

Urgent Recommendation	Outline of activity to support the Recommendation
<p><b>REC 1 -</b> The Review recommends that more frequent and systematic monitoring of groundwater levels at times of high risk should be undertaken by the Environment agency, which should begin as soon as possible to predict and mitigate further serious ground water flooding from this winter onwards.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency have a long-term initiative to develop our groundwater flood forecasting capabilities, in order to take forward the Government's Making Space for Water programme and prepare for implementation of the EU Floods Directive. In response to this urgent recommendation, the Environment Agency are pursuing a number of additional short-term actions, in particular production of national groundwater level forecasts for all of England's major chalk aquifers, from which the risk of groundwater flooding is highest.</p> <p>The Environment Agency have made progress with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>REC 2 -</b> The Review recommends that the Environment Agency, supported by local authorities and water companies, should urgently identify areas at highest risk from surface water flooding where known, inform Local Resilience Forums and take steps to identify remaining high risk areas over the coming months.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency presently have limited responsibilities in relation to surface water flooding. However in response to this urgent recommendation, the Environment Agency are pursuing a number of short term actions with Local Authorities and water companies, such as sharing information with the Local Resilience Forums and producing an initial map to identify locations at high risk of surface water flooding. They are also developing much more sophisticated and accurate urban mapping tools.</p> <p>The Environment Agency have made significant progress with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>REC 3 -</b> The Review recommends that the Environment Agency should urgently develop and implement a clear policy on the use of temporary and demountable defences.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency have a demountable flood defence policy in place and will shortly be circulating thier temporary flood defence policy for comment to our professional partners. The Environment Agency will then share and explain these finalised policies to our professional partners and the public.</p> <p>The Environment Agency have made significant progress on this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>REC 4 -</b> The Review recommends that all Local Resilience Forums urgently review their current local arrangements for water rescue to consider whether they are adequate in light of the summer's events and their local community risk registers.</p>	<p><b>CCS/Defra</b> wrote to LRF Chairs on 18 February asking them inter alia to review their arrangements locally to consider whether they are adequate, in light of Sir Ken Knight's guidance on how they should assess adequacy, and to advise Defra/CCS by 20th March. A quarter of the 28 resilience forums who responded have reviewed their current capability for water rescue, and are implementing improvements in light of the risks. The majority (three-fifths) have reviewed or are reviewing their capability; but say that implementation of the results may be constrained or are dependent on the availability of resources, and national guidance – in particular on the lead responsibility for water rescue. A small number either appear not to have formally reviewed their local arrangements or to be unwilling or unable to implement improvements.</p>

<p><b>REC 5</b> - The Review recommends that all Local Resilience Forums should undertake an urgent review of designated rest centres and other major facilities to ensure either that they have the necessary levels of resilience to enable them to be used in the response to flooding and other major emergencies, or that alternative arrangements are put in place.</p>	<p><b>CCS/Defra</b> wrote to LRF Chairs on 18 February asking them inter alia whether their LRF had reviewed designated rest centres etc, and to advise Defra/CCS by 20 March. Over half of resilience forums who responded say that they have reviewed designated rest centres and that, in consequence, believe they are adequate. The remainder are in the process of reviewing current arrangements.</p>
<p><b>REC 6</b> - The Review recommends that the Cabinet Office, with other departments, should urgently consider the costs, benefits and feasibility of establishing arrangements for the urgent acquisition of supplies during a major emergency, including the use of call-off contracts or the creation of national or regional stockpiles of equipment and consumables.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Office has conducted a snap shot study and as a result will shortly consult on revised guidance on the arrangements at local, regional and national level for the urgent acquisition of supplies in an emergency, including on the need for call-off contracts or stockpiles.</p>
<p><b>REC 7</b> - The Review recommends that that the Department of Health guidance clarifying the role and accountabilities of organisations involved in providing scientific and technical advice during a major incident should be implemented as soon as possible and understood by Gold Commanders.</p>	<p>The Department of Health issued in December 2007 a revised NHS Strategic Command Arrangements guidance which updates roles and responsibilities for NHS organisations during major incidents. It specifically clarifies the role of the Strategic Health Authority as the principal healthcare system manager during a crisis. The Department of Health is continuing to work closely with CCS to develop further STAC guidance at the local, regional and national level, including clarifying the roles of central advice and that of other health agencies.</p> <p>The Department of Health have made significant progress with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>REC 8</b> - The Review recommends that the guidance currently under preparation by Cabinet Office to provide local responders with advice on the definition and identification of vulnerable people and on planning to support them in an emergency should be issued urgently.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Office published guidance on 'Identifying People Who Are Vulnerable in a Crisis' at the beginning of March. It has been sent out through the Local Response Gateway.</p> <p>The CCS have made significant progress with this recommendation.</p>

<p><b>REC 9 -</b> The Review recommends that, in order to effectively fulfil its Lead Department role for flood risk management and emergency response, Defra needs to urgently develop and share a national flood emergency framework.</p>	<p>Defra has completed a thorough review of its Lead Government Department Plan to take account of the Pitt Interim Report findings and reissued this in December 2007. This will provide a basis for developing a flood emergency framework for England. New guidance on producing Multi-Agency Flood Plans was issued in early 2008.</p> <p>During Spring 2008 Defra and CCS will co-operate in preparing for consultation an outline (level 1) National Flood Emergency Framework. Feedback and recommendations in the final report from Sir Michael Pitt in June 08 will be incorporated into the national Framework with a view to finalising the output in the Autumn. Work can then begin on a planning a national exercise that will test key components of the arrangements set out in the Framework and the Defra LDP.</p> <p>Defra has therefore taken significant steps towards fulfilling this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>REC 10 -</b> The Review recommends that Category 1 responders should be urgently provided with a detailed assessment of critical infrastructure in their areas to enable them to assess its vulnerability to flooding.</p>	<p>CCS wrote to LRF Chairs in mid-March to outline the standardised procedures for how they can access this information on critical infrastructure in their areas.</p> <p>The CCS have made significant progress with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>REC 11 -</b> The Review recommends that the Environment Agency should work urgently with telecommunications companies, consulting the Information Commissioner as necessary to facilitate the roll-out of 'opt-out' telephone flood warning schemes to all homes and businesses liable to flooding, including homes with ex-directory numbers.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency are keen to move to a fully 'opt-out' flood warning system. However, it appears that, a number of changes to legislation are needed to make this happen. The Environment Agency are pursuing this with the Information Commissioner, British Telecom, the Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>The Environment Agency have made significant progress in understanding the issues surrounding this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>REC 12 -</b> The Review recommends that Local Resilience Forums urgently develop plans to enhance flood warnings through 'door-knocking' by local authorities based on an assessment of the post code areas likely to flood.</p>	<p><b>CCS/Defra</b> wrote to each LRF Chair on 18 February to ask inter alia whether the LRF has developed plans to enhance flood warnings in this way, and to advise Defra/CCS by 20 March. A third of resilience forums have incorporated this into their plans or are in the course of doing so. Two-fifths say that they disagree with the recommendation, or believe it to be a matter that should be left to local discretion; most but not all of these may or will not implement it. The remainder have reservations about the recommendations and are looking for more guidance and/or resources.</p>
<p><b>REC 13 -</b> The Review recommends that that Local Resilience Forums urgently make arrangements to involve local media representatives in the local preparedness and response to support their public information role.</p>	<p><b>CCS/Defra</b> wrote to each LRF Chair on 18 February to ask inter alia whether the LRF has developed plans to involve local media to this end, and to advise Defra/CCS by 20 March. The great majority (some three quarters) of resilience forums who responded have implemented this recommendation in full. A small number have yet to do so. One agrees with the recommendation but appears unlikely to implement unless this is adopted as part of a national strategy.</p>

<p><b>REC 14 -</b> The Review recommends that members of the public make up a flood kit – including personal documents, insurance policy, emergency contact numbers (including local council, emergency services and Floodline – 0845 988 1188), torch, battery or wind-up radio, mobile phone, rubber gloves, wet wipes or antibacterial hand gel, first aid kit and blankets.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency have published and distributed three new leaflets in December '07 that provide practical advice on how to be prepared before, during and after flooding. The Environment Agency are looking at how we can take these two recommendations further working with the Agency's professional partners to enhance the way Government warns and informs the public about flooding.</p> <p>In the recently released guidance for preparing Multi-Agency Flood Plans, the Environment Agency have included all the aspects covered in the Rec 14 and 15. Defra and the Environment Agency will be monitoring the progress by Local Regional Forums to implement this guidance with the first performance report due in January '09.</p> <p>The Environment Agency have made significant progress with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>REC 15 -</b> The Review recommends that members of the public increase their personal state of readiness and resilience to floods by following the Environment Agency's practical advice, where appropriate, as summarised below:</p>	<p>The Environment Agency have published and distributed three new leaflets in December '07 that provide practical advice on how to be prepared before, during and after flooding. The Environment Agency are looking at how we can take these two recommendations further working with the Agency's professional partners to enhance the way Government warns and informs the public about flooding.</p> <p>In the recently released guidance for preparing Multi-Agency Flood Plans, the Environment Agency have included all the aspects covered in the Rec 14 and 15. Defra and the Environment Agency will be monitoring the progress by Local Regional Forums to implement this guidance with the first performance report due in January '09.</p> <p>The Environment Agency have made significant progress with this recommendation.</p>