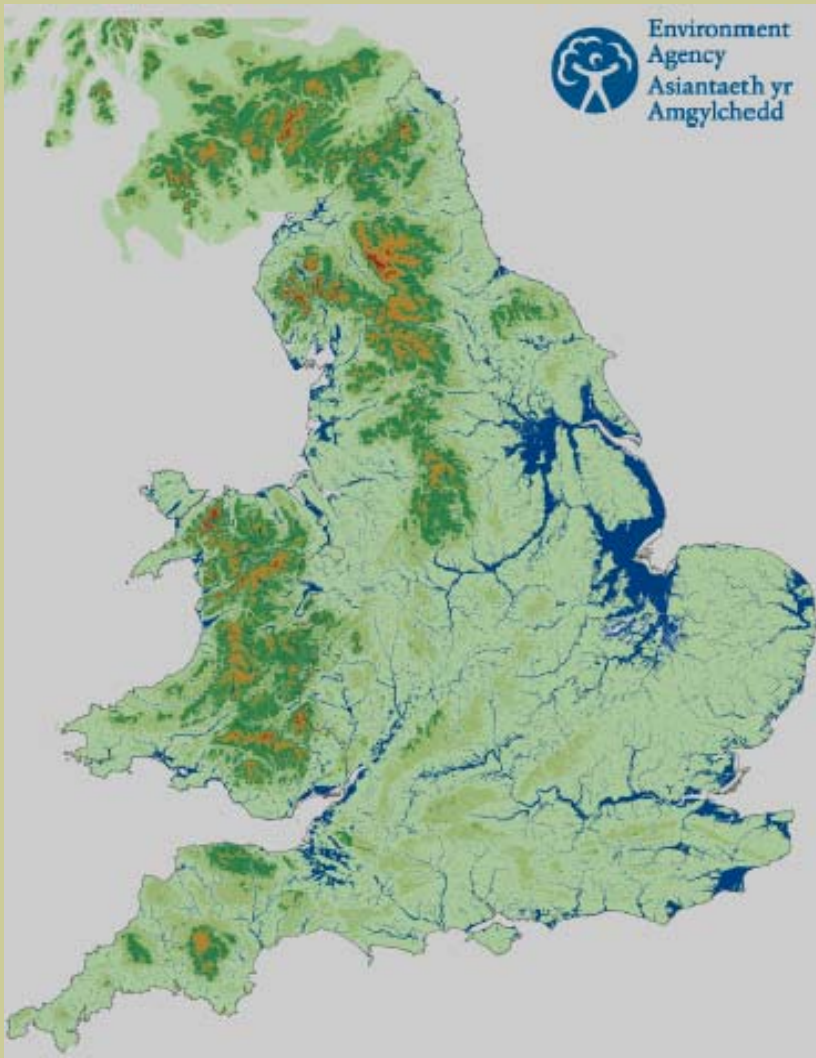


CIWEM Conference  
8 November 2006

Flood Emergencies:  
Central  
Government  
Response





# Flood Risk Management: where does emergency planning fit in?

*Flood risk is function of Likelihood and Impact*

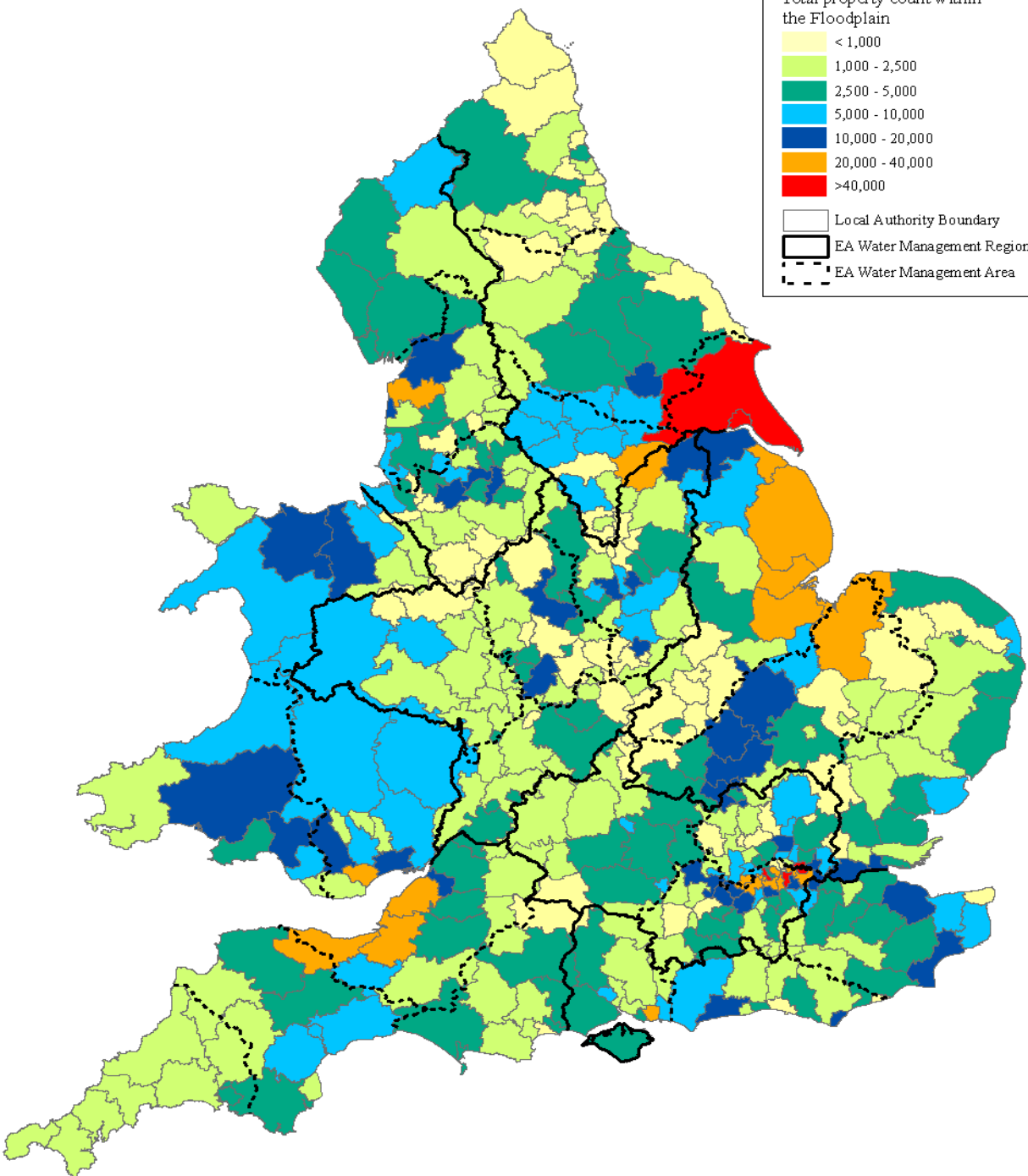
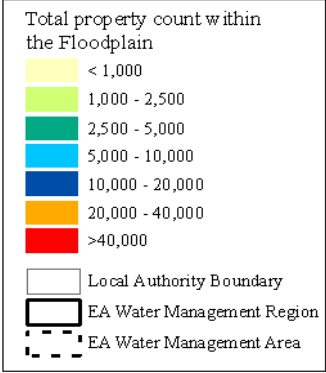
## *Likelihood*

- Weather systems which cause fluvial or tidal events (probability increasing with climate change)
- standard of protection of flood defences
- condition of those assets

# Flood Risk Management: where does emergency planning fit in (cont'd)?

## *Impacts*

- Avoiding inappropriate development on flood plain
- flood warnings to reduce impact, ie minimise risks to life and property
- resilience of buildings and infrastructure
- emergency preparedness and response



Number of properties within the floodplain in each local authority

# Transforming Policies

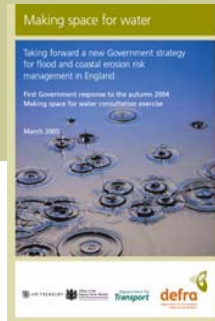
Adapting to dangerous climate change

Healthy and diverse natural environment

Sustainable Development

**Making Space for Water 20 year strategy**

Portfolio of measures approach



Adaptation Tools

Resilience tools

Emergency planning

Land use planning

Defence realignment

Land management

Integrated urban drainage

Sustainable Communities

Social Equity

Enhanced environment and reduced carbon footprint

Resilience to extreme events

Long-term, efficient, strategic risk planning and management for catchments and coastlines

# Emergency Planning: Context

Central doctrine says that Department with policy responsibility holds the Lead Department Plan

For flooding, this is Defra, specifically Flood Management Division.

## Context (cont'd)

- Defra FM therefore chairs the inter-Departmental Flood Emergencies Capabilities Programme (FECPP) Board, whose aim is to improve resilience to all types of flooding and all aspects of the response.
- The Environment Agency is Defra's main delivery agent for flood risk management and project manages the FECPP

# Civil Contingencies Act 2004

- Act places duties on Category 1 responders to:
  - assess risks and develop contingency plans
  - Maintain their own business continuity

# Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (cont'd)

- Act does not specify duties of individual responders but does require them to act in concert
- In particular, requires them to plan in concert via Local Resilience Fora

# Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (cont'd)

- LRFs organised on police areas – broadly Counties – and include local authorities, police, Fire and Rescue Authorities, NHS Trusts and the Environment Agency
- Regional Resilience Fora (RRF) bring together LRFs at Government Office of the Region level to provide cross-regional coordination where this adds value to the work of the LRFs.



# Capabilities Programme

## What is it?

- Core framework through which the Government is seeking to build resilience to emergencies across all parts of the UK

## Aim

- to ensure that a robust response infrastructure is in place to deal rapidly, effectively and flexibly with the consequences of a range of disruptive challenges.

# Capability Programme Workstreams

- Current workstreams in 3 categories:

## STRUCTURAL

- Central response
- Regional Response
- Local response

## FUNCTIONAL

- CBRN
- Site Clearance
- Infectious diseases (human, animal & plant)
- Mass casualties and fatalities
- Evacuation
- Warning & informing the public
- Flood Events

## ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- Health
- Environment
- Transport
- Utilities
- Financial Services

# Flood Emergency Capabilities Programme (FECP).

- Governing Board has members from CCS, DCLG (Resilience), GO East, EA, Defra, ACPO, LGA; Devolved Administrations

Aim: to improve resilience to flooding from any source.

# Flood Emergency Capabilities Programme (FECP).

- How can individual partners – local authorities, etc – relate to the Programme?
- Programme Board will be considering communication arrangements between the levels at November meeting. Any thoughts welcome today or via email.

# Flood Emergency Capabilities Programme (FECP) – cont'd.

- We are seeking to improve resilience through:
  - taking forward recommendations highlighted in flood reports (e.g. Ex. Triton, Carlisle etc.)
  - identifying gaps in capability/resilience and developing workstreams to plug the gaps
- Colin Berghouse (FECP Project Manager) will explain where we have got to in his presentation

# Roles of different players – partnership working

Defra's main delivery partner on flooding is EA but of course a large number of partners are involved in the emergency response. EA need to work closely with partners if incidents are to be managed effectively eg through identification of and assistance to vulnerable people.

# Partnership working - EA

Defra will be agreeing Outcome Measures and targets with EA in relation to emergency planning for floods They will be around:

- EA's role in improving flood resilience and response capability
- Preparation.....how well prepared are people at risk?

# Roles of different players – partnership working (cont'd)

Central Government partners include any Department whose areas of responsibility might be affected by flood events, eg DTI, DfT and, in particular, DCLG who have role in sponsoring resilience tier of Government Offices and supporting responders, especially LAs.

Also, the Government Offices of the Regions are important partners in preparing for flooding and reporting on wider impacts



# Lead Department Plan for Sea and River Flooding: sets out roles, responsibilities contacts etc

- to ensure information flows between EA, Regional Resilience Teams and Central Government so that resources needed can be identified and mobilised
- keep Ministers and officials informed so central government machinery can be deployed where decisions are needed at the national level

# STAY PREPARED

- No-one can predict exactly where and when flooding may take place: EA locally must be engaged in preparing for and managing any level of event, predicted or not.
- Flooding can happen with little or no warning.
- Although good planning seeks a pro-active response we have to be ready to react to events.

# Conclusions

- All professional partners must take steps to understand the flood risk in their areas and what its impacts might be (eg where evacuation needed; who are the vulnerable people; logistics)
- need to work closely with EA to do that

## Conclusions (cont'd)

- Then consider your capability to respond effectively to the impacts identified
- If any gaps identified, take steps to close them if flood risk is significant in your area
- Central Government will do what we can to support you to improve capability and resilience – but we have to know the issues

# End piece

- That's all, folks....but do let us know what you want to make your flooding contingency planning better?

