

For: general circulation to staff within Lead Local Flood Authorities and other Flood Risk Management Authorities

From: Steve Wragg - Chair

Local Authority Flood Risk Management Capacity Building Advisory Group

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to inform you of the recent formation of this group and its purpose. Please share this briefing note as appropriate with interested parties for information. If you would like to know more, you can contact me [here](#).

What is the Advisory Group?

The Advisory Group represents the wider community of local authority officers on matters related to the capacity, capabilities and skills of officers within Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs).

Why has the Advisory Group been formed?

The group has formed to follow on from the Defra-led Capacity Building programme and continue to provide skills and capacity building support to LLFAs and other RMAs as they fulfil their responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act and the Flood Risk Regulations as well as general duties laid out in the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

The Advisory Group formed by merging the LANDFIRM Strategic Advisory Group and the Defra-led Capacity Building Programme and exists primarily to encourage the dynamic sharing of good practice and approaches among RMAs.

The Advisory Group is a national forum representing the interests of risk management authorities in relation to building knowledge, skills and understanding of their responsibilities in managing local flood risk, sustainable drainage and coastal erosion.

The Advisory Group acts as a forum to present common views, feedback and advice to policy/decision makers in Defra, the Environment Agency (EA) and the Local Government Association (LGA), specifically concerning capabilities and skills in the flood and coastal erosion risk management (public) sector.

What will the Advisory Group specifically do?

Specific objectives for the Advisory Group are:

1. To develop capability and skills within the FRM sector and in particular, within Lead Local Flood Authorities using a variety of approaches to learning;
2. To create opportunities and a means for a network of practitioners to share knowledge and experience through seminars, workshops, and providing access to conferences and other media channels, including [FlowNet](#) and the [flood risk portal](#).

3. To promote a local authority-led programme where LLFAs take the lead in subject matters and sharing expertise, enabling focused communication between key stakeholders¹.
4. To promote and support the growth of technical skills in LLFAs through the higher education programme in River and Coastal Engineering, and by making learning resources available.
5. To disseminate information on good practice from practical research² and other information that supports the practical implementation of flood risk management and sustainable drainage with a particular emphasis on the benefits of partnership working.
6. To ensure local authorities are kept updated on developments in policy and research and consider/evolve their wider role within the sustainable management of surface water, flood risk and coastal erosion.
7. To help clarify roles and responsibilities of local authorities in relation to flood risk management and sustainable drainage and any potential overlaps or gaps with the responsibilities of other key stakeholders.

Who is represented on the Advisory Group?

The Advisory Group is independently chaired by a local authority representative. A majority of the membership is made up of representatives from Risk Management Authorities. Other standing members include representatives from Defra, the EA and LGA.

Sub-regional groups or partnerships, such as in South West of England and Yorkshire are encouraged to have a nominated contact for the Advisory Group to correspond with and invite to meetings as appropriate.

Who to contact if you would like more information

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Kind regards,



Steve Wragg

Chair – Local Authority FCRM Capacity Building Advisory Group

¹ Events will enable non-LA key stakeholders (e.g. regulators, sewerage undertakers, developers, coastal groups) to liaise with LAs on technical, policy and management issues relating to sustainable drainage and flood risk management.

² The Advisory Group is also able to request and commission research through the Defra and Environment Agency's joint research and development programme.