

Local water: the challenge and the prize for the ensuring council as a steward of water

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Oxford, 17th July 2014

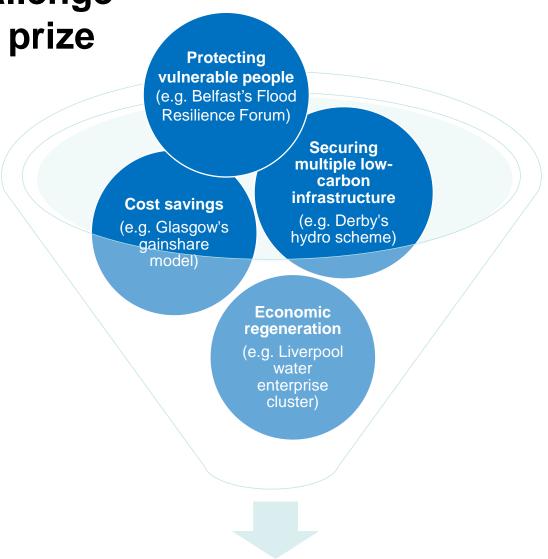




A perfect storm (quite literally)

- The alarming scale of the water emergency: too much water, too little water
- Austerity budget cuts: councils and council partners, e.g. Environment Agency
- Increase in statutory duties or local political pressures which compete with other priorities, e.g. Flood and Water Management Act

The challenge and the prize





An integrated approach to local water stewardship



STEP 1

Select water priorities aligned to council's long-term strategic plan

- Local political priorities (protecting vulnerable people, operational efficiency, supporting growth)
- National policy context (statutory obligations, funding availability)

STEP 2

Engage cross-boundary and multi-agency partners to co-design solutions

- Share ideas Pool resources
- Joint communications to water users
 - Lobby together

STEP 3

Identify leverage and tipping points to steward local water in a circular economy

■ Flood management ■ Water security and efficiency ■ Multiple low-carbon infrastructure ■ Water enterprise

STEP 4

Mobilise resources and decision-makers across council functions

- Leadership Regeneration and planning Transport and logistics ■
 Asset management and procurement Environmental services
 - Neighbourhood management Education and schools

APSE policy recommendations to Government (1/2)



- Refresh the National Infrastructure Plan by setting out the long-term vision for the system planning of, and investment in, a UK water asset framework
- Redefine the criteria for Grant in Aid in recognition of the relation between water and the multiple benefits of low-carbon infrastructure development (e.g. energy, transport, land and housing, and green spaces)
- Ring-fence budgets and staff involved in flood or drought defence in any restructuring of environmental agencies or other support organisations

APSE policy recommendations to Government (2/2)



- Reboot the National Planning Policy Framework so that all new commercial and residential buildings in water sensitive zones are required to be flood and drought resilient
- Request that OFWAT and the National Consumer Council for Water strengthen the accountability of utility companies on water emergencies to local elected politicians and consumers
- Ensure the strong voice of local authorities is at the top table for implementing the UK's new vision for water technology exports to boost economic competitiveness