

Part 1 - Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Lead local flood authorities

Issue

Responsibilities for flood defence and surface water drainage are currently spread between eleven different types of bodies (see page 3).

Taking this into account, the Pitt Review recommended:

- the Environment Agency should have a national overview of all flood risks; and
- local authorities should lead on the management of local flood risks.

To this end, the Bill proposes that:

- the Environment Agency (EA) should:
 - issue a National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, and
 - have powers to carry out sea defence, main river and coast protection works.
- there should be new bodies called Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) – the unitary authorities and county councils – which would:
 - issue Local Flood Risk Management Strategies for surface water run-off, groundwater and non-main rivers;
 - have powers to carry out works for the management of surface water run-off and groundwater.

- while Internal Drainage Boards and Local Authorities would continue with their powers to carry out works on non-main rivers, and highway authorities' and sewerage undertakers' drainage powers and duties would remain as they are;
- subject to all such bodies exercising their powers consistently with the EA's and the LLFAs' risk management strategies.

Water UK's view

Water UK agrees that there should be greater local involvement and accountability in relation to flood management.

However, Water UK questions whether this necessitates

- the creation of yet another category of flood defence authority – the LLFAs – with both strategic planning and works powers;
- dividing responsibility for determining flood management strategy between the EA and the LLFAs – particularly where this involves the construction or modification of civil engineering works.

Water UK is also concerned that the determination of the strategies do not appear to take account of

- the roles of the Regional Planning Boards and the Local Planning Authorities in relation to flooding; or
- the various plans that are required to be prepared by virtue of the Floods Directive 2007, and believes that these issues need to be addressed.

However, Water UK does agree that the management of and planning for flooding incidents is best administered locally.

Responsible bodies

- Department for Communities and Local Government
- Regional Planning Boards
- Local Planning Authorities
- Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Environment Agency
- Regional Floods Committees
- Internal Drainage Boards
- Highway Authorities
- Sewerage Undertakers
- Local Authorities
- Agricultural Lands Tribunals
- Landowners, Riparian Owners and Developers
(Lead Local Flood Authorities)
- (Sustainable Urban Drainage Approving Authorities)

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Water UK represents all water and wastewater service suppliers at national and European level. The water industry has invested £85 billion since privatisation in 1989-90.