



# **FLOOD RISK COMMUNITIES' CHARTER**

## **FLOODING DEVASTATES LIVES**

**Communities living at risk of flooding have a right to lives not dominated by the fear of flooding**

### **TO ACHIEVE THIS:**

- 1** Our nation's ambition to tackle flood risk, in the face of climate change, needs to increase dramatically
- 2** Decisions that affect communities must be made with the communities' involvement
- 3** We must act now – there is a role for everyone

### **WE DEMAND THAT:**

- 4** Communities are at the heart of flood risk management
- 5** Strategic coordination is needed across places and organisations
- 6** Action must address the economic, mental and physical wellbeing and life-chance impacts of flooding
- 7** Our approach to water management is comprehensive and integrated
- 8** We recognise the need to adapt to climate change – thinking should always be for the long term

## **EXAMPLES WHERE CHANGE IS NEEDED:**

### **1. COMMUNITIES ARE AT THE HEART OF FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**

- Communities are full participants, as equal partners working alongside other flood stakeholders.
- A focus on those who will be affected most, the disadvantaged and vulnerable in urban and rural areas.
- Property insurance should be affordable and available for all; with a positive claims management experience for those who are flooded.
- Short and long-term support for people who have flooded should be readily available and recovery planned for in advance.

### **2. STRATEGIC COORDINATION IS NEEDED ACROSS PLACES AND ORGANISATIONS**

- Organisations will recognise the value of local knowledge and skills and work collaboratively with communities from start to finish.
- Active participation by people is dependent upon being able to trust the services that they encounter - fairness, transparency and accountability.
- There must be much better coordination between organisations managing flood risk.
- Every Government department and their agencies, businesses and wider society have an important role; it's no longer a single agency issue. Each organisation needs a plan and to report against it.
- Each locality should have a plan in place, reported on annually, on how they are meeting national flood risk standards through the work of all sectors.

- The cultures and behaviours of organisations must enable, not inhibit, people and communities to adapt to a changing climate.

### **3. ACTION MUST ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING AND LIFE-CHANCE IMPACTS OF FLOODING**

- The impact of flooding on mental and physical health, wellbeing and local economies should be reduced.

### **4. A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO WATER MANAGEMENT**

- Water management from source to sea should be coordinated using all available means.
- Riparian management roles and responsibilities must be clear, coordinated, transparent, accountable, straight forward and enforced.
- Planning must be reformed to consistently deliver safe communities now, and in the future, without passing on flood risk problems elsewhere.
- Drainage must be systematically planned, implemented and maintained so that it consistently manages water effectively in both urban and rural areas.

### **5. WE RECOGNISE THE NEED TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE – THINKING SHOULD ALWAYS BE FOR THE LONG TERM**

- We must plan and invest for future generations, learn to adapt and act now.
  - More funding is needed to reflect the scale of the challenge ahead.
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