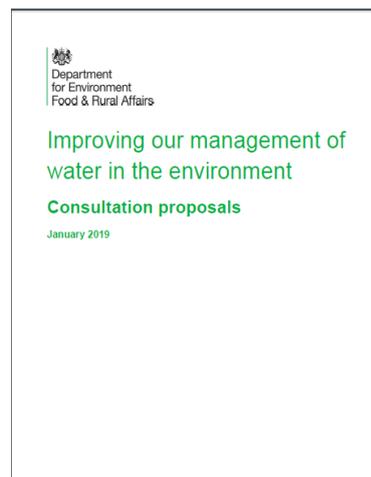
Long-term resilience, consumer protection and the role of markets

14

Securing Long Term Resilience

Two strands of the consultation:

1. Long term planning of water in our environment:
 - Improved water resource planning
 - Statutory drainage and wastewater plans
2. Modernising and strengthening our regulatory systems:
 - Reform of the water abstraction licencing system
 - A new charging methodology for IDBs
 - Raising local funds for flood and coastal erosion risk management
 - Modernising the process for modifying water company licence conditions



Securing Long Term Resilience

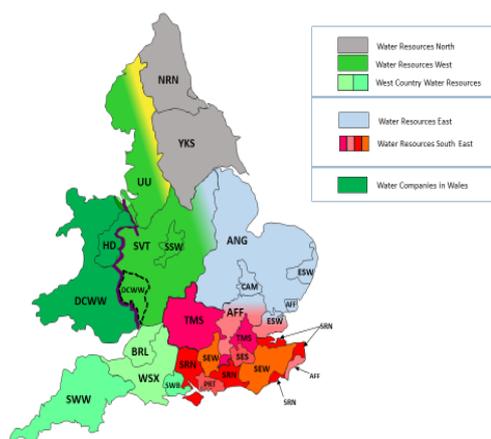
National Framework and Regional Groups

National Framework

- Understand and articulate **national and regional water needs**
- Outline the **contributions expected from each regional group** consistently across government and regulators
- Address **barriers** to collaboration

Regional Groups

- Set out the **regional contribution** to the strategic need identified by the national framework
- **Optimise solutions** based on a more detailed understanding of pressures and networks
- Be inclusive by **working with other sectors** and other regional groups
- Feed directly into company water resource management plans



Securing Long Term Resilience

Regional Planning Consultation Proposals

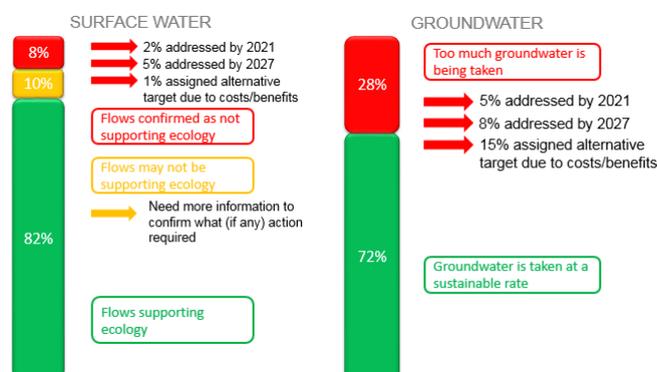
1. Giving the Secretary of State a power to direct water companies to **prepare joint plans at a regional or possibly larger scale**.
2. The power could also be used to require water companies **to take these regional plans into account** when drafting and delivering their company level water resources management plans.
3. Any direction given could specify how companies should take **account of other abstractors' needs** and those of the environment.
4. Changing Water Resources Management Plan legislation to make the water companies' plans a statutory measure that is used to **deliver environmental objectives** set out in legislation.
5. Improvements to the **administration of the current regulatory regime**.

Long-term resilience, consumer protection and the role of markets

17

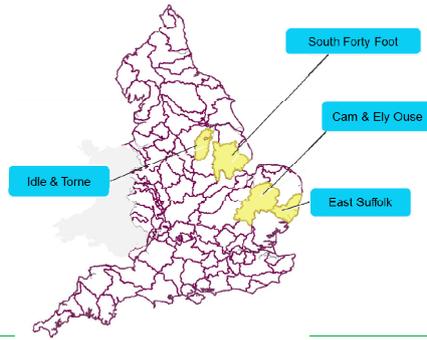
Addressing unsustainable abstraction

"Making full use of existing regulatory powers and approaches to address unsustainable abstraction and move around 90% of surface water bodies and 77% groundwater bodies to the required standards by 2021"



Stronger catchment focus

- Unmet demand
- Potential to share
- Voluntary approach
- Co-developed solutions



Modernising the service

Environment Agency
TRANSFER LICENCE TO ABSTRACT WATER
 The Environment Agency / The Agency / Transfers this licence to:

View your licence

- ✓ Securely view your own portfolios of licences
- ✓ Name the licence
- ✓ Agent access (if permission given)
- ✓ Notification of licence expiry
- Change administrative contact details (bills, returns, site contact)
- Interactive mapping

Submit your data

- ✓ Improved digital submission routes
- ✓ Records of actual abstraction (summer)
- Records of actual abstraction (winter and all year)
- Other licence data (e.g. meter calibration records, management reports)

Green boxes show the functionality that has started to be included in the digital service as of November 2018

Dynamic catchment management

- ✓ Hands off flow/level notification
- ✓ Self access to near real-time flow/ level data
- Potential to show forecasts
- Section 57 restriction notification

Apply for licences

- Water rights trading platform
- Online applications
- Online payment
- Information provision
- Application tracking

Information management

- Public register online
- Improved targeting and scheduling of compliance checks (e.g. use of satellite data)
- Charge calculations

Abstraction proposals

Environmental damage

Enable EA to change abstraction licences without paying compensation to address unsustainable abstraction

- Actual or risk
- Directly or in combination
- Definition in primary legislation

Under use of licences

Enable EA to vary abstraction licences to remove unused part without paying compensation

- appropriate safeguards
- period of under use set out in legislation
- any proportion of non-use

