



Strategic Public Policy

Future Flood Prevention & The Ensuring Council

An overview by Councillor Van Coulter



Introduction



Van Coulter:

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Flooding: A Strategic Overview

Prevention: elimination or Reduction of the incidence or severity of emergencies & mitigation of their effects

Prevention

Response: combating of emergencies & Provision of rescue services

Response

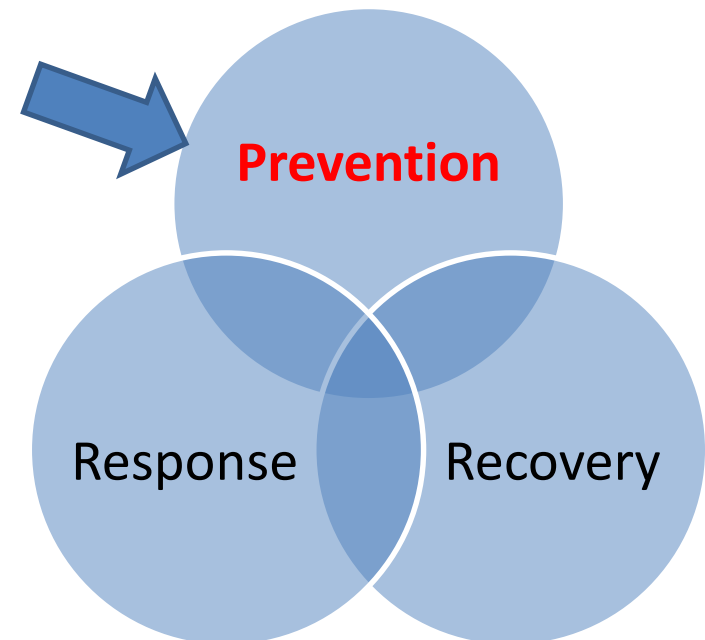
Recovery: assisting people & communities to achieve an effective Level of functioning

Recovery

Strategies for managing flood risk

A number of dimensions rest behind strategies

- Catchment strategies
- Floodplain management strategies
- Flood information gathering & dissemination
- Flood mitigation works
- Land use planning controls
- Community awareness
- Education
- Research



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In preventing flooding, respect must be given for:

- Flora, fauna habitats
- Landscape interest areas, including wetlands
- Archaeological areas
- Flood conveyance
- Flood storage
- Stream stability
- Water quality

More than one flood risk

Of the main causes of flooding, three contribute most to cost and disruption:

- **fluvial flood risk** (from rivers),
- **pluvial risk** (from rain falling directly onto land) leading to surface water flooding), and
- **coastal flood risk** (from storms, tidal surges & supplemented by rising sea level).



Fluvial flood risk

The most significant source of flooding today (based analysis of the underlying data provided by lead authorities) is fluvial, contributing £560m (40%) of total UK estimated annual damages.



Images relate to Oxford – from Dec 2013/Jan 2014 (Total weekly cost estimated as £50m)

- **Coastal flooding contributes £320m to EAD (24%),**
- **Surface water £260m (20%), and**

Surface water flooding may be triggered or made worse in urban areas where the ground consists of mostly hard surfaces such as concrete or tarmac

- **Groundwater £210m (16%).**

Occurs when the water table in permeable rocks rises to enter basements/cellars or comes up above the ground surface



Flash Flooding

Flash flooding is a far greater threat to homes, railways and roads than river or coastal floods.



“... latest projections suggest periods of intense rainfall could increase in frequency by a factor of five this century as global temperatures rise.”

Committee on Climate Change, Dec 2015

But, it's excluded from government plans to deal with increased rainfall.



Parliamentary Inquiry



The Parliamentary Committee on Future Flood Prevention, published 2 November 2016, recommended:

- Application of the most effective range of measures to reduce flooding (chapter 2)
- Predict & communicate flood risk (chapter 3)
- Increase community resilience (chapter 4)
- Tackle strategic, governance and funding deficiencies in flood risk management (chapter 5)



Parliamentary Inquiry



In advance of major reform, the committee recommended:

- Catchment measures need to be adopted on a much wider scale
 - ❖ Call for a large-catchment trial
 - ❖ Farmland should be used in places to store flood water
- Flood risk communication must be simplified
 - ❖ Current use of 1 in X year flood risk is confusing to many
- Resilience must be improved
 - ❖ Developers failing to comply with planning requirements made liable for costs of flooding
 - ❖ Water companies should be made statutory consultees on planning applications
 - ❖ Building regulations should require flood resistant materials
 - ❖ Government should develop a grant scheme for small businesses by end of 2017



Parliamentary inquiry



The Parliamentary Committee on Future Flood Prevention, published 2 November 2016, received its response from HM Government on 24 January 2017.

MPs criticise Government's sub-standard response on flood prevention report

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry/>

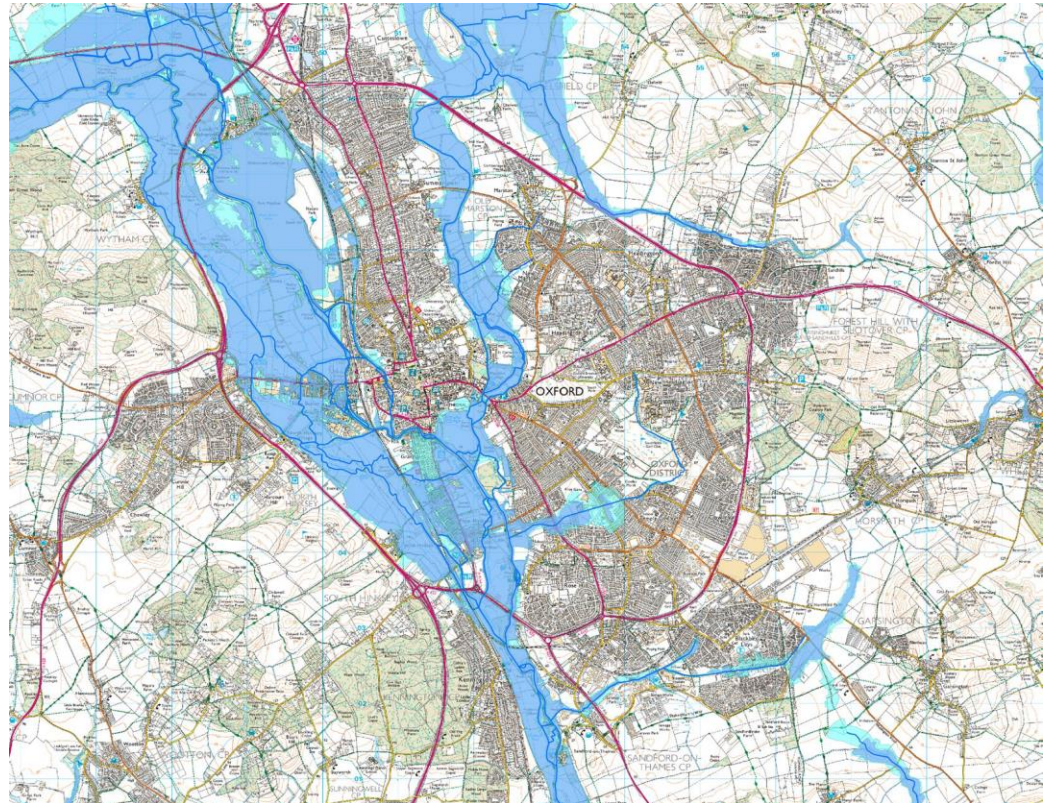


Improving resilience



Investment in flood risk management represents good value for money.

Most new flood defence schemes now built reduce expected damage by at least £8 for every £1 spent, significantly above the 5 to 1 target set by central government.





The Ensuring Council



APSE promotes the model of an “ensuring council”.

An “ensuring council” reflects the vital role for local government in ensuring the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities.

- Endorses the role of local authorities as stewards of local wellbeing,
- Recognises the strategic advantages of a core of in-house services delivered in collaboration, rather in competition, with alternative providers, and
- Grounds local decisions in politics and the values of social justice.

Thank you

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