

Flood Risk Management Update

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members.

Summary

The report gives details of LGA lobbying work on flood insurance and also the upcoming launch of a flood risk management portal for local government and other stakeholders.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the report.

Action

As directed by members.

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Flood Risk Management Update

1. As part of continuing discussions to safeguard future availability and affordability of flood insurance, members of the LGA Inland Flood Risk Management group met with representatives from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and Defra on 14 May 2012. Here members raised the concerns that many of their local communities are facing in accessing and being able to afford flood insurance and stressed the importance of government and the insurance industry urgently agreeing on a way forward.
2. In addition, Cllr Clare Whelan and LGA senior advisers, Kamal Panchal met with Defra Minister Richard Benyon, on 21 May to discuss flood insurance. The minister emphasised that he recognised local government's concern to ensure a long-term solution for flood insurance was urgently found. The minister stressed that government as a whole was interested in finding the best solution and that ministers in Treasury, Cabinet Office and CLG are all involved in trying to address this issue. The issue has also engaged the Chancellor and No.10. The minister also stressed that no decision has been taken as yet.
3. Caroline Spelman addressed the ABI conference on climate change and flood risk on 22 May, which gave a direction of travel.
4. As a follow up to both meetings, the LGA will also be writing to Treasury, Cabinet Office and CLG ministers to again raise LGA members concerns.
5. LGA officers will provide a further update at the future Board meetings.

Flood Risk Portal for local government

6. The flood risk management portal being developed by the LGA to meet the information and support needs of local authorities to help them undertake their new responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act will be launched at the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) Surface Water Management conference on 27 June 2012.
7. The portal will be a gateway to information, learning and networking to flood risk practitioners and elected members. The portal will be accessible by clicking on: www.local.gov.uk/floodportal from 27 June.