



Be part of the conversation! Follow APSE on Twitter and LinkedIn



@apseevents
@apsenews



**@APSE - Association
for Public Service
Excellence**



Stewards of Place: The role of councils in responding to climate change, flood risks and actions

Mo Baines, APSE Chief Executive

Climate emergency declarations

- 409 councils across the UK
- Many yet to write a plan
- Many consider their pledge to be on both climate and ecological emergency
- Increasingly councils leading local strategies
- 57% of the public view local action as the key to climate mitigation and adaptation *

First responders?

“Many adaptation and mitigation options can help address climate change, but no single option is sufficient by itself. Effective implementation depends on policies and cooperation at all scales, and can be enhanced through integrated responses that link adaptation and mitigation with other societal objectives.”

But councils have duties.....

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

- Local flood risk management strategies: England
- (1) A lead local flood authority for an area in England must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area (a “local flood risk management strategy”).
- (2) In subsection (1) “local flood risk” means flood risk from—
 - (a) surface runoff,
 - (b) groundwater, and
 - (c) ordinary watercourses.
- (3) In subsection (2)(c) the reference to an ordinary watercourse includes a reference to a lake, pond or other area of water which flows into an ordinary watercourse.

S.4 The strategy must specify

- (a) the risk management authorities in the authority's area,
 - (b) the flood and coastal erosion risk management functions that may be exercised by those authorities in relation to the area,
 - (c) the objectives for managing local flood risk (including any objectives included in the authority's flood risk management plan prepared in accordance with the Flood Risk Regulations 2009),
 - (d) the measures proposed to achieve those objectives,
 - (e) how and when the measures are expected to be implemented,
 - (f) the costs and benefits of those measures, and how they are to be paid for,
 - (g) the assessment of local flood risk for the purpose of the strategy,
 - (h) how and when the strategy is to be reviewed, and
 - (i) how the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.
- (5) The strategy must be consistent with the national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England under section 7.

However.....

- Across the UK weakened planning systems
- Lack of coherence between local planning powers and developer rights
- Financial barriers
- Social indicators on climate risk and flooding
- Can we currently act as stewards of place with these issues?

Latest CCC Report to Parliament

‘The UK’s first 40oC day, in summer 2022, was the clearest indication that climate change has arrived in this country. Last year’s record breaking temperatures brought unprecedented heat-related deaths, wildfire incidents and significant infrastructure disruption. The impacts of climate change will intensify over coming decades, leaving the UK vulnerable without better resilience planning and preparation.’

Towns and cities

- Plans for flood defences and improved flood risk mapping are typically credible but maintaining defences and managing surface water flood risk will require further funding commitments.
- Evidence suggests flood risks are rising across the country and developments are still being built in areas at future risk.
- Most plans for new developments do not thoroughly regulate or track adaptation for future climate resilience and there are no clear mechanisms to monitor and mitigate the effects of urban heat islands.
- Plans to ensure developments at the coastline are protected remain non-statutory, and there is insufficient funding to enable affected communities to adapt.

Buildings.

- The update to the Building Regulations is a significant step forward to address overheating in new homes, putting in place good standards.
- There remains a lack of policy to address overheating in existing homes and buildings and a lack of understanding of the scale of efforts needed to mitigate the risk today.
- There is a lack of data tracking the overall scale of property flood resilience (PFR) implementation across the country.
- Recently implemented plans to improve access to and awareness of PFR are a positive step, as are Flood Re's (publicly backed flood reinsurance) Build Back Better scheme, kitemarked standards for PFR products, and industry codes of practice

Community preparedness and response

- The overall level of planning for adaptation is still limited within local councils.
- Mandatory reporting, public information, public engagement and targeted adaptation support for vulnerable groups are not yet widely available.
- Most policy for emergency response within communities is focused on flooding, but often does not extend to other climate hazards.
- The recent commitment by Government to fund Local Resilience Forums and pilot Chief Resilience Officers across England is a positive policy development that could help improve local level community preparedness and response to climate impacts

How can we achieve stewards of place?

- Powers (e.g. Planning) and finances are problematic
- We can collaborate more
- Direction of travel for frontline services
- Highways, street lighting, public realm and parks
- Housing and decarbonising our own assets

The rains in Spain.....can cause destruction



La Marjal floodable park, Alicante Spain

The sponge city concept



Flood prone Wuhan where technology goes against centralised reservoirs, and water capture

Hug a tree(hugger)



Tree planting for climate adaptation and mitigation: carbon capture, heat islands, flood prevention, capture pollutants

Decarbonising assets



Salt Ayre Leisure Centre, Lancaster, Solar Farm on former landfill site and decarbonising the leisure centre

NEW MUNICIPALISM

Delivering for local people and local economies



Contact details

Mo Baines, APSE Chief Executive

Email: mbaines@apse.org.uk

Association for Public Service Excellence

3rd floor, Trafford House, Chester Road,
Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0RS.

telephone: 0161 772 1810

web: www.apse.org.uk



GB 11409



GB 11132



GB 14074