



FLOOD RISK COMMUNITIES' CHARTER

FLOODING DEVASTATES LIVES

Communities living at risk of flooding have a right to lives not dominated by the fear of flooding

TO ACHIEVE THIS:

- 1** Our nation's ambition to tackle flood risk, in the face of climate change, needs to increase dramatically
- 2** Decisions that affect communities must be made with the communities' involvement
- 3** We must act now – there is a role for everyone

WE DEMAND THAT:

- 4** Communities are at the heart of flood risk management
- 5** Strategic coordination is needed across places and organisations
- 6** Action must address the economic, mental and physical wellbeing and life-chance impacts of flooding
- 7** Our approach to water management is comprehensive and integrated
- 8** We recognise the need to adapt to climate change – thinking should always be for the long term

EXAMPLES WHERE CHANGE IS NEEDED:

1. COMMUNITIES ARE AT THE HEART OF FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

- Communities are full participants, as equal partners working alongside other flood stakeholders.
- A focus on those who will be affected most, the disadvantaged and vulnerable in urban and rural areas.
- Property insurance should be affordable and available for all; with a positive claims management experience for those who are flooded.
- Short and long-term support for people who have flooded should be readily available and recovery planned for in advance.

2. STRATEGIC COORDINATION IS NEEDED ACROSS PLACES AND ORGANISATIONS

- Organisations will recognise the value of local knowledge and skills and work collaboratively with communities from start to finish.
- Active participation by people is dependent upon being able to trust the services that they encounter - fairness, transparency and accountability.
- There must be much better coordination between organisations managing flood risk.
- Every Government department and their agencies, businesses and wider society have an important role; it's no longer a single agency issue. Each organisation needs a plan and to report against it.
- Each locality should have a plan in place, reported on annually, on how they are meeting national flood risk standards through the work of all sectors.

- The cultures and behaviours of organisations must enable, not inhibit, people and communities to adapt to a changing climate.

3. ACTION MUST ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING AND LIFE-CHANCE IMPACTS OF FLOODING

- The impact of flooding on mental and physical health, wellbeing and local economies should be reduced.

4. A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO WATER MANAGEMENT

- Water management from source to sea should be coordinated using all available means.
- Riparian management roles and responsibilities must be clear, coordinated, transparent, accountable, straight forward and enforced.
- Planning must be reformed to consistently deliver safe communities now, and in the future, without passing on flood risk problems elsewhere.
- Drainage must be systematically planned, implemented and maintained so that it consistently manages water effectively in both urban and rural areas.

5. WE RECOGNISE THE NEED TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE – THINKING SHOULD ALWAYS BE FOR THE LONG TERM

- We must plan and invest for future generations, learn to adapt and act now.
- More funding is needed to reflect the scale of the challenge ahead.

