

# CIWEM CONFERENCE

## THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE AND HYDRO- MORPHOLOGY CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS

November 9<sup>th</sup> 2005

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**FLOOD MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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## Making space for water

Taking forward a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England

First Government response to the autumn 2004 Making space for water consultation exercise

March 2005



HM TREASURY

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister  
Creating sustainable communities

Department for  
**Transport**

**defra**  
Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs



# THE CHALLENGES OF POLICY INTEGRATION

## – WFD AND HYDROMORPHOLOGY

a

**Making space for water \***  
**perspective**



\* DEFRA POLICY DOCUMENT

# FLOODING

THE REASONS FOR  
DEVELOPING A NEW  
STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- Easter '98 and autumn 2000 floods, plus winter 2002 with subsequent lessons learned reports
- Acknowledgement that flooding of houses causes great damage and distress with lasting health impacts
- Insurance for flood risk under threat (ABI major stakeholders)
- Public perception for need to consider all types of flooding
- Findings from the 2004 Foresight report looking at the impacts of climate change and flooding

The logo graphic for Defra, consisting of three overlapping, stylized leaf-like shapes in shades of green and brown, positioned to the right of the text.

**defra**

Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs

# Foresight project 2004 (DTI project) (looking 30-100 years ahead)

findings:

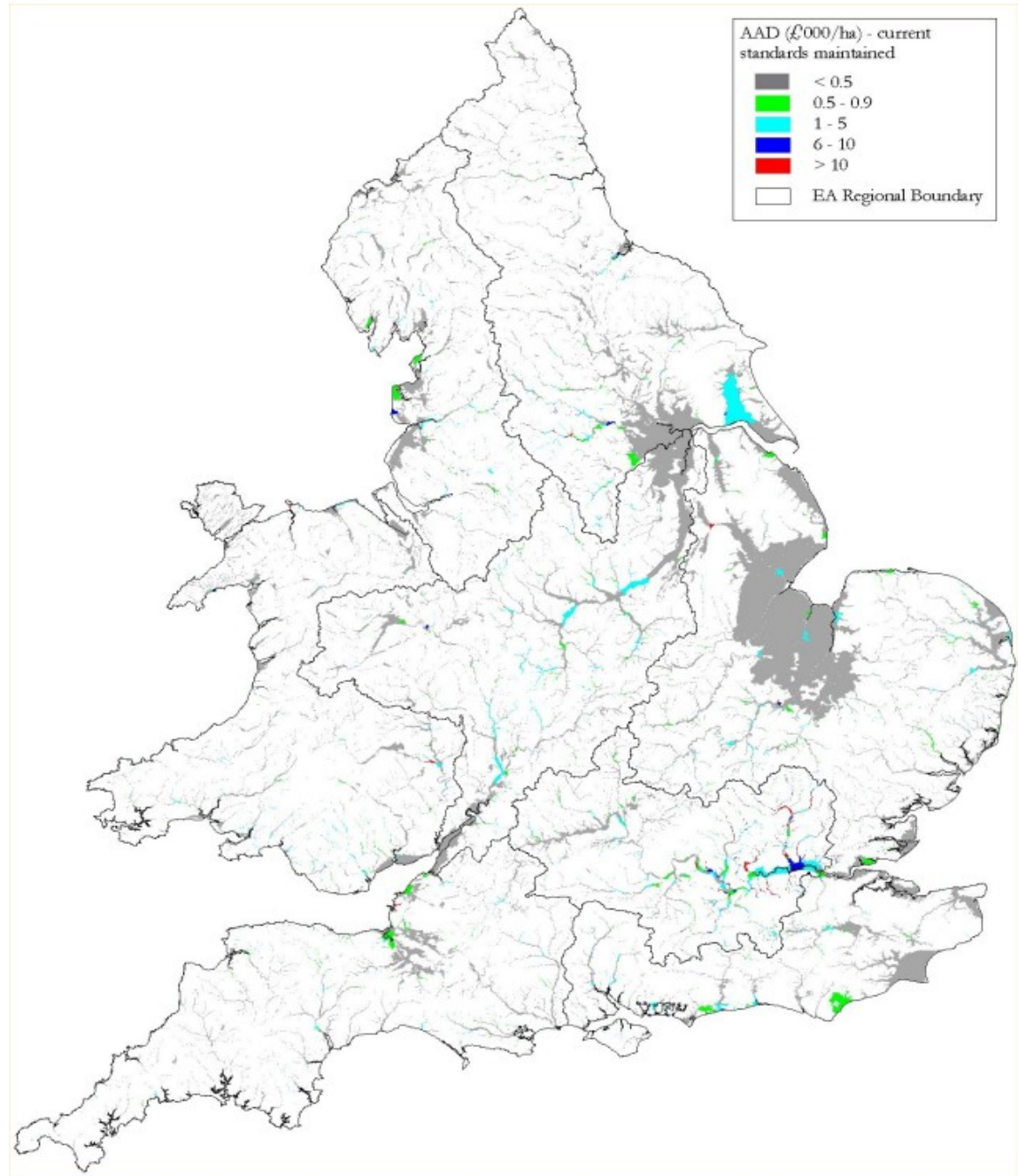
- Big increase in expected damages from flooding through climate, economic and governance drivers
- big increase in intra-urban flooding damages from drainage systems being overwhelmed
- situation will be most manageable if we achieve low climate change and high economic growth scenarios

Integral to a new strategy was  
consideration of the economic  
case for government  
intervention on flood risk -

# National Mapping of Flood risk areas

(rivers and the sea)

**National Assessment of Assets at Risk 2001**



# The broad economic case for flood management.

- Estimated annual average damages without any flood protection of more than £3 billion
- Even with current flood protection annual average damages over £1 billion, including stress and health, emergency response and natural environment costs
- robust return on additional investment demonstrated (approx 5:1)

So.....

# Conclusion :

There is a good evidence of a strong economic case for Flood Management policy, and at the same time it has to be a long term strategic view and be implemented using sustainable development principles.

## A few points to note in conclusion:

- We should target spend better on reducing flood risk; maintenance of many agricultural defences is not justified and an exit strategy will be needed (begun). This will also have environmental benefits
- increasing flood risk set to continue without higher investment levels over medium term
- increasing flood risk awareness and improved land use planning have key roles

# New direction for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

- Cross government strategic direction taking on board extensive consultation.
- picks up Foresight outputs
- addresses how to ensure all three pillars of sustainable development fully captured in future
- considers links with Water Framework Directive, ICZM, Habitats Directive etc.

# Main aims of the new strategic direction for managing flood risk

To use an integrated portfolio of approaches  
to :

- Reduce the threat to people and their property
- Deliver the greatest environmental , social and economic benefit consistent with the Governments sustainable development principles.

# The strategic direction – taking it forward



- Four key themes
  - Holistic approach
  - Achieving sustainable development
  - Increasing resilience to flooding
  - Funding

# Holistic approach



- strategic overview for all sources (pluvial, fluvial and groundwater) and the transport network
- Extension of risk mapping
- Impacts of land management: catchment scale land-use management.

(Involving Defra/ODPM/Dept of Transport)

# **The Whole Catchment and Whole Shoreline Approach and the Water Framework Directive**

- The plans will contribute to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, and will provide information on flooding processes and flood risk assessments for analyses of pressures and impacts under the Directive. They will also provide the thorough understanding of the opportunities and constraints of flood risk management policies that will contribute to the implementation of the Directive's programmes of measures. Flood management and coastal erosion activities will be undertaken in ways that are consistent with the Directive**



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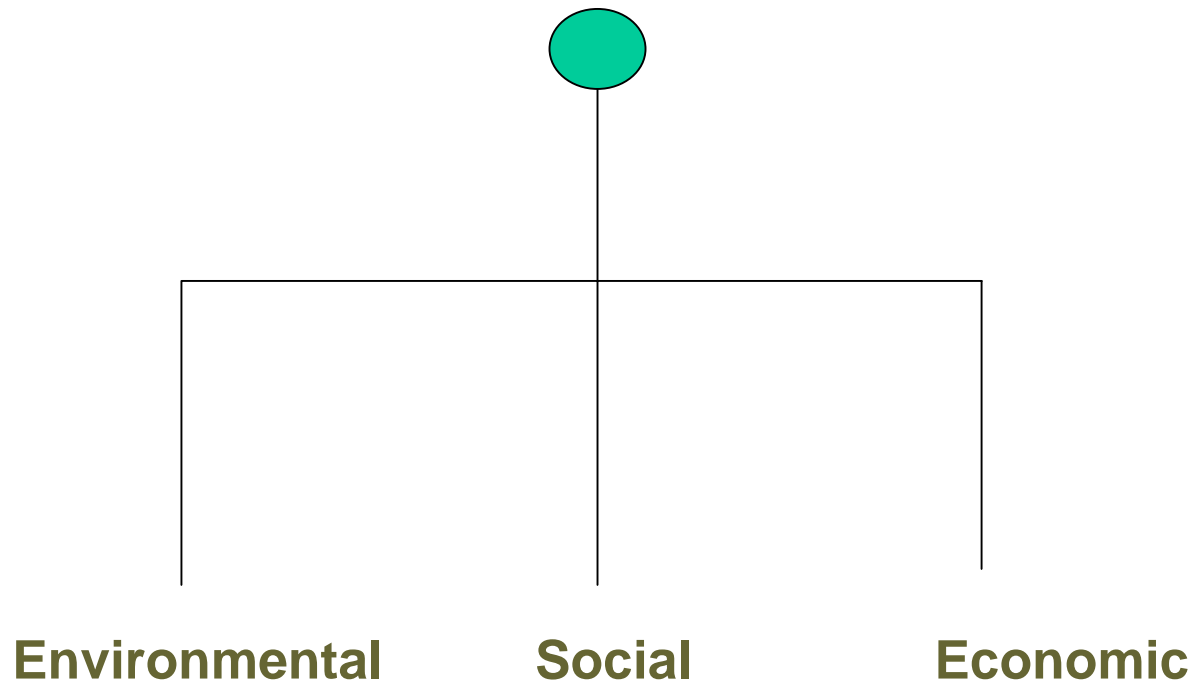
# Achieving sustainable development



- Influencing land-use planning
- New risk management tools and guidance
- Adaptation toolkit and working with natural processes , re-alignment, WLMPs
- Identifying barriers and incentives to delivery of better social and environmental outcomes
- Building stakeholder and community engagement and involvement

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Balancing Act.



# Vision: the future as a result of this strategy (continued)

- The results of the strategy will be seen on the ground in the form of more flood and coastal erosion solutions working with natural processes. This will be achieved by making more space for water in the environment through, for example, appropriate use of realignment to widen river corridors and areas of inter-tidal habitat, and of multi-functional wetlands that provide wildlife and recreational resource and reduce coastal squeeze on habitats like salt marsh



# Increasing resilience to flooding



- Encouraging and incentivising increased resilience to flooding: grants pilot
- Resilience standards for new buildings: SBC & Building Regulations
- Increasing awareness: flood warning, MIPs & register of rapid response catchments
- Emergency capabilities programme

# Funding



- Look at evidence base for current and future funding needs and develop options for other funding streams;
- Maximise funding opportunities: achieving multiple objectives and maximising benefits

# Vision: from Making Space for Water

- There will be increased use of co-funding with other bodies and other schemes so as to secure sustainable and cost-effective management of flood and coastal erosion while at the same time securing a greater overall contribution to sustainable development than would have been possible without co-operation.

# Policy Integration

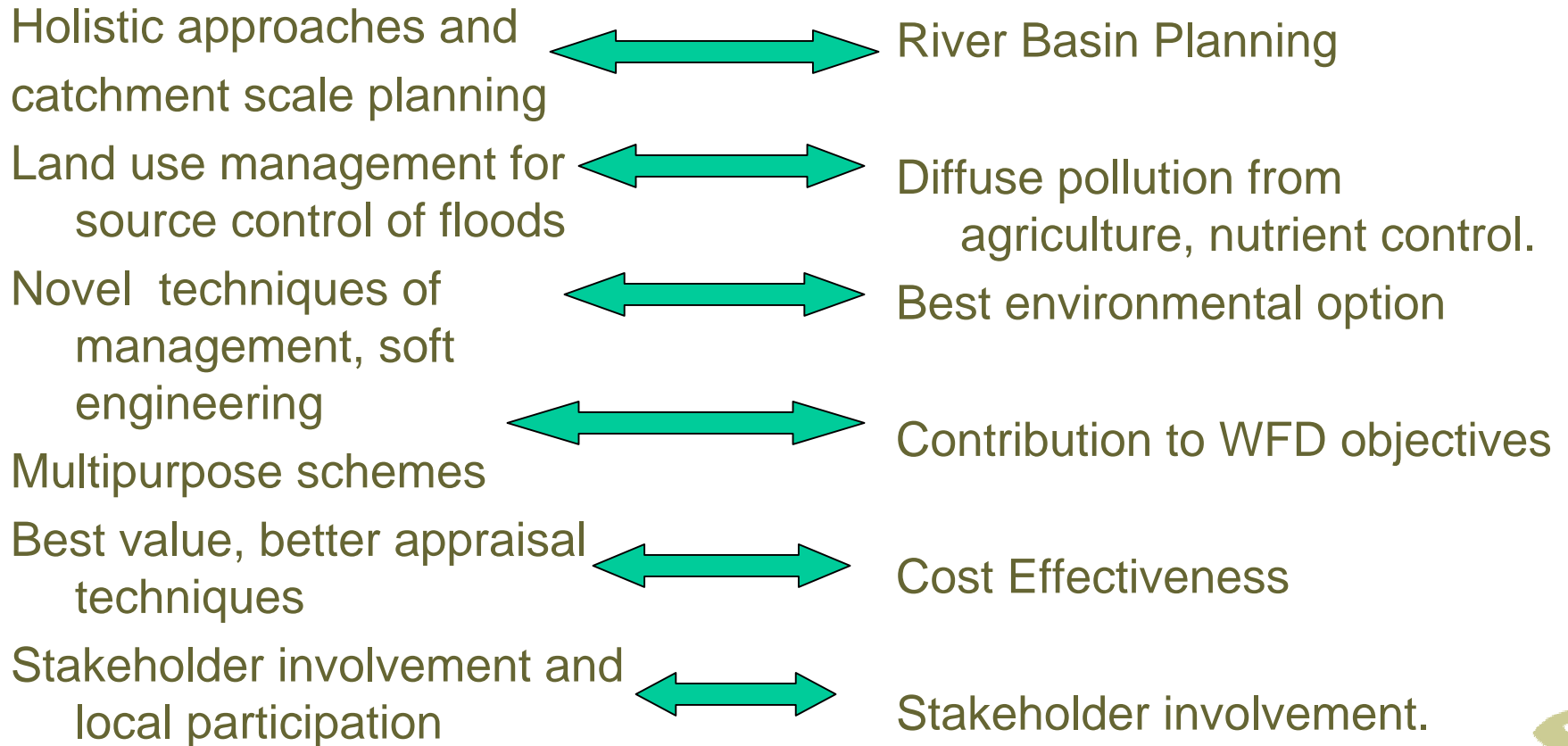
The new strategic direction for flood management incorporates many aspects which will complement the long term implementation of the WFD whilst retaining its primary purpose of protecting lives and livelihoods.

# SYNERGIES BETWEEN

**MSfW**

**and**

**WFD**



**Sustainable development**

# Approaches being encouraged

- seek to allow natural processes where possible – realignment of defences, abandonment of some
- Key role of Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans in taking a holistic and strategic approach
- improve standard of protection through building and maintaining flood and coastal defences where appropriate, i.e. hard defences, washlands for greater storage, beach recharge etc.
- encourage beneficial land use and land management changes

# WHAT MIGHT THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE ?

**LESS OF THIS**



# **MORE OF THIS - RE-ALIGNMENT AND LETTING NATURAL PROCESSES DOMINATE**



**AND THIS**



# LESS OF THIS



Exposed foreshore ledges on Town Beach.

## MORE OF THIS – SOFT DEFENCES



Monmouth Beach.

# Taking forward Making space for water

- First Government Response launched in spring 2005
- Programme taking forward commitments finalised summer 05
  - Delivery plan on Defra web site
- 25 projects or sub projects
  - Some led by Defra, some by EA
  - Some existing projects rebadged under MSW

Making space for water

A close-up photograph of water droplets hitting a surface, creating concentric ripples. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION