

LGA Inland Flood Risk Management Group *draft Terms of Reference*

Aims of the Group

The aims of the group are:

- To act as a sounding group for the Environment Board and the four Members leading on flood risk management in their shaping of LGA Group policy positions and improvement activities in relation to the lead role on managing inland flood risk, and the development of expertise, learning and progress in all local authorities;
- To provide input to the work of the Environment Board and the four Members leading on flood risk management, in raising the profile and priority of inland flood risk management in all authorities and ensure better links between flood risk management and other departments (planning, housing, environment etc), and act as a channel for communicating about Group policy and activity with interested Members throughout the country;
- To create a useful link between inland and coastal flood risk management by working closely with the LGA's Coastal Issues Special Interest Group (SIG).

Membership

- The Group will consist of 4 Environment Board members (one from each political group) and either:
 - one member and one substitute from each English region and Wales;
 - two members from each English region and Wales

To be agreed at March 10 Environment Board

- The Group will link to a wider network, open to all local authorities, with both a Member and Officer structure, which will help to inform and advise the main Group;
- For the main Group, the LGA will confirm with each regional LGA the nominations for representative councillors with expertise and interest in supporting the new lead role on managing local flood risk and who would be able to represent their region in this new and potentially high profile national forum;

Accountabilities

- To provide a forum for debate on inland flood risk management issues;
- To undertake specific tasks (surveys, discussion papers, briefings etc) as agreed with LGA's Environment Board;
- To represent local government on this subject and work with Government (and its agencies) and the European Commission, to ensure the policy framework supports member authorities, local flood risk management issues are considered and legislative and funding resources are provided.

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- In addition to the nominated representatives, other officers and members may be invited to attend and contribute to Group meetings

Meetings

- The Group will meet quarterly, normally in London.
- An annual meeting open to the wider network of Members will be held. **To be confirmed by March Environment Board**
- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Group will be Members of the LGA Environment Board agreed by the Board.
- LGA Group policy support staff will provide secretarial support to the Group including organising meetings and circulation of agendas, papers, updates on LGA policy work and minutes;
- LGA Group policy staff will attend meetings and help to support the work of the Inland Flood Risk Management Group;

Reporting and Relationship to LGA Group

- The Environment Board Members on the Group will report to the Board at least once a year;
- The Group's discussion will also inform reports and information as requested to other LGA Boards, LGA Executive, Urban and Rural Commission;

Review

- These terms of reference and their operation will be subject to periodic review by the Group.

Officer Group

- An Officer Group, linking to a wider network (potentially all local authorities) will also meet formally, support the main Group and ensure effective communication and learning across authorities. LGA officers will work with colleagues including our Flooding Advisers and the Technical Advisors Group on Coastal and Fluvial Flooding to set up this Officer group;
- LGA Group policy staff will work with the Officer Group and wider network to help inform policy development and disseminate good practice through LGA Group resources (IDeA Knowledge case studies, Community of Practice etc).

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