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# The Government's Response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the Summer 2007 Floods

## PROGRESS REPORT

June 2009

## **INTRODUCTION**

This progress report demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to improve the way we prepare for, and deal with, flooding following Sir Michael Pitt's review into the 2007 summer floods. It sets out progress made in the six months since the publication of the Government's response to Sir Michael's Review in December 2008, showing what we have achieved and what remains to be done to fulfil the commitments we have given.

The action we are taking in response to Sir Michael's recommendations is a part of the Government's concerted programme of action in response to climate change.

Starting with the publication by Defra of the latest UK Climate Projections on June 18, Ministers will this summer set out the building blocks of a 'five point plan' designed both to reduce emissions at home and abroad and to protect and prepare for the changes that are already inevitable. Building on its extensive programme developed over recent years, the UK Government is taking action on five fronts, including taking action to protect the public from immediate risk, and improving the way we prepare for and deal with flooding is a key part of this.

Annex A to this report contains a summary of the status of work against each of Sir Michael's recommendations. Annex B summarises funding committed to Pitt implementation and Annex C summarises progress that local authorities reported in realising their leadership role in local flood risk management.

Based on the six themes identified by Sir Michael, we have set out below key points on progress made by the Government in the last six months and work which we expect to be delivered shortly.

### **Knowing when and where it will flood**

The Government's response referred to the plans by the Environment Agency and Met Office to establish a joint centre to bring together weather forecasting and flood prediction. This joint Flood Forecasting Centre was launched by Hilary Benn on 21 April.

With the help of £5 million funding from Defra, the new centre is already making a difference in terms of our ability to deliver flood alerts with longer lead times and more accurate, targeted information to emergency responders around the country.

The Environment Agency has also made significant progress in modelling and predicting river and surface water flooding. The Met Office is on track to deliver a body of work to improve its ability to forecast and predict weather, with a focus on improving warning lead times of localised intense rainfall events by 6-12 hours.

## **Reducing the risk of flooding and its impact**

Since summer 2007 the Environment Agency has increased flood protection for an additional 57,950 properties in England, through 85 flood defence schemes.

The Government has published its draft Flood and Water Management Bill for consultation and Pre Legislative Scrutiny. This will, amongst other things, give county and unitary local authorities a leadership role in local flood risk management. Working with local partners, they will need to set out local strategies for flood risk management, establish asset registers and take the lead in investigating local flooding incidents.

The Government will soon publish a revised practice guide to support PPS25 (national planning policy on new development and flood risk). The Government will also shortly publish proposals for restricting impermeable surfaces on commercial premises, and options for back gardens, with the aim of reducing surface water runoff. We are also exploring options, for consultation this summer, on how amended Building Regulations could be used to ensure that new or refurbished buildings in high flood risk areas are made flood resistant or resilient.

The Government has also extended eligibility for home improvement grants and loans to include resilience and resistance measures through establishment of a property level grant scheme. The successful local authority recipients of the first round of these grants were announced 25 June.

## **Being rescued and cared for during an emergency**

The Environment Agency has made good progress in determining improvements they will make to their flood warning systems. This includes changes to public flood warning messages as well as new advisory services to give more specialised information, and longer lead times to emergency response organisations. Through the new Flood Forecasting Centre, the Met Office and the Environment Agency are now issuing daily national Flood Guidance Statements to flood emergency responders, including local authorities, emergency services and key utility service providers; this service provides people with a five day forecast for potential flooding. Other services, including Extreme Rainfall Alerts are continuing to be provided to an increasing number of organisations. The Environment Agency is also working with infrastructure operators, trialling a tool that identifies their sites at risk when flood warnings are issued.

Good progress has been made in developing a national flood rescue asset register and the outline of a UK Flood Rescue Operations Framework. The Government is supporting this work through the Flood Rescue National Enhancement Project involving the various organisations across England, Wales and Scotland who provide flood rescue operations and services. Once completed, the Flood Rescue Operational Framework will ensure a co-

ordinated, multi-agency response can be rapidly deployed to manage severe, wide area flooding.

We have completed consultation on a National Flood Emergency Framework, including workshops in each of the nine regional Government Offices in England. The Framework will provide a common and strategic reference point for flood planning and response for all tiers of government and for responder organisations. It will be completed by June 2010 and tested in the national flooding exercise, Exercise Watermark, in March 2011.

### **Maintaining power and water supplies and protecting essential services**

The Cabinet Office has now established its Natural Hazards Team to help reduce disruption of essential services from natural hazards. This team will also set out a programme of work for assessing the vulnerability to critical sites to flooding and for encouraging owners to improve resilience.

The Government has made good progress in producing inundation maps for all 2092 large reservoirs in England and Wales. We are on course to complete this work by the end of this year and to provide Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) with a bundle of information, including: the inundation maps; guidance and templates for preparing off-site reservoir flood plans; a national protocol for sharing reservoir inundations maps; a prioritised list of sites showing highest to lowest risk reservoirs (based on consequence of failure); and guidance for warning and informing the public.

Defra is also hosting a series of seminars for all reservoir owners during this month and July. These seminars will be held in different parts of England and Wales and will provide an opportunity for reservoir undertakers to hear about the proposed changes set out in the draft Flood and Water Management Bill. The seminars will cover proposals for introducing a Ministerial Direction on reservoir undertakes to prepare on-site plans and requirements to work with emergency planners in the LRFs to put in place all necessary arrangements to ensure any off-site incidents and emergencies are adequately planned for.

### **Better advice and help to protect families and homes**

The Environment Agency has continued to improve advice to householders and businesses on flood prevention and mitigation. The Agency has also changed the way they will carry out their public information campaign, in the light of the Pitt report. For example, they have identified eight LRFs throughout England and Wales where they will work with partners and local communities to raise awareness of flooding and of measures to mitigate the impacts.

Furthermore, the Government is establishing a programme to support and encourage individuals and communities to be better prepared and more self-reliant during emergencies; proposals on this are due to be published this autumn.

## Recovery

The Department of Health made available, in December 2008, a single set of health guidance for householders and businesses, drawing on advice from the Drinking Water Inspectorate, Food Standards Agency, Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive.

In addition, the Government has made significant progress in producing (for publication later this summer) updated Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance. This will set out:

- the principle of establishing Recovery Co-ordinating Groups, with agreed aims and objectives, from the outset of a flooding incident;
- clarification on which bodies should take the lead in multi-agency planning and response for severe weather emergencies;
- how Government Offices can best provide advice to areas dealing with severe flooding and secure support from experienced organisations;
- new arrangements for recovery and how LRFs can plan, train and exercise on that basis;
- an agreed framework for reporting on local recovery to the centre;
- guidance on producing monthly summaries of recovery progress including, where possible, the numbers of households still displaced from all or parts of their homes; and
- new funding principles.

## ANNEX A

### KNOWING WHERE AND WHEN IT WILL FLOOD

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
1 Given the predicted increase in the range of future extremes of weather, the Government should give priority to both adaptation and mitigation in its programmes to help society cope with climate change	<p>A programme of action in response to climate change is being pursued across the Government, led by DECC and Defra. This includes taking forward the provisions in the Climate Change Act. For example, work will begin this summer on the UK's first climate change risk assessment, which will assess the risks climate change poses to the UK, so that the Government can report to Parliament by November 2011.</p> <p>To help us to plan and prepare for our changing climate we published the new UK Climate Projections 2009 on 18 June. This is a set of climate projections for the UK to the end of the century, using the latest climate modeling. It looks at different variables (such as temperature, rainfall, sea level rise etc) by region, and 25km grid squares, for three greenhouse gas emissions scenarios and in 30 year time slices. On adaptation, the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, led by Defra will continue to co-ordinate and drive forward the Government's work on adaptation in the UK. Government departments will be producing high level Adaptation Plans by Spring 2010,</p>	On track for next milestone: November 2011

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
	<p>setting out how they are assessing and managing the risks from climate change across their programmes, executive agencies and estates.</p>	
<p>2 The Environment Agency should progressively take on a national overview of all flood risk, including surface water and groundwater flood risk, with immediate effect</p>	<p>Environment Agency's (EA) strategic role defined and embedded in the provisions of the draft Flood and Water Bill, which was published for consultation on 21 April 2009.</p> <p>In advance of legislation, EA have demonstrated their strategic role, for example, by working with local authorities and Local Resilience Forums in sharing maps of areas susceptible to surface water flooding.</p>	<p>Ongoing and dependent on timing of Bill's introduction to Parliament</p>
<p>3 The Met Office should continue to improve its forecasting and predicting methods to a level which meets the needs of emergency responders</p>	<p>The Met Office have developed detailed work plans to improve forecasting and prediction of flooding with a focus on improving accuracy and timeliness of weather forecasts. Preliminary research activity has commenced.</p> <p>The Met Office is on track for its next milestone, which is to demonstrate capability to produce high resolution probabilistic forecasts by September 2009.</p>	<p>Programme of work ongoing to March 2012</p>
<p>4 The Environment Agency should further develop its tools and techniques for predicting and modelling river flooding, taking account of extreme and multiple events and depths and velocities of water</p>	<p>The Environment Agency (EA) has several science projects underway to support the tools and techniques for predicting and modelling river flooding, surface and groundwater flooding, multiple and extreme events. For example, EA have completed a desktop review of river and floodplain modelling methods used by the Agency, with subsequent</p>	<p>Ongoing, delivery of work between 2008-11</p>

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
	<p>benchmarking tests to be complete by December 2009.</p> <p>Also, the EA have begun to develop and test methods to assess the risk of widespread flooding in order to capture spatial patterns in flood risk from rivers and the sea, the first phase of this work will report by October 2009.</p>	
<p>5 The Environment Agency should work with partners to urgently take forward work to develop tools and techniques to model surface water flooding</p>	<p>In efforts to develop tools and techniques to model surface water flooding, the Government published in 2008 draft Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) guidance and provided maps to Local Resilience Forums showing areas susceptible to surface water flooding. The Environment Agency are on track to refine these maps and complete third generation surface water versions by 31 December 2010.</p>	<p>Ongoing to December 2010</p>
<p>6 The Environment Agency and the Met Office should work together, through a joint centre, to improve their technical capability to forecast, model and warn against all sources of flooding</p>	<p>Joint forecasting centre established and fully operational from 1 April 2009. This £7.7m project provides an Extreme Rainfall Alert, support for the production of four day forecasts indicating potential flooding, warnings of rain or snow that could cause flooding and a Storm Tide Forecasting Service.</p> <p>Extension of services provided by the centre on track for 30 June 2010.</p>	<p>Major milestone achieved April 2009. On track to complete 30 June 2010</p>



## REDUCING THE RISK OF FLOODING AND ITS IMPACT

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
<p>7 There should be a presumption against building in high flood risk areas, in accordance with PPS25, including giving consideration to all sources of flood risk, and ensuring that developers make a full contribution to the costs both of building and maintaining any necessary defences</p>	<p>Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), published in December 2006, sets out the national planning policy in respect of new development and flood risk. Practice guidance to support PPS25 was published in June 2008. An update to the Practice Guide is expected in July 2009.</p>	<p>Due July 2009</p>
<p>8 The operation and effectiveness of PPS25 and the Environment Agency's powers to challenge development should be kept under review and strengthened if and when necessary</p>	<p>The Government has now carried out an initial review and evaluation of the implementation of PPS25 to establish its efficacy in incorporating flood risk considerations into planning.</p> <p>The review found that where the Environment Agency had initially objected to planning applications on flood risk grounds, the final planning decision was in line with Agency advice in nearly 97% of cases in 2007/08, which is an improvement over the two preceding years. In 9 out of 10 cases where the Agency has sustained a flood risk objection, the final outcome was in line with Agency advice.</p> <p>Local planning authorities, directed through their Chief Planning Officers, have been asked to continue to</p>	<p>Initial review complete with ongoing monitoring</p>

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
	<p>monitor PPS25 and offer feedback on how well PPS25 is working and on any significant barriers to the delivery of its policies. The Government will continue to monitor the effectiveness of PPS25. This will include, for example, the application of PPS25 policy in respect of planning applications referred (to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) under the Consultation Direction 2009, and the implementation of policy in PPS25 as reflected in the Environment Agency's HLT5 reports, and policies developed in emerging Local Development Frameworks.</p>	
<p>9 Householders should no longer be able to lay impermeable surfaces as of right on front gardens and the Government should consult on extending this to back gardens and business premises</p>	<p>The Government took action last year to encourage householders to lay permeable surfaces in their front gardens. Changes were made to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 so that as from 1 October 2008, householders in England can lay permeable surfaces without planning permission. Impermeable surfaces, where the surface area exceeds five square metres require specific approval from the local planning authority. The measure was informed by the interim results of research the Government commissioned to aid its understanding of impermeable and permeable surfaces. The research considered the viability of applying the measure on front garden to back gardens and non-domestic premises including business premises. The Government is</p>	<p>On track for Summer consultation</p>

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	considering the final results of this research. We plan to consult on this issue as part of the response to the Killian Pretty recommendations soon.	
10 The automatic right to connect surface water drainage of new developments to the sewerage system should be removed	Removal of the automatic right to connect surface water drainage of new developments to the sewerage system contained in the draft Flood and Water Management Bill.	Ongoing and dependent on timing of Bill's introduction to Parliament
11 Building Regulations should be revised to ensure that all new or refurbished buildings in high flood-risk areas are flood-resistant or resilient	The Government is looking at how the Building Regulations might be amended so new or refurbished buildings in high flood risk areas are made more flood resistant or resilient. We continue to examine appropriate options for consultation this summer.	Ongoing. Changes, subject to consultation, would be made in 2010 and 2013
12 All local authorities should extend eligibility for home improvement grants and loans to include flood resistance and resilience products for properties in high flood-risk areas	The first tranche of applications for home improvement grants and loans, which include flood resistance and resilience products, has been received and assessed by the Environment Agency, with considerable interest from Local Authorities. An announcement of the first areas to benefit was made on 25 June.	Complete
13 Local authorities, in discharging their responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to promote business continuity, should encourage the take-up of property flood resistance and resilience by businesses	Local authorities have a duty under the Civil Contingencies Act to promote business continuity to businesses. The statutory guidance highlights the risk of flooding. The National Risk Register (published in August 2008) also emphasised the risks posed by	Complete

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	flooding.	
14 Local authorities should lead on the management of local flood risk, with the support of the relevant organisations	The draft Flood and Water Management Bill was published 21 April. This sets out the roles and responsibilities for local authorities to address all of these recommendations. The Government proposes in its draft Bill to create a new class of “Lead Local Flood Authority” (i.e. county and unitary local authorities) which will be required:	Ongoing and dependent on timing of Bill’s introduction to Parliament
15 Local authorities should positively tackle local problems of flooding by working with all relevant parties, establishing ownership and legal responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop, maintain and apply a strategy for local flood risk management, which will include risks from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses;</li> </ul>	
16 Local authorities should collate and map the main flood risk management and drainage assets (over and underground), including a record of their ownership and condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to fulfil the requirements of the EU Floods Directive in relation to these sources of flood risk, including a requirement to draw up management plans for those areas where risk is significant;</li> </ul>	
17 All relevant organisations should have a duty to share information and cooperate with local authorities and the Environment Agency to facilitate the management of flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to investigate flooding incidents to understand the cause and ensure that appropriate bodies play their role in effective management of the flooding and recovery;</li> </ul>	
18 Local Surface Water Management Plans, as set out under PPS25 and coordinated by local authorities, should provide the basis for managing all local flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to establish and maintain a register of structures which may affect a flood risk with a record of information about each of the structures, including details of ownership and state of repair;</li> <li>• to approve and adopt sustainable drainage systems</li> </ul>	

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	<p>that meet national standards for new development.</p> <p>The Government wrote to all local authority Leaders and Chief Executives in December 2008 asking them to take action in advance of the legislation, to start building relationships and also setting in place arrangements for understanding and managing local flood risk from all sources. Funding has been provided for that purpose. The Government wrote a follow up letter in April 2009 to enquire about progress and any barriers or difficulties, (see Annex C for a summary of replies received).</p> <p>In relation to recommendation 17, the draft Bill contains provisions requiring co-operation and sharing of information among relevant bodies.</p> <p>In relation to recommendation 17 and 18, we have chosen the first six local authorities which will receive support in producing surface water management plans. Local authorities are testing draft surface water plan guidance which, was published in March 2009 and is due for completion in July 2009. The pilots are also testing arrangements for co-operation and sharing information between partners to the plan.</p> <p>. We aim to announce our funding strategy this summer</p>	

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	<p>for allocating the additional £15m under the Pitt review, after consulting key stakeholders including a range of local authorities. This is likely to include funding up to 50 SWMPs (rec 18), collection of data and development of asset registers (rec 16) and some element of capacity building for local authorities.</p>	
<p>19 Local authorities should assess and, if appropriate, enhance their technical capabilities to deliver a wide range of responsibilities in relation to local flood risk management</p>	<p>In our Government response, we acknowledged that adequate technical capability and resources will be essential for local authorities to fulfil their leadership roles in local flood risk management, but that we look to them to begin making the necessary preparations.</p> <p>The Government wrote to all local authority Leaders and Chief Executives in December 2008 asking them to take action to start building capacity to deliver the new requirements. In our follow-up to this we asked local authorities about progress and any barriers or difficulties in this area (see Annex C for a summary of replies received).</p> <p>Defra have been working with local authorities (LAs) to understand their current capacity and technical capability, including holding four workshops with local authorities earlier this year. Defra have just launched a scoping study to look at broad options for improving LA capacity, which will report in early July, and are</p>	<p>A number of initiatives taken forward by Central Government</p> <p>Ongoing local implementation</p>

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	<p>considering what more can be done to enhance LA flood risk management skills.</p> <p>In addition, Defra announced on 8 June funding for 27 places for local authority participants in the existing Environment Agency Foundation Degree programme and other local flood risk management training. This will help ensure that local communities have the expertise they need to help them protect themselves from flooding.</p>	
20 The Government should resolve the issue of which organisations should be responsible for the ownership and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems	Full proposals on Sustainable Drainage Systems, including unitary and county local authorities to take on ownership and maintenance for them are contained in the draft Flood and Water Management Bill, which issued for consultation 21 April 2009.	Ongoing and dependent on timing of Bill's introduction to Parliament
21 Defra should work with Ofwat and the water industry to explore how appropriate risk-based standards for public sewerage systems can be achieved	<p>The Government has worked with Ofwat to explore risk based standards for public sewerage systems.</p> <p>The draft Flood and Water Bill also includes provision for the Secretary of State to "approve" standards for new sewers so that no connection to the public sewer will be allowed unless they are built to the required standard.</p>	On track. Standards for new sewers dependent on timing of Bill's introduction to Parliament
22 As part of the forthcoming and subsequent water industry pricing reviews, Ofwat should give appropriate priority to proposals for investment in the existing sewerage network to deal with increasing flood risk	Ofwat are reviewing the level of investment proposed by water and sewerage companies in their business plans, so that appropriate priority is given to proposals for investment in the existing sewerage network to deal with increasing flood risk. Ofwat will set price limits for the	On track for November 2009

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	<p>period 2010-2015, with draft determinations issued in July 2009 and final determinations published in November 2009.</p>	
<p>23 The Government should commit to a strategic long-term approach to its investment in flood risk management, planning up to 25 years ahead</p>	<p>A long term investment strategy has been published which sets out an assessment of future funding needs for investment in flood risk management for the next 25 years.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>24 The Government should develop a scheme which allows and encourages local communities to invest in flood risk management measures</p>	<p>The Government's response identified a number of ways for local communities to invest in flood risk management measures. County and unitary authorities are encouraged to work closely with the Environment Agency and local communities to determine whether taxpayer funded projects satisfy all local priorities, and if not, decide what would be the fairest way of raising the extra funding required. The Environment Agency's new contributions policy, which was published on 19 June, also encourages private organisations and communities to invest in their own protection.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>25 The Environment Agency should maintain its existing risk-based approach to levels of maintenance and this should be supported by published schedules of works for each local authority area</p>	<p>The Environment Agency is supporting its existing risk-based approach to levels of maintenance by making good progress to complete flood risk System Asset Management Plans, by local authority area, for all high risk systems by March 2010, and for all other systems by March 2011.</p> <p>Schedules of Maintenance have been prepared by each</p>	<p>On track for March 2011</p>

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
	<p>of the Environment Agency Areas and shared with partners. These will be further improved during the course of the current financial year and a consistent distribution list will be agreed.</p> <p>The final report looking at Performance based Asset Management will be published in August 2009. Interim findings have already been used to help inform the Agency's risk based approach to asset management.</p>	
26 The Government should develop a single set of guidance for local authorities and the public on the use and usefulness of sandbags and other alternatives, rather than leaving the matter wholly to local discretion	The Environment Agency (EA) has developed a single set of guidance on the use and usefulness of sandbags, which has been published on the EA website and will be distributed to Local Resilience Forums in July (this is swine flu dependent and out with EA control). Additional guidance on self-help protection for householders, businesses and building contractors expected in the Autumn.	Delayed – Sandbags guidance to be issued July. Additional guidance in Autumn 2009
27 Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England should work with partners to establish a programme through Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans to achieve greater working with natural processes	A working group including Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England is establishing a programme through Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans to achieve greater working with natural processes and has already completed an analysis of historic data on impacts of land use and management change.	On track for 2011
28 The forthcoming flooding legislation should be a single unifying Act that addresses all sources of	The Government published its draft Flood and Water Management Bill on 21 April 2009. This covers all	Ongoing and dependent on

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flooding, clarifies responsibilities and facilitates flood risk management	sources of flooding, clarifies responsibilities and facilitates flood risk management. As currently drafted the draft Bill would not lead to a “single unifying Act” but the intention is that the resulting legislation that is introduced to Parliament will build on this – including taking account of the responses to consultation on the draft Bill and other issues – to lead to a “single unifying Act”.	timing of Bill’s introduction to Parliament
29 The Government and the insurance industry should work together to deliver a public education programme setting out the benefits of insurance in the context of flooding	<p>The Financial Inclusion Champions initiative, funded by £12m from the Government, includes a public education programme to promote the benefits of home insurance and other financial services for tenants through their landlords and through dedicated tenant engagement teams.</p> <p>In addition, the Association of British Insurers (ABI) is implementing its plans to engage in practical activity to promote greater take-up of insurance by people on lower incomes, supported by a stakeholder advisory group that consists of housing organisations, Government departments and regulators. This work includes establishing a one-stop information website on contents insurance for people in social housing, which will be expanded to include other low-income groups in due course. They are also working with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to develop a training toolkit</p>	Complete and for ongoing implementation

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
	<p>for housing officers to improve awareness among landlords and tenants. The content is being informed by a series of regional workshops involving housing associations and local authorities that the ABI is co-hosting with its members. The first was held in Manchester on 12 May, with further events planned in London, Cardiff, Birmingham, Glasgow and Belfast.</p>	
<p>30 The Government should review and update the guidance 'Insurance for all: A good practice guide for providers of social housing' and disseminate it effectively to support the creation of insurance with rent schemes for low income households</p>	<p>The review and update of guidance 'Insurance for all: a good practice guide for providers of social housing' will be carried out by the new social housing regulator the Tenant Services Association (TSA). TSA will be consulting imminently on its new standards for social housing providers. When consultation with stakeholders is complete, the new standards will be made operational.</p> <p>The timetable for completing this work will be consistent with the TSA's wider responsibilities for monitoring the overall health of the housing association sector and for establishing the new regulatory framework for social housing during 2010. Therefore, TSA will consider the scope and extent of guidance which it needs to support those standards and will aim to issue amended guidance by the end of 2010.</p> <p>However, the Tenant's Services Association (TSA) have been working with Zurich Insurance on production of</p>	<p>Ongoing to end December 2010</p>

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	<p>new insurance guidance for landlords - with a focus on risk management, continuity planning, and the promotion of home contents insurance by landlords (recognising that contents insurance is not always the highest priority for many tenants in social housing).</p>	
<p>31 In flood risk areas, insurance notices should include information on flood risk and the simple steps that can be taken to mitigate the effects</p>	<p>The Environment Agency has completed an updated National Flood Risk Assessment (NAFRA) for river and coastal flooding and has provided the information to members of the Association of British insurers (ABI). The Environment Agency has also compiled and published data which identifies locations that are expected to benefit from improved flood defences in the medium term.</p> <p>Indications from ABI are that as insurers have only recently received the new NAFRA data, they will start taking this into account; however it is too early to tell what implications this will have on risk communication.</p>	<p>Complete and for ongoing implementation</p>
<p>32 The insurance industry should develop and implement industry guidance for flooding events, covering reasonable expectations of the performance of insurers and reasonable actions by customers</p>	<p>Insurance industry guidance for flooding events, covering reasonable expectations of the performance of insurers and reasonable actions by customers was launched at the Association of British Insurers (ABI) Conference in June 2008.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

## BEING RESCUED AND CARED FOR DURING AN EMERGENCY

Pitt Recommendations	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
<p>33 The Environment Agency should provide a specialised site-specific flood warning service for infrastructure operators, offering longer lead times and greater levels of detail about the velocity and depth of flooding</p>	<p>The Environment Agency has put in place its Extreme Rainfall Alert service (ERA). This is a specialised, site-specific flood warning system to provide information to infrastructure operators, offering longer lead times and greater levels of detail about velocity and depths of flooding.</p> <p>The EA is also working closely with operators of infrastructure to identify high risk sites and provide appropriate flood warnings, via the Floodline Warnings Direct system.</p>	<p>ERA Pilot complete. On track for full service by end 2009</p>
<p>34 The Met Office and the Environment Agency should issue warnings against a lower threshold of probability to increase preparation lead times for emergency responders</p>	<p>The Met Office and the Environment Agency are working together to increase lead times for emergency responders by lowering the flood threshold probability. The upgraded National Severe Weather Warning Service is based on a traffic light analogy and allows the Met Office to convey clear messages to the public. The Agency is developing an implementation plan for the deployment of new techniques for producing regional probabilistic flood forecasts, which is planned for 2012.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Delivery over four years, completing in 2012</p>
<p>35 The Met Office and the Environment Agency should issue joint warnings and impact</p>	<p>The Met Office and Environment Agency joint Flood Forecasting Centre is equipped to issue joint</p>	<p>Complete</p>

Pitt Recommendations	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
information on severe weather and flooding emergencies to responder organisations and the public	warnings and impact information on severe weather and flooding emergencies to responder organisations and the public.	
36 The Environment Agency should make relevant flood visualisation data, held in electronic map format, available online to Gold and Silver Commands	<p>The Environment Agency (EA) has provided dedicated laptops, one for each Local Resilience Forum, which will allow remote access to their networks. This will show Gold Commands the areas at risk of flooding from rivers and the coast, the flood warnings in force, the forecasts, the actual river levels at EA gauging stations and other relevant local information. The latter includes output from EA models showing areas at risk at different water levels, such as was used to great effect for Essex Gold Command in February 2009, when a Severe Flood Warning was issued for Chelmsford.</p> <p>The EA has increased its pool of senior managers available to attend Gold Commands during an event, and established a training and exercising programme to ensure they can appropriately respond to Gold Commanders' situations. They are also developing an incident management portal to provide staff with simple access to information, and are exploring further development work for implementation in a phased way up to 2012.</p>	Ongoing. Delivery over four years, completing in December 2012
37 The Environment Agency should work with its	The Environment Agency is working with its partners	On track for 2011

Pitt Recommendations	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
<p>partners to progressively develop and bring into use flood visualisation tools that are designed to meet the needs of flood-risk managers, emergency planners and responders</p>	<p>to develop and bring into use flood visualisation tools, which meet the needs of flood risk managers, emergency planners and responders. The list of possible solutions will be delivered with an implementation plan towards the end of June 2009.</p> <p>EA is continuing to develop tools to improve capability in flood visualisation, which will draw on new mapping and modelling information, with expected completion in 2011.</p>	
<p>38 Local authorities should establish mutual aid agreements in accordance with the guidance currently being prepared by the Local Government Association and the Cabinet Office</p>	<p>To encourage Local Authorities to establish mutual aid agreements, a working group comprising LGA, SOLACE, and Cabinet Office developed guidance, 'Mutual Aid – A short guide for local authorities', which was published in December 2008.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing local implementation</p>
<p>39 The Government should urgently put in place a fully funded national capability for flood rescue, with Fire and Rescue Authorities playing a leading role, underpinned as necessary by a statutory duty</p>	<p>The Government and response organisations are working together to enhance our national flood rescue capability. An essential component of this is a new Flood Rescue National Operations Framework (including the devolved administrations). A fully developed draft of this Framework will be ready for consultation in December 2009. We have prepared an initial register of flood rescue assets that are held and available across all the main organisations involved in flood rescue. By November 2009 we will have nationally agreed standards for training and</p>	<p>On track.</p> <p>Draft new Operations Framework due December 2009.</p> <p>Flood rescue exercise 2011</p>

Pitt Recommendations	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
	equipment so that we can effectively deploy flood rescue capabilities involving a range of operators. Funding will be targeted at bringing both training and assets across the organisations involved up to the national standards. The final milestone will be testing the capability during Exercise Watermark in March 2011.	
40 Defra should amend emergency regulations to increase the minimum amount of water to be provided in an emergency, in order to reflect reasonable needs during a longer-term loss of mains supply	The Government is amending its guidance to ensure an increase in the minimum amount of water (from 10 litres per day per person to 20 litres) where there is a longer term loss of mains supply	On track for December 2009
41 Upper tier local authorities should be the lead responders in relation to multi-agency planning for severe weather emergencies at the local level and for triggering multi-agency arrangements in response to severe weather warnings and local impact assessments.	Ongoing local implementation, supported by the revision of the “Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance” which will make it clear that county and unitary local authorities should be lead responders for multi-agency severe weather emergency planning. Consultation on the revised guidance closed in April 2009, with final updates planned for this summer <sup>1</sup> .	Ongoing local implementation  Updated guidance end July 2009
42 Where a Gold Command is established for severe weather events, the police, unless agreed otherwise locally, should convene and lead the multi-agency response	Ongoing local implementation, supported by the revision of the “Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance” which will make it clear that when a Gold Command is established for severe weather events,	Ongoing local implementation  Updated

<sup>1</sup>The timetable for the publication of the revised guidance has slipped due to Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) staff being diverted to managing the current swine flu outbreak. CCS will need to make a decision on the appropriate timing for publication but it is expected that it will be published at the end of July 2009.

Pitt Recommendations	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
	unless agreed otherwise locally, the police should convene and lead the multi-agency response. The updated revised guidance is expected to be published over this summer.	guidance end July 2009
43 Gold Commands should be established at an early stage on a precautionary basis where there is a risk of serious flooding	The amended “Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance” will make it clear that Gold Commands should be established at an early stage on a precautionary basis where there is a risk of serious flooding. (Evidence from recent events showed that responders have done this).	Ongoing local implementation  Updated guidance end July 2009
44 Category 1 and 2 responders should assess the effectiveness of their emergency response facilities, including flexible accommodation, IT and communications systems, and undertake any necessary improvement works	Ongoing local implementation, supported by Government guidance. The Government issued Parts 1 and 2 of Expectation and Indicators of Good Practice Set for Category 1 and 2 Responders in December 2008. Part 3 will be issued in summer 2009. Further tools are expected over the coming months; a Civil Protection Self Assessment Tool for responders is expected summer 2009 and a peer review tool for Local Resilience Forums will be piloted in late 2009 <sup>2</sup> . The “Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance” will be updated to include these issues.	Ongoing local implementation  Part 3 of expectation set published end June 2009  Updated guidance end July 2009
45 The Highways Agency, working through Local	Highways Agency has already identified motorways	On track for

<sup>2</sup> The timetable for the final part of the operational expectations guidance and the Self Assessment tool timetable has slipped due to Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) staff being diverted to managing the current swine flu outbreak; additionally the funding beyond the pilot stage has not been agreed. CCS will need to make a decision on the appropriate timing for publication but it is anticipated that it will be published at the end of June 09.

Pitt Recommendations	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
Resilience Forums, should further consider the vulnerability of motorways and trunk roads to flooding, the potential for better warnings, strategic road clearance to avoid people becoming stranded and plans to support people who become stranded	and trunk roads vulnerable to flooding and recruited emergency planning managers for each Agency region. In addition, the Agency are considering schemes that provide better access to the motorways and better clearance in emergencies, including a number of which will be implemented by the close of this year.	December 2009
46 The rail industry, working through Local Resilience Forums, should develop plans to provide emergency welfare support to passengers stranded on the rail network	The rail industry has already implemented a system to enable working through Local Resilience Forums, with emergency welfare plans in place to support stranded passengers.	Complete
47 The Ministry of Defence should identify a small number of trained Armed Forces personnel who can be deployed to advise Gold Commands on logistics during wide-area civil emergencies and, working with Cabinet Office, identify a suitable mechanism for deployment	The Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Cabinet Office have developed the existing central response mechanisms to ensure MOD expertise is available in an advisory capacity where existing local or regional arrangements are severely stretched.	Complete
48 Central government crisis machinery should always be activated if significant wide-area and high-impact flooding is expected or occurs	Core arrangements are in place for activation of Central Government crisis machinery if significant wide-area and high-impact flooding is expected or occurs. Trigger levels and thresholds will be clarified in the National Flood Emergency Framework expected June 2010. Finally, nationwide testing of arrangements will happen with Exercise Watermark in 2011.	Largely implemented but will be clarified in NFEF to be rolled out by June 2010
49 A national flooding exercise should take place at	The national flooding exercise, Exercise Watermark,	On track for

Pitt Recommendations	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
<p>the earliest opportunity in order to test the new arrangements which central government departments are putting into place to deal with flooding and infrastructure emergencies</p>	<p>is planned for March 2011. This exercise will test new national arrangements from central government departments to deal with flooding and infrastructure emergencies. Good progress is being made on developing the strategic objectives and scope of the exercise</p>	<p>March 2011</p>

## MAINTAIN POWER AND WATER SUPPLIES AND PROTECTING ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
<p>50 The Government should urgently begin its systematic programme to reduce the disruption of essential services resulting from natural hazards by publishing a national framework and policy statement setting out the process, timescales and expectations</p>	<p>The Natural Hazards Team has been established within the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office. A national framework and policy statement is being developed for publication this summer.</p>	<p>Due Summer 2009</p>
<p>51 Relevant government departments and the Environment Agency should work with infrastructure operators to identify the vulnerability and risk of assets to flooding and a summary of the analysis should be published in Sector Resilience Plans</p>	<p>Some sectors have already made good progress in assessing their vulnerability to flooding. The Natural Hazards Team will co-ordinate efforts across all sectors to assess the vulnerability to flooding of the most critical sites. A summary of the analysis should be published in Sector Resilience plans by the end of 2009.</p> <p>Within Energy, the electricity sector has completed a review of the flood resilience of major substations and have presented investment and improvement plans to the regulator for consideration through the current price review. The gas and oil sectors have completed a generic analysis of the flood risk to major installations and are undertaking site specific assessments to determine what, if any, improvement actions are needed.</p>	<p>Due end December 2009</p>

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
52 In the short-term, the Government and infrastructure operators should work together to build a level resilience into critical infrastructure assets that ensures continuity during a worst case flood event	Actions to improve resilience for the most critical sites that are vulnerable to flooding will be set out in the sector resilience plans (see Rec 51).	Due end December 2009
53 A specific duty should be placed on economic regulators to build resilience in the critical Infrastructure	The Natural Hazards Team (see Rec 50) will be working with lead Government Departments and economic regulators to encourage resilience building by critical infrastructure owners. Guidance to encourage resilience building to be published this summer.	Due Summer 2009
54 The Government should extend the duty to undertake business continuity planning to infrastructure operating Category 2 responders to a standard equivalent to BS 25999, and that accountability is ensured through an annual benchmarking	The work to promote business continuity to improve resilience to natural hazards is ongoing and will be assisted by the Natural Hazards Team (see Rec 50). If it is considered that a duty should be placed on Cat 2 responders, this will be achieved through the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) Enhancement Programme. Phase II of the enhancement programme will consider the scope for changes in legislation and is due to report at the end of 2009 <sup>3</sup> .	Due end December 2009
55 The Government should strengthen and enforce the duty on Category 2 responders to share	The Government is reviewing how to improve the effectiveness of the duties under the Civil	On track for 2010

<sup>3</sup> It is expected that the CCA Enhancement Programme timetable will slip as the Cabinet Office Civil Contingency Secretariat (CCS) staff have been diverted to managing the current swine flu outbreak. CCS will need to make a decision on the appropriate level of involvement from emergency responders.

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
information on the risks to their infrastructure assets, enabling more effective emergency planning within Local Resilience Forums	Contingencies Act, including whether existing information sharing duty is sufficient or should be strengthened, in line with the timetable to review the Civil Contingencies Act.	
56 The Government should issue clear guidance on expected levels of Category 2 responders' engagement in planning, exercising and response and consider the case for strengthening enforcement arrangements	<p>To clarify guidance on expected levels of category 2 responders' engagement in planning, exercising and response, the Government issued Parts 1 and 2 of Expectation and Indicators of Good Practice Set for Category 1 and 2 Responders in December 2008. Part 3 will be issued summer 2009 .</p> <p>Consideration of the need to strengthen enforcement arrangements will be made during the review of the Civil Contingencies Act.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Due by 2010</p>
57 The Government should provide Local Resilience Forums with the inundation maps for both large and small reservoirs to enable them to assess risks and plan for contingency, warning and evacuation and the outline maps be made available to the public online as part of wider flood risk information	The Government is on target to provide Local Resilience Forums and reservoir undertakers with inundation maps for all 2092 large reservoirs by December 2009. The maps are being prepared to enable Local Resilience Forums to start generic reservoir flood planning from September 2009 onwards. More detailed maps for highest risk reservoirs will also be made available to Local Resilience Forums by December 2009 to inform site-specific emergency planning arrangements. A set of inundation maps that can be shared with the public (as needed) will also be made available to Local	On track for December 2009

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
	<p>Resilience Forums by December, together with guidance for Local Resilience Forums on warning and informing for reservoir incidents.</p> <p>Draft guidance and templates to support Local Resilience Forums and reservoir undertakers with preparing emergency plans will be available in September 2009.</p>	
<p>58 The Government should implement the legislative changes proposed in the Environment Agency biennial report on dam and reservoir safety through the forthcoming flooding legislation</p>	<p>Implementation of the Environment Agency's report on dam and reservoir safety will be achieved through the draft Flood and Water Management Bill, which includes draft clauses on reservoir safety.</p>	<p>Ongoing and dependent on timing of Bill's introduction to Parliament</p>

## BETTER ADVICE AND HELP TO PROTECT FAMILIES AND HOMES

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
<p>59 The Risk and Regulation Advisory Council should explore how the public can improve their understanding of community risks, including those associated with flooding, and that the Government should then implement the findings as appropriate</p>	<p>The Risk and Regulation Advisory Council have conducted in-depth study of the way different risks are understood and reviewed existing guidance on risk communications. Although later than intended, the Council will summarise and present its findings to the Government by the end of July.</p>	<p>Due end July 2009</p>
<p>60, 61 The Government should implement a public information campaign which draws on a single definitive set of flood prevention and mitigation advice for householders and businesses, and which can be used by media and the authorities locally and nationally</p> <p>The Environment Agency should work with local responders to raise awareness in flood risk areas and identify a range of mechanisms to warn the public, particularly the vulnerable, in response to flooding</p>	<p>The Environment Agency (EA) continues to improve the flood prevention and mitigation advice available to householders and businesses as part of its public information campaign.</p> <p>The EA have changed their approach to public information in the light of the Pitt Review. For example, they have identified 8 Local Resilience Forums throughout England and Wales where they will work with partners and local communities to raise awareness of flooding, and of measures to mitigate the impacts. EA are also encouraging communities to develop community flood plans, initially focusing on vulnerable sectors of the community.</p>	<p>On track for December 2009</p>
<p>62 The Environment Agency should work urgently with telecommunications companies to facilitate the roll-out of opt-out telephone flood warning</p>	<p>The Environment Agency (EA) has increased the number of people registered to its telephone warning service Floodline Warnings Direct by 136,460 since</p>	<p>Ongoing to February 2010</p>

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
<p>schemes to all homes and businesses liable to flooding, including those with ex-directory numbers</p>	<p>June 2007. Over 433,000 people are now registered to Floodline Warnings Direct, and the EA has used all publicly available information to automatically register properties with landlines in areas at risk of flooding where the service is targeted. In February 2009 the service was further enhanced by introducing on-line registration from the EA website. Those registered to the service receive free river and coastal flood warnings from the EA, and can elect to receive them by telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message or fax.</p> <p>The EA is continuing to work with telecommunications companies to develop a system that automatically calls all unregistered landlines in targeted areas at high risk from river and coastal flooding. Technical and data security arrangements to introduce this service have been agreed and the full system will go through initial testing in December 2009. The system will be ready to launch in February 2010.</p>	
<p>63 Flood risk should be made part of the mandatory search requirements when people buy property, and should form part of Home Information Packs</p>	<p>Flood risk has become part of the new property information questionnaire from 6 April 2009.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>64 Local Resilience Forums should continue to develop plans for door-knocking, coordinated by local authorities, to enhance flood warnings</p>	<p>Ongoing local implementation, which is supported by existing emergency preparedness guidance that includes door-knocking as one of the methods of</p>	<p>Complete and for ongoing local implementation</p>

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
before flooding and to provide information and assess welfare needs once flooding has receded	warning people. Responders will need to assess the situation taking into account health and safety and resource implications.	
65 The Met Office and the Environment Agency should urgently complete the production of a sliding scale of options for greater personalisation of public warning information, including costs, benefits and feasibility	The Met Office and Environment Agency have begun to develop a sliding scale of options for greater personalisation of public warning information, for example, they have developed more customised warnings and ways to get them out, and are reviewing the current flood warning service to identify improvements by Autumn 2009. New public warning codes are expected to be introduced in early 2010 to coincide with the roll-out of opt-out telephone warning schemes. By 2011, they will have completed trials to improve website information and refined new IT systems.	On track for 2011
66 Local authority contact centres should take the lead in dealing with general enquiries from the public during and after major flooding, redirecting calls to other organisations when appropriate	<p>Ongoing local implementation, supported by the revisions to “Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance” which will make it clear that local authority contact centres should take the lead in dealing with general enquiries during and after major flooding.</p> <p>Evidence from recent events has indicated that local authorities have taken forward this recommendation. The Government does not consider there is a need for further specific guidance on this issue.</p>	<p>Ongoing local implementation</p> <p>Guidance due end July 2009</p>
67 The Cabinet Office should provide advice to	The Cabinet Office recognises that it is important for	Complete and

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
ensure that all Local Resilience Forums have effective and linked websites providing public information before, during and after an emergency	information to be available in many forms and where the public would expect to find it. The Civil Contingencies Secretariat wrote to local authority emergency planners in April 2009 encouraging information relating to preparing for and responding to emergencies to be clearly visible and accessible.	for ongoing local implementation
68 Council leaders and chief executives should play a prominent role in public reassurance and advice through the local media during a flooding emergency, as part of a coordinated effort overseen by Gold Commanders	Ongoing local implementation. Many council leaders and chief executives are now well versed in providing public reassurance and advice, working with both local and national media. To strengthen local implementation, the Government will include guidance on this as part of the update of "Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance".	Ongoing local implementation  Guidance due end July 2009
69 The public should make up a flood kit – including personal documents, insurance policy, emergency contact numbers (including local council, emergency services and Floodline), torch, battery or wind-up radio, mobile phone, rubber gloves	Key Government departments and agencies will meet this summer to agree methods for encouraging the public to take action to make up a flood kit – including personal documents, insurance policy, emergency contact numbers.	On target for December 2009
70 The Government should establish a programme to support and encourage individuals and communities to be better prepared and more self-reliant during emergencies, allowing the authorities to focus on those areas and people in	To establish a baseline on community and individual self-reliance during flood emergencies, three national workshops were held in winter 08/09. The Government's proposals on its contribution to community resilience will be published this autumn	Proposals due Autumn 2009

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
greatest need	and will be referred to in the update of the National Security Strategy. <sup>4</sup>	

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<sup>4</sup> The timetable for the publication of the Government's proposals on its contribution to community resilience has slipped due to Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) staff being diverted to managing the current swine flu outbreak. CCS will need to make a decision on the appropriate timing for publication but it is expected that it will be published in the autumn.

## RECOVERY

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
71 The Department of Health and relevant bodies should develop a single set of flood-related health advice for householders and businesses which should be used by all organisations nationally and locally and made available through a wide range of sources	Working with related organisations (including Drinking Water Inspectorate, Food Standards Agency, Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive) the Department of Health has developed a single set of flood-related health advice for householders and businesses. Updated health advice for both the public and health professionals is now available on the Health Protection Agency website.	Complete
72 Local response and recovery coordinating groups should ensure that health and wellbeing support is readily available to those affected by flooding based on the advice developed by the Department of Health	Government has drafted psychosocial advice to guide local work supporting health and wellbeing. Website links to provide access will be developed as part of Recommendation 71. All parties will be made aware of the guidance and the links to it on the HPA website.	On track for 30 June 2009
73 The Government, the Association of British Insurers and other relevant organisations should work together to explore any technological or process improvements that can be made to speed up the drying out and stabilising process of building recovery after a flood	Defra and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have commissioned a desk based study to look at current guidance on speeding up drying out and stabilisation after a flood and how it might be used better. This study is complete. A parallel work stream will be set up to consider how to take this forward.	Study complete, with ongoing workstream
74 The monitoring of the impact of flooding on the	The Government is on schedule to issue its guidance	On track for

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
health and wellbeing of people, and actions to mitigate and manage the effects, should form a systematic part of the work of Recovery Coordinating Groups	on psychosocial need of those affected by disasters and major incidents such as flooding on 30 <sup>th</sup> June and we are on track to liaise with Recovery Co-ordinating Groups so that they can embed improved health and well-being arrangements in their procedures.	December 2009
75 For emergencies spanning more than a single local authority area, Government Offices should ensure coherence and coordination, if necessary, between recovery operations	Co-ordinating across local authority boundaries is a part of the role Government Offices (GOs) play during response and recovery from wide-scale emergencies. Where the local and regional parties involved agree it will help, the GO will establish a Regional Co-ordinating Group (RCG) or Regional Civil Contingencies Committee (RCCC) to co-ordinate the regional response and recovery activities. This is set out in the revised "Emergency Response and Recovery" guidance due for publication in summer 2009	Complete  Updated guidance due end July 2009
76 Local authorities should coordinate a systematic programme of community engagement in their area during the recovery phase	The National Recovery Guidance (published by Government in October 2007) provides information for local authorities to use when considering how to engage communities in recovery. In addition, the Compact between the third sector and the Government is currently being reviewed. As part of this, the Government will work with the Commission for the Compact to ensure that the revised Compact forms a sound basis for implementing this	On track for December 2009

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
	<p>recommendation, by putting in place provision for third sector engagement, cost recovery and volunteer involvement. The revised national Compact is due to be launched November 2009, with consultation running for twelve weeks from mid-June</p>	
<p>77-78 National and local Recovery Coordinating Groups should be established from the outset of major emergencies and in due course there should be formal handover from the crisis machinery</p> <p>Aims and objectives for the recovery phase should be agreed at the outset by Recovery Coordinating Groups to provide focus and enable orderly transition into mainstream programmes when multi-agency coordination of recovery is no longer required</p>	<p>The National Recovery Guidance reinforces the principle of local Recovery Co-ordinating Groups and their role in agreeing aims and objectives at the outset, for which there is ongoing local implementation. At a national level, the same concepts are captured in the revised 'Central Government Arrangements for Responding to an Emergency – Concept of Operation' (this is due to be published later in the year, but a working document is already in operation). The principles will also be captured in the updated "Emergency Response and Recovery" guidance due for publication this summer.</p>	<p>Ongoing local implementation</p> <p>Supporting working documents already in operation</p> <p>Final Responding to an Emergency – Concept of Operation' due September 2009</p>
<p>79 Government Offices, in conjunction with the Local Government Association, should develop arrangements to provide advice and support from experienced organisations to areas dealing with recovery from severe flooding emergencies</p>	<p>The Mutual Aid guidance described in Rec 38 addresses this issue and it is for ongoing local implementation. The updated "Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance", will also reinforce the requirement for Government Offices and the Local</p>	<p>Complete, but further guidance due end July 2009</p>

Pitt Recommendation		Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
		Government Association to make arrangements to provide advice to areas dealing with severe flooding, and obtain support from experienced organisations.	
80	All central government guidance should be updated to reflect the new arrangements for recovery and Local Resilience Forums should plan, train and exercise on this basis	The National Recovery Guidance covers the new arrangements for recovery, and this is being used by Local Resilience Forums to steer their planning, training and exercising. The updated “Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance” will also reflect the new arrangements for recovery and the need for Local Resilience Forums to plan, train and exercise on this basis.	Complete, but further guidance due end July 2009
81	There should be an agreed framework, including definitions and timescales, for local central recovery reporting	Ongoing local implementation supported by the updated “Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance” will reflect the agreed framework for local – central recovery reporting.	Ongoing local implementation  Guidance due end July 2009
82	Following major flooding events, the Government should publish monthly summaries of the progress of the recovery phase, including the numbers of households still displaced from all or part of their homes	Ongoing local implementation supported by the updated “Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance” which will contain guidance on appropriate summaries of the progress in the recovery phases, including where possible, the numbers of households still displaced from all or parts of their homes.	Ongoing local implementation  Guidance due end July 2009
83	Local authorities should continue to make arrangements to bear the cost of recovery for all but the most exceptional emergencies, and should revisit their reserves and insurance	The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountability (CIPFA) has issued revised guidance on LAAP Bulletin 77 – Local Authority Reserves and Balances which highlights the need to consider	Complete

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
arrangements in light of last summer's floods	financial risk management in the budgeting process, including assessing internal and external risks (specifically including flooding), and reflects the fact that local authorities should continue to make arrangements to bear the cost of recovery for all but the most exceptional emergencies. This was published on the CIPFA website on 19 November 2008 and distributed to all local government bodies in the United Kingdom.	
84 Central government should have pre-planned rather than ad-hoc arrangements to contribute towards the financial burden of recovery from the most exceptional emergencies, on a formula basis	CLG, Defra and DCSF (along with DfT who already have a funding scheme in place) have developed principles (and supporting schemes) for recovery funding to provide more certainty for local authorities about the sort of exceptional circumstances where the Government would consider providing support, and the sort of recovery costs that might be met in those circumstances. The funding principles, and links to the funding schemes, will be contained in the revised "Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance".	Guidance due end July 2009
85 Local Recovery Coordination Groups should make early recommendations to elected local authority members about longer-term regeneration and economic development opportunities	The Government has already updated the National Recovery Guidance to support local Recovery Co-ordination Groups in making early recommendations to elected local authority members about longer-term regeneration and economic development opportunities.	Complete

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
86 The Government should publish an action plan to implement the recommendations of this Review, with a Director in Defra overseeing the programme of delivery and issuing regular progress updates	The Government's response the Sir Michael Pitt's review, with an accompanying action plan, was published on 17 December 2008.  Assessments of progress of implementation are expected to be made at six monthly intervals, as appropriate.	Complete but ongoing monitoring and reporting
87 The Government should establish a Cabinet Committee with a remit to improve the country's ability to deal with flooding and implement the recommendations of this Review	The Government has established a Cabinet Committee on flooding to push forward improvements in flood management.	Complete
88 The Government should establish a National Resilience Forum to facilitate national level multi-agency planning for flooding and other emergencies	The National Resilience Forum had its roots in the Pitt review but was always envisaged as having a broader role covering the full range of national hazards; the concept is being reviewed to see whether and how such a forum could perform a role similar to, and contributing to, the National Security Forum, which was established earlier this year but focussed entirely on, and in more depth, on resilience related issues.	Under review -. End December 2009
89 The EFRA Select Committee should review the country's readiness for dealing with flooding emergencies and produce an assessment of progress in implementation of the Review's recommendations after 12 months	Not for Government	

Pitt Recommendation	Summary of progress	Status or deadline, if action ongoing
<p>90-91 All upper tier local authorities should establish Oversight and Scrutiny Committees to review work by public sector bodies and essential service providers in order to manage flood risk, underpinned by a legal requirement to cooperate</p> <p>Each Oversight and Scrutiny Committee should prepare an annual summary of actions taken locally to manage flood risk and implement this Review, and these reports should be public and reviewed by Government Offices and the Environment</p>	<p>The Government is consulting (alongside the draft Flood and Water Management Bill) on issues relating to oversight and scrutiny of local authority flood risk management activity and which might be included in the resulting legislation.</p>	<p>On track and dependent on timing of Bill's introduction to Parliament</p>
<p>92 Local Resilience Forums should evaluate and share lessons from both the response and recovery phases to inform their planning for future emergencies</p>	<p>Ongoing local implementation. The National Recovery Guidance already encourages Local Resilience Forums to evaluate and share lessons from the recovery phase of emergencies, and includes over 70 case studies covering a wide range of emergencies, including flooding. The revised "Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance" will also make it clear that local responders should evaluate and share lessons from both the response and recovery phases to inform their future planning. Evidence from recent events show that local responders are already doing this.</p>	<p>Ongoing local implementation</p> <p>Guidance due end July 2009</p>

## ANNEX B

### UPDATE ON FUNDING FOR THE PITT REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's review announced a total of over £60 million would be spent in taking forward the recommendations over the period 2008/09 to 2010/11. Of this, up to £34.5 million will be allocated by Defra to delivery organisations to pay for the additional and unanticipated costs of taking forward the recommendations they are responsible for. Annex B to the Government response set out how the £34.5 million had been allocated.

The following table provides an update to show how much has been spent to date. It shows that a total of £3,090,000 was allocated by Defra and spent by delivery bodies in the 2008/09 financial year, primarily in the three months following the publication of the Government response in December 2008.

Allocation to:	Allocation (£m)	Spent in 2008/09	To deliver:
<b>Local Authorities</b>	£15m	£190,000 between six local authorities <sup>5</sup>	Local authority leadership on flood risk management in the 50 highest priority areas, including surface water management plans, tackling of surface water problems, mapping of drainage assets, and oversight and maintenance of SUDs for new housing, etc.
<b>Environment Agency and Met Office</b>	£5.0m	£1.34m	A new joint forecasting and warning centre, including the extreme rainfall alert.
<b>Environment Agency</b>	£8.5m	£1.5m	All other recommendations where EA lead, including their new strategic overview of all types of flood risk in England, better modelling, forecasting and mapping for flooding particularly surface water, roll-out of ex-directory flood warnings, reservoir inundation maps, and a national flooding exercise to test the new response arrangements
<b>Met Office</b>	£0.5m	£50,000	Research to make use of new detailed forecasting models for flooding.
<b>Cabinet Office</b>	£0.4m	£0 – team in place from April 2009	New team within the Civil Contingencies Secretariat to run a national campaign to improve the resilience of critical national infrastructure
<b>Others</b>	£10,000	£10,000	To fund the Risk and Regulatory

<sup>5</sup> A total of £300,000 has been allocated between six local authorities to each prepare surface water management plans. £190,000 of the allocation was spent by the end of March 2009. The remaining £110,000 will be provided to the six authorities as the projects are completed in the early part of 2009/10.

			Advisory Council to consider the communication of flood risk to the public.
<b>Contingency</b>	£5.1m	£0 – options still being considered	To provide a contingency fund in case allocations need to be increased in some areas, and to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to £2 million for an improved flood rescue capability</li> <li>• Up to £1.25 million to support the production of reservoir emergency plans by Local Resilience Forums</li> </ul>
<b>TOTAL</b>	£34.5m	£3.09m	

Further funding announcements will be made in due course, particularly in relation to the allocation of funds to local authorities to take forward the new local flood risk management leadership role in the highest priority areas.

## ANNEX C

### OVERVIEW OF LOCAL AUTHORITY PROGRESS IN MANAGING LOCAL FLOOD RISK

On 29 April 2009 Defra and CLG wrote to ask Local Authority Chief Executives about what progress they have made on Pitt recommendations. The letter also asked whether they have experienced any barriers or difficulties and what further the Government can do to assist them.

#### Summary of responses

Local authorities who responded are listed at the end of this Annex. While this is a very low response rate, the responses received do positively show that **some** local authorities have:

- put in place a range of partnership governance arrangements, including-
  - setting up strategic level flood management, drainage, recovery groups, with local partners/agencies to oversee flood risk management
  - continuing to develop work with neighbouring authorities to ensure cross-boundary working and consultation
  - continuing to build up relationships with Environment Agency on flood risk management including mapping and in the development of Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans
  - building up relationships with local Police and local Fire and Rescue authorities
  - some reported good working relationships with water companies.
- embarked on projects to address and alleviate local flooding
- completed or in the process of completing Strategic Flood Risk Assessments
- implemented sustainable urban drainage systems
- started or are planning to develop Surface Water Management Plans
- identified and mapped local drainage assets with appointed leads who have responsibility for them
- developed highway asset management plans and highway drainage networks
- started to identify changes to flood risk management due to climate change
- developed comprehensive flood incident response plans, which detail the whole recovery process, from risk of flooding, actions to be taken and tiered level of responses to flooding emergencies. Some councils have

protocols in place for co-ordinating joint agency media handling and some are planning to hold response exercises

- set up taskforces to learn lessons from previous flooding events;
- identified locations of vulnerable critical infrastructure
- access to considerable technical in-house expertise, including experts in land drainage engineering
- required site specific flood risk assessments and environmental impact assessments as part of planning and development control processes when deemed appropriate
- sought to deter development within flood risk areas, and where this is not possible have promoted flood resilience throughout the new build
- purchased flood defence equipment in areas of highest risk
- issued information and advice to local residents on self-help so they can protect themselves against flood risk or have held or facilitated in flood fairs to promote self-help and discuss individual responses to flood risk management

The responses also highlighted some of the issues or potential barriers local authorities are facing, such as:

- production of various plans e.g. Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans, Shoreline Management Plans, River and Tidal Flood Plans, River Basin Management Plans, Surface Water Management Plans, Strategic Flood Risk Assessments are perceived to deliver very similar things and often leads to duplication. Production of these documents therefore ties up valuable resources unnecessarily
- need for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to be more accurately defined
- limitation of opportunities for SUDS and limited technical drainage capacity
- Guidance for Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) still under development by Defra and partners
- Costs of SWMPs acknowledged to be high and preference for some authorities was for Government funding to be used for small local issues
- insufficient internal resources and relevant technical skills, especially considering new powers and responsibilities proposed in the draft Flood and Water Management Bill and current economic downturn
- reluctance of private Utilities companies to share their data on historic sewerage flooding and flood risk areas – local authorities needed power to obtain this information
- understanding of drainage assets limited and ownership unclear
- not convinced that assumptions made in Defra's estimations of the new net burdens resulting from new local flood risk management work are robust and that future savings from the transfer of private sewers will

result in sufficient resources being freed up so that local authorities can invest in local flood risk management

- funding allocated and technical expertise for Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) insufficient
- lack of clarity and short timescales around routes to funding, with the levels of funding often deemed inadequate against the 'real' costs that local authorities bear
- potential future savings do little to alleviate the front end costs and investments needed to address local flood risk
- in some cases limited local EA engagement, although individual EA staff praised
- Lack of clarity over how much real support expected from the Environment Agency e.g. expertise, shared databases etc.
- Need further work on sharing local expertise, which is usually in the borough or district councils.

## **Local Authorities who responded**

Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Bolton Council  
Bournemouth Borough Council  
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Cheshire West and Chester Council  
City of London Corporation  
Derby City Council  
Derbyshire County Council  
Devon County Council  
Doncaster Council  
East Sussex County Council  
Fenland District Council  
Gloucestershire County Council  
Great Yarmouth Borough Council  
Halton Borough Council  
Hampshire County Council  
Harlow Council  
Havant Borough Council  
Herefordshire Council  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Kent County Council  
Lancashire County Council  
Leeds City Council  
Leicestershire County Council  
Liverpool City Council  
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham  
Norfolk County Council  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Pendle Borough Council  
Rossendale Borough Council  
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead  
Salford City Council  
Suffolk County Council  
Swindon Borough Council  
Warrington Borough Council  
Warwickshire County Council  
Waverley Borough Council  
West Berkshire Council  
Wigan Council  
Worcestershire County Council  
Wyre Borough Council

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