

“What you always do before you make a decision is consult. The best public policy is made when you are listening to people who are going to be impacted. Then, once a policy is determined, you call on them to help you sell it.”

— Elizabeth Dole



Event Brochure

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“Floods are such an interconnected, interdependent problem, that it cannot be tackled by one stakeholder alone.”

— Linda Freiner, program manager for the Zurich Flood Resilience Program

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Is Britain Prepared for Floods? Enhancing Flood Resilience through Innovation, Technology and Collaboration

Date: Thursday 8th February 2018
Time: 10:15am — 4:30pm
Venue: [Park Plaza Westminster Bridge London](#)

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Key Speakers



Dr Angela Connelly, Research Associate, School of Environment, Education and Development



Carol Holt, Deputy Director for Flood Incident Management, Environment Agency



Steven Trehwella, Non-Executive Director, UK Flood Partnership



Walter Menteth FRIAS, RIBA, Dip. Arch. (PSB), BA (, Senior Lecturer, Portsmouth School of Architecture



Simon Crowther, Director, Flood Protection Solutions



Gordon McCreath, Partner, Pinsent Masons LLP

Forthcoming Events

- JAN 11 Double Disadvantage: Tackling Discrimination and Improving Mental Health in BAME women in the Criminal Justice System
- JAN 16 NHS Dental Reform: Establishing a Long Term Preventative Strategy to Improve Oral Health
- JAN 18 Fostering Active & Healthy Ageing: Harnessing the Demographic Transition in the EU
- JAN 18 Tackling the Gender Pay Gap, Supporting Women and Promoting Equality in the Workplace
- JAN 24 Tackling Rape, Sexual Assault and Harassment at Universities and Colleges: Cultivating a zero-tolerance approach

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Overview

Present estimates state that annual flood damages for the whole of the UK are £1.1 billion, with around 5.4 million properties in England at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, or surface water. In 2017 coastal areas across the UK have been hit by severe winds and heavy rain, causing power cuts and damage to properties. In North Yorkshire flash flooding caused road closures and trains to be cancelled. Whole communities across the UK have been left isolated, without power, with severe disruptions or damage to local transport infrastructure.

Funding for flood defences is a source of continuous political debate and controversy. Under the coalition government spending on flood defence did increase overall, despite initial claims it would decrease. Whilst revenue funding is allocated for a one-year period only, the 2015 Government protected maintenance funding in real terms at the 2015/16 level (£171 million), and allocated funding up until 2020, totalling about £1 billion. Future capital investment is moreover contingent on £600 million partnership funding contributions, of which the Government had raised £270 million in 2016.

However, funding is not the only variant conducive to sustainable or effective flood resilience. Last year the Government launched its '*National Flood Resilience Review*', outlining its strategy to enhance flood defences. Among other recommendations outlined in the review, it outlined the need for increased collaboration between various stakeholders and investment in innovation and technology to enhance flood resilience. New technologies can improve warning systems and increase awareness of flood maps, whilst enhanced collaboration can support the establishment of community flood groups. Previously, householders could also access innovative ways to defend against flooding through the Government's Repair and Renew Grant however present funding streams have stopped. UK SMEs are also providing the opportunity for householders to purchase door guards, flood resilient cavity wall insulation and mobile barriers.

This crucial symposium will address the debate surrounding the UK's flood resilience strategy. It will provide policy makers, local flood authorities, environmental agencies, government departments, local authorities and businesses, the opportunity to resolve the challenges around enhancing innovation and increasing collaboration to maximise the efficacy of flood defences.

Delegates Will:

- Scrutinise the Government's *National Flood Resilience Review* and discuss other government measures to enhance flood resilience
- Review gaps in the Government's strategy to tackle floods and debate ways to fill these gaps with innovative policy ideas
- Discuss the future of flood resilience management and review future challenges facing local authorities
- Develop tools to measure a locality's resilience by analysing various aspects of local authority resilience capacity
- Formulate a framework to translate a local authority's ambitions of resilience into action
- Analyse the role of innovation in delivering multiple benefits and better outcomes for flood resilience management
- Strategise a framework to drive collaboration, engagement and partnership between local government, communities and businesses
- Reflect on how technology, such as drones, can capture effective data to drive up standards of flood resilience

Programme

09:30 Registration and Morning Refreshments

10:15 **Chair's Welcome and Introduction**

10:30 **Panel One: Is Britain flood prepared?: Preparing local communities and local Authorities for Floods**

- The Policy Debate: Analyse the Government's *National Flood Resilience Review*
- Moving Forward: Investigate potential gaps in the Government's strategy to tackle floods and debate ways to fill these gaps with innovative policy ideas
- Looking to the Future: What's next for flood resilience management and how best to get there?
- Measuring Resilience: Analysing various aspects of a local authority's resilience capacity and develop tools to measure it effectively
- A Framework for the Future: Formulate a framework to translate a local authority's ambitions of city resilience into action

11:15 Morning Coffee Break

11:30 **Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One**

12:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 **Panel Two: Forward Thinking: Enhancing flood**

resilience through innovation, collaboration and partnership

- Forward Thinking: What challenges are next to enhance flood resilience management and what solutions can help us prepare?
- Better Outcomes Through Innovation: How innovation can deliver multiple benefits and better outcomes for flood resilience management
- Better Outcomes Through Collaboration: How to drive engagement and partnership between local government, communities and businesses
- Better Outcomes Through Technology: How technology, such as drones, can capture effective data to drive up standards of flood resilience
- Better Outcomes Through Partnerships: How partnerships between SMEs and Local Government can aid flood protection and a town's recovery from flooding

14:15 Afternoon Coffee Break

14:30 **Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two**

15:30 **Chair's Summary and Closing Comments**

15:40 Networking Reception

16:30 **Close**

Who Should Attend?

- Emergency Planning Officers
- Lead Local Flood Authorities
- The Environment Agency
- District and Borough Councils
- Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities
- Water and Sewage Companies
- FCRM Officers
- Resilience and Disaster Recovery Officers
- Emergency Responders
- Flood and Water Officers
- Civil Contingencies Managers
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Central and Regional Government Agencies
- Fire and Ambulance Service
- Police Service and Police Authorities
- Civil Defence and Emergency Planning Consultants
- Community Safety Teams
- Transport Operators
- Risk Assessment Teams
- Business Continuity Teams
- Disaster Recovery Charities and NGOs
- Environmental Services and Sanitary Services
- Environmental and Utilities Service Providers
- Environmental Health Teams
- Energy Companies
- Planning Officers
- Sustainability Advisers
- Climate Change Officers
- Energy Sector
- Public Weather Service Advisors
- Technology Providers
- Insurance Industry
- Road Maintenance and Improvement Teams
- Highways and Drainage Teams
- Housing Officers and Managers
- Neighbourhood Renewal Officers
- Academics, Analysts and Researchers

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