

LGA Inland Flood Risk Management Group and National Partners Group

Cllr Mike Haines

Item 3 –Links between spatial planning and flood and coastal erosion risk management

1. Peter Bide – Team Leader, Natural and Water Environment Team, Department of Communities and Local Government Planning Directorate
 2. Keith Lawson – Head of Strategic Development - Essex County Council
 3. Rob Crighton – Team Leader (Special Projects) Southampton City Council
- *Followed by Q&A*
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National Planning Policy Framework: planning policy on flooding and coastal change

Peter Bide
Communities & Local Government

The draft National Planning Policy Framework

Shorter, more decentralised and less bureaucratic.

Streamlines national planning policy into a consolidated and clearer set of priorities.

So planning decisions reflect local communities' vision while larger than local objectives such as managing risk from floods and coastal change are met.

Structure of draft Framework

Delivering sustainable development: the presumption in favour of sustainable development, core planning principles

Plan-making: evidence base, strategic planning, neighbourhood plans

Development management: front loading, Neighbourhood Development and Community Right to Build Orders, obligations and conditions

Planning for prosperity: business, town centres, transport, communications, minerals

Planning for people: housing, design, sustainable communities, green belt

Planning for place: climate change, flooding and coastal change, natural environment, historic environment

Framework should be read and interpreted as a whole

Meeting the Coalition commitment on flooding

The NPPF retains the key elements of the policy endorsed by the Pitt Review .

The NPPF seeks to ensure:

- development is located away from flood risk whenever possible
- development that is needed in flood risk areas is safe and resilient
- flood risk is assessed so it can be avoided and managed
- opportunities from new development are used to reduce causes and impacts of flooding

Key elements of NPPF floods policy

Local Plans must be supported by a Strategic Flood Risk assessment.

Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk based approach taking account of climate change by:

- applying the Sequential Test
- If necessary, applying the Exception Test
- Safeguarding land for flood management
- Using development opportunities to reduce flooding
- Seeking opportunities to relocate development threatened by increasing flood risk

Planning applications in flood risk areas must be supported by a site-specific flood risk assessment.

Keeping development safe from floods

Development is only appropriate in flood risk areas where:

Flood risk is not increased elsewhere.

The Sequential Test and if necessary, the Exception Test are applied.

A flood risk assessment demonstrates that:

- the most vulnerable development is in the lowest risk parts of the site
- the development is resilient and resistant
- there is safe access, and escape routes
- residual risk is safely managed
- sustainable drainage has been given priority

Managing risk from coastal change

Local planning authorities should:

- Identify Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs)
- Be clear what is appropriate in CCMAs and in what circumstances
- Make provision for development that needs to be relocated away from CCMAs
- Take account of marine plans
- Apply Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Keeping development safe from coastal change

Development is only appropriate in CCMAAs when:

- It will be safe over its planned lifetime
- It will not have an unacceptable impact on coastal change
- It provides wider sustainability benefits
- It doesn't hinder creation of a continuous coastal path
- It's lifetime is limited so it isn't impacted by coastal change

Consultation closes on: **Monday 17 October 2011**

We are seeking your views:



<http://communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/>



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Spatial Planning and Flood and Coastal Erosion

*Keith Lawson Head of Development Management
Essex County Council*



The role of Spatial Planning in addressing Flood Risk

- Lets start at the end
- The Local Plan will be the policy document that dictates development into the future
- In fact probably one of the few policy documents we will have to hand
- It is critical that in developing that plan the Lead Local Flood Authority and the Environment Agency play a full and active part
- For the LLFA this is a new role but we have wide experience in working with our Districts in the plan making process

LLFA and the Local Plan

- From day one the LLFA will need to dedicate sufficient resources to the LPA team as the Local Plan starts to take shape
- The will need to be clear information on flood risk, historic and potential to feed into the site allocation process
- It will be necessary to build an evidence base to guide the Inspector when the Plan comes forward to a public Inquiry.
- The LLFA will have a role in that inquiry supporting the LPA

Where do we start

- SFRA must be the starting place for considering appropriate development opportunities. When these are refreshed they will need to cover and address these new requirements.
- Surface water flooding presents a greater risk than coastal and fluvial
- It will be essential that the LLFA has a clear understanding of the risks in its area supported by an evidence base
- Sufficient and appropriate resources are available to work with plan makers

LLFA the new spatial planners?

- Does the LLFA have a role in looking at the bigger picture
- Major development in one district could well have an impact on the neighbouring authority
- The need for cross border co-operation in plan making
- Existing structures are in place, EPOA and The Essex Partnership for Flood Management
- Insure that the business plan includes financial and staff support for the plan making process

Challenges

- The NPPF with a presumption in favour
- Of the twelve Essex Districts only three have current LP's in place.
- Providing a background for Sequential testing
- A role in applying the Exception Test
- Within the Planning process and more likely within the Public Inquiry process.



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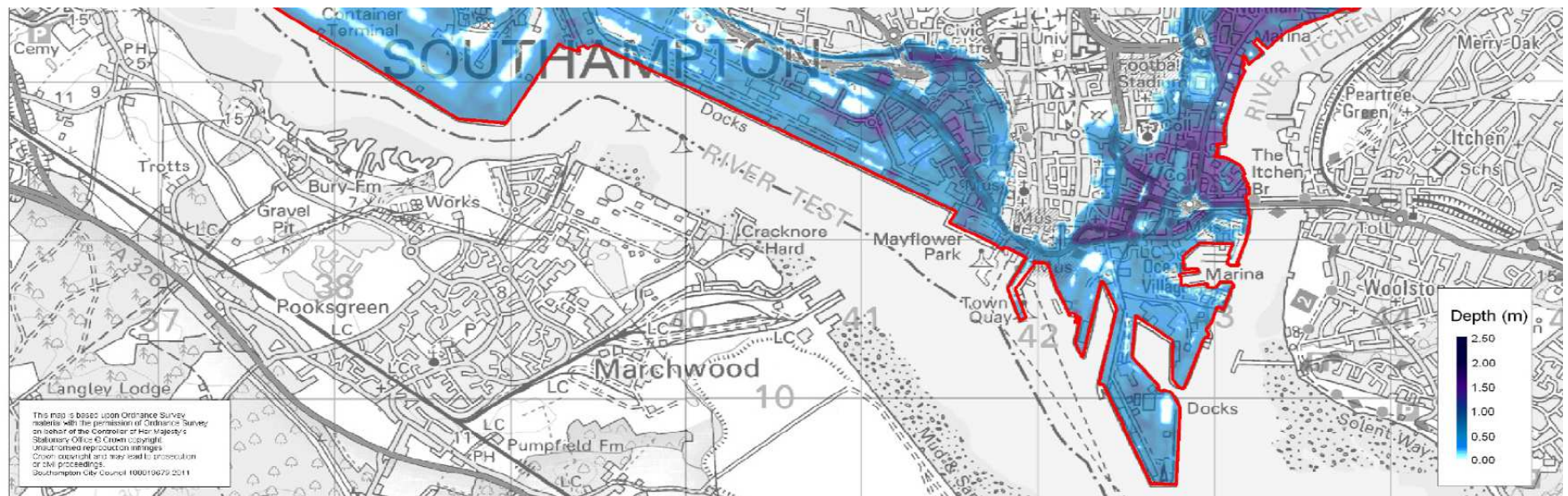
Development and Flood Risk

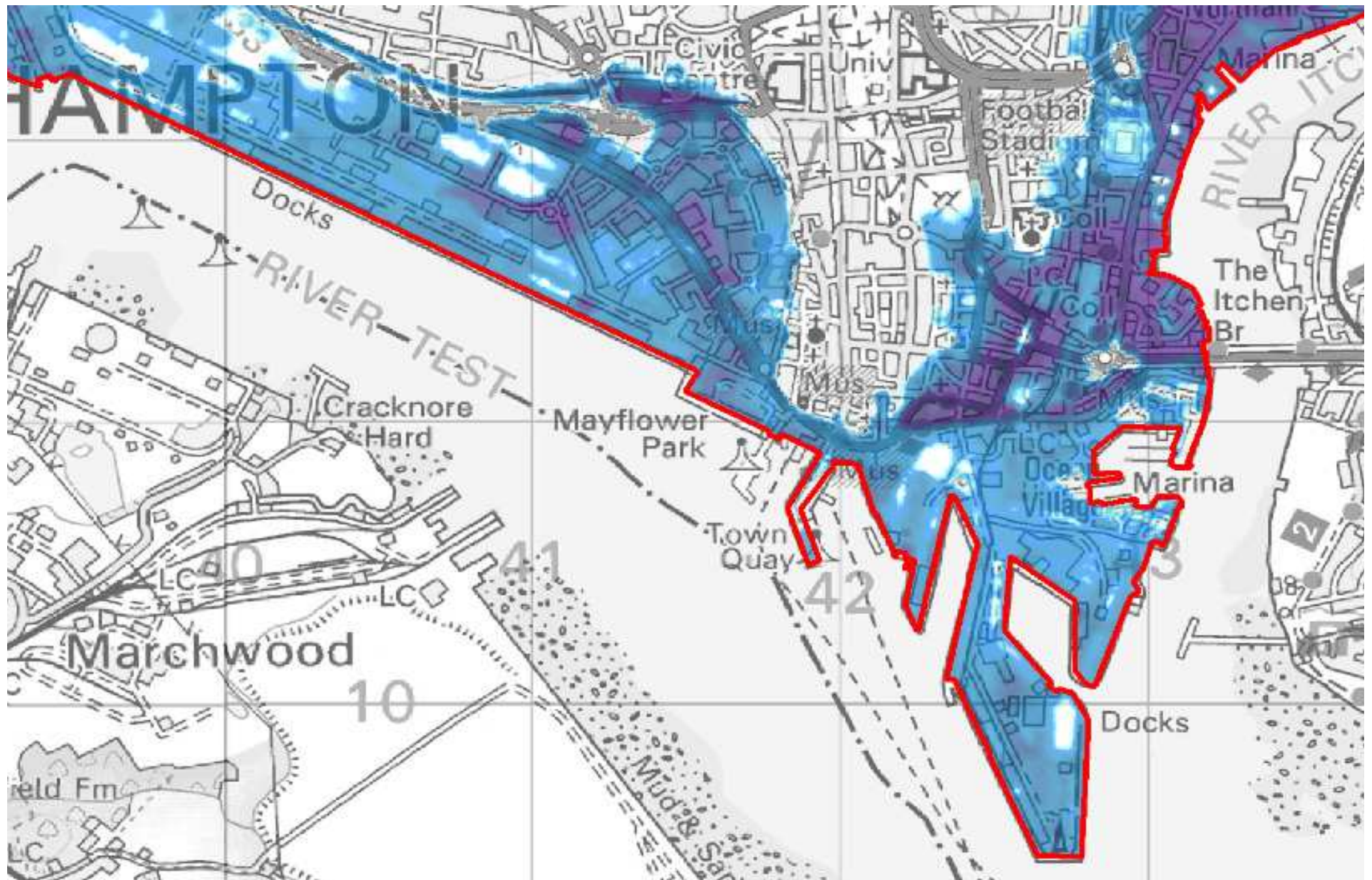
Managing the Risk





Do nothing 1:200 Year Event 2110



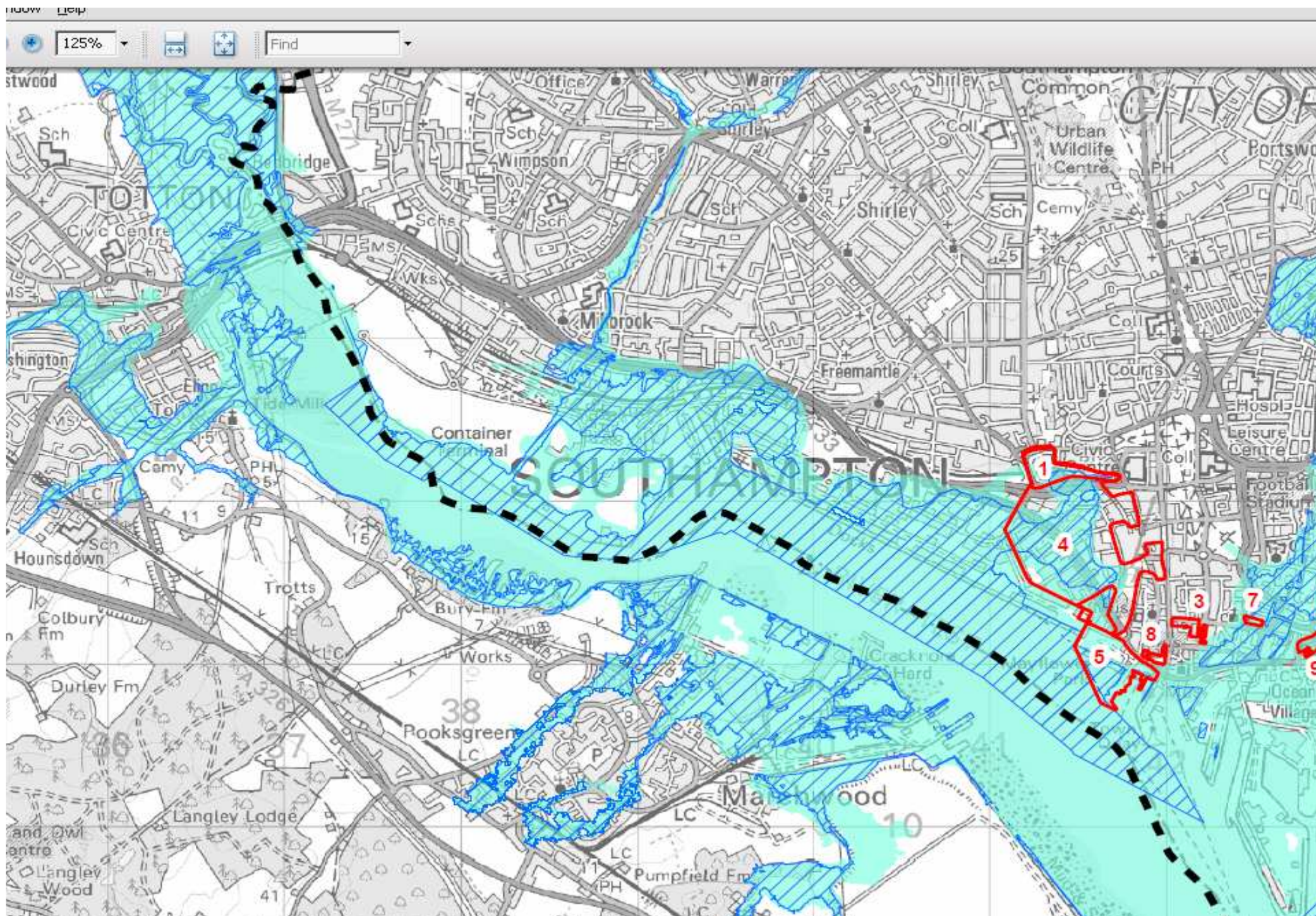














Item 4 - Working in Partnership

1. Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) –

Cllr Derek Antrobus – Chair of North West RFCC and

Amanda Nobbs – Chair of Thames RFCC

2. Local authority perspective – Richard Wills, Executive Director, Lincolnshire CC

Followed by Q&A

Item 4 - Working in Partnership

Cllr Derek Antrobus – Chair of North West
RFCC

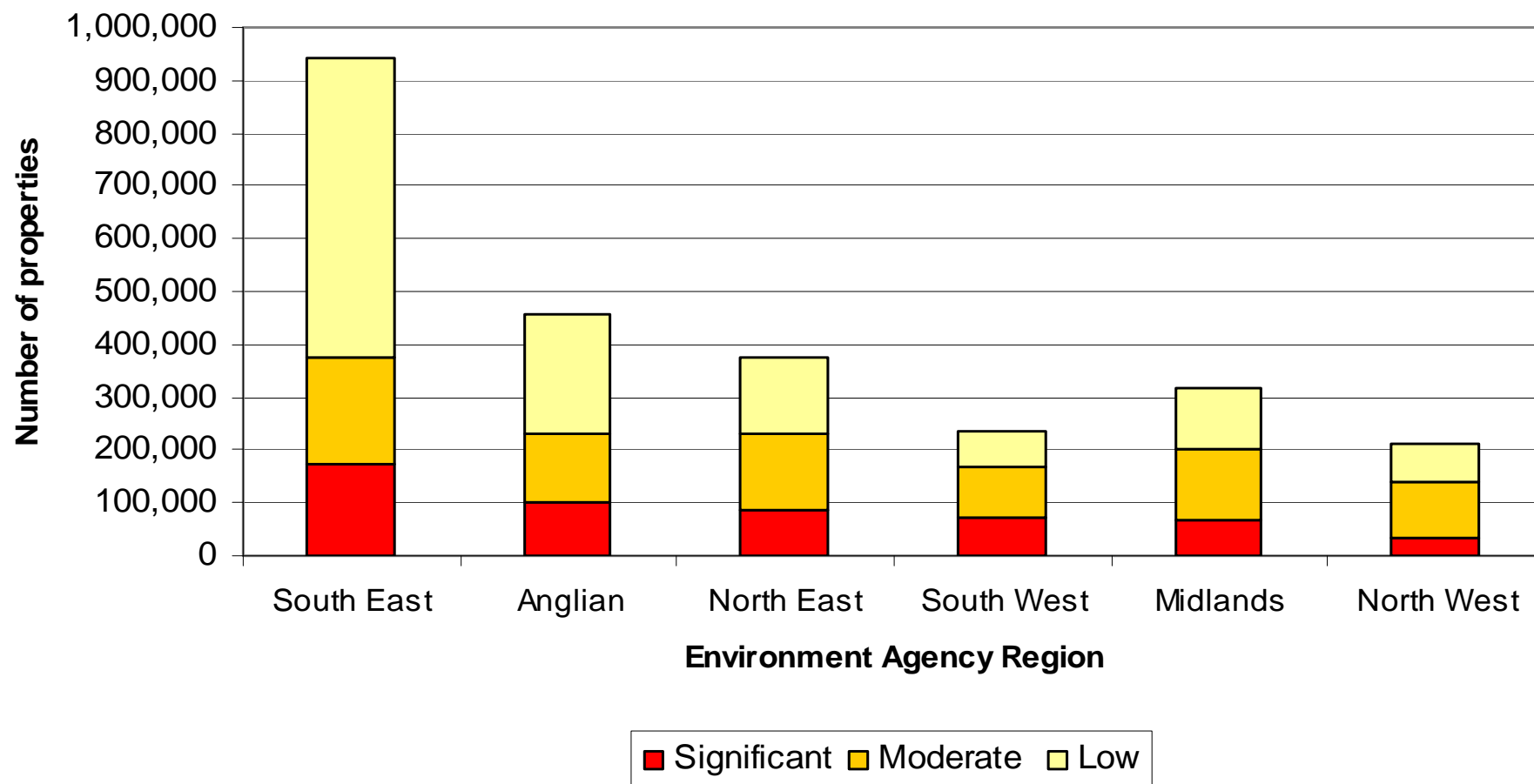
Amanda Nobbs

Chair

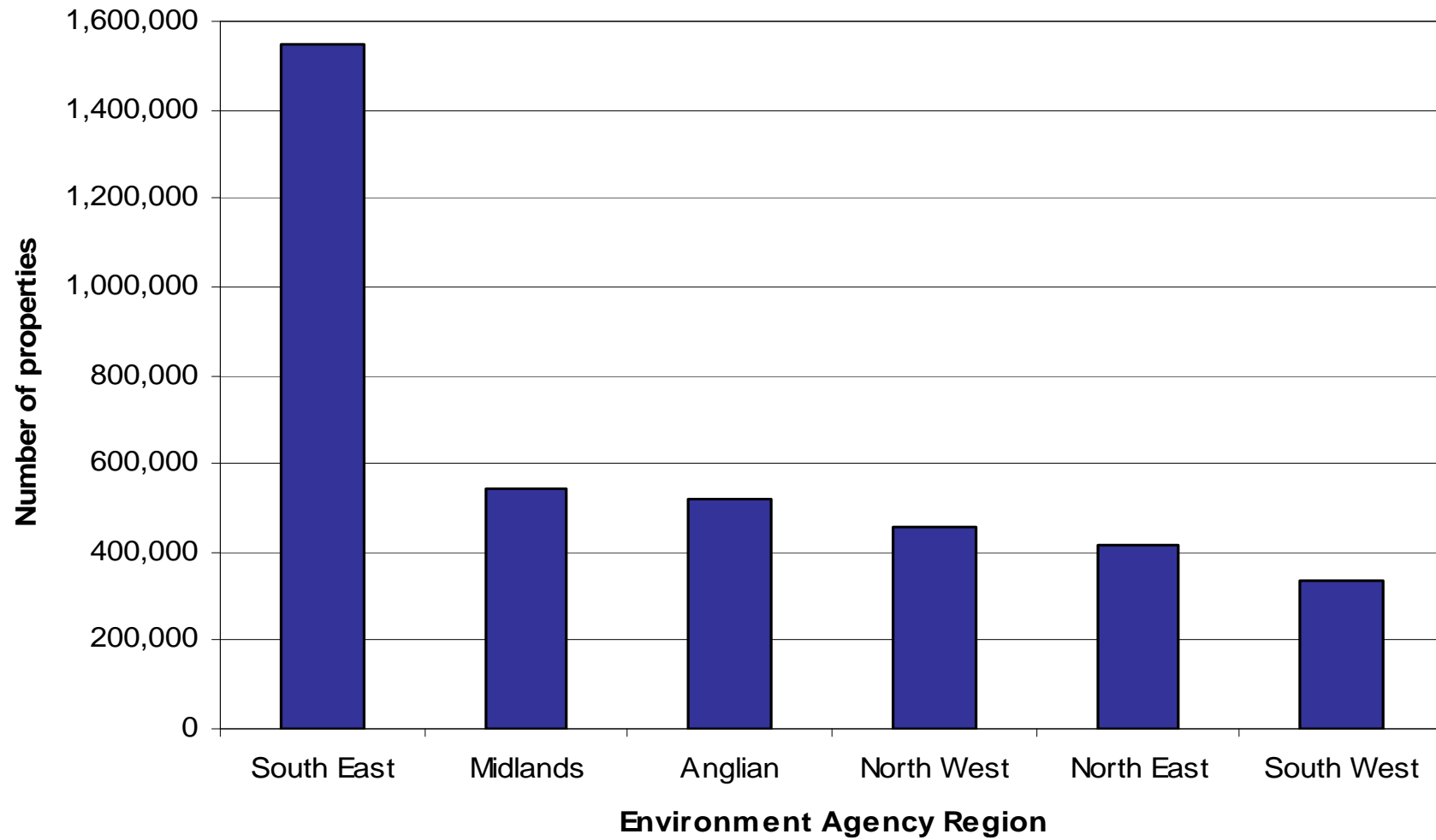
Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

- 54 Lead Local Flood Authorities
 - 13 flood partnerships
- Properties at risk of flooding
 - 730,000 tidal and fluvial
 - 550,000 – 1.2 million surface water

Regions ranked by the number of properties with a significant likelihood of fluvial and tidal flooding (NaFRA)



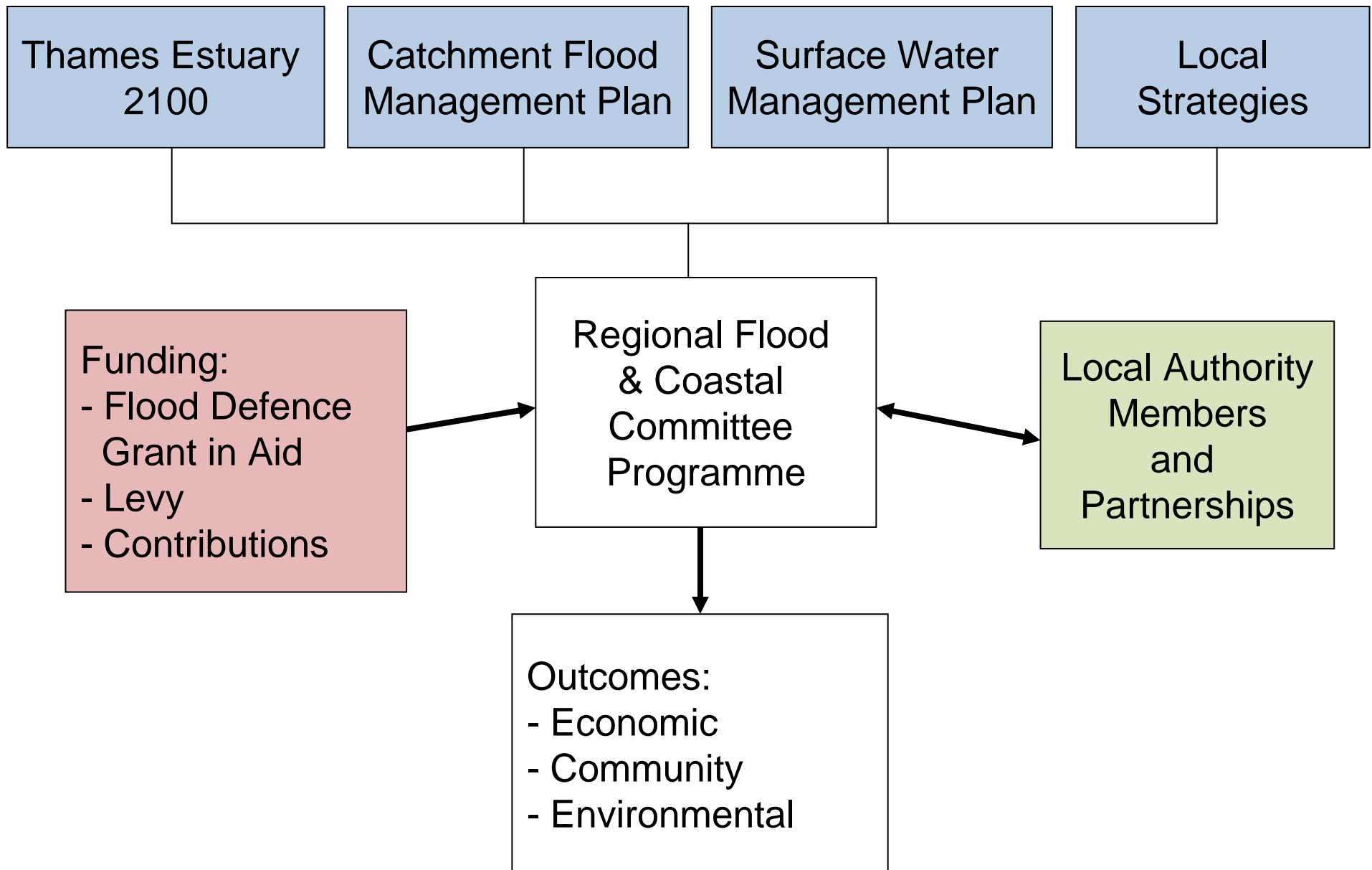
Regions ranked by numbers of properties at risk of surface water flooding
(using Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding data)



RFCC Purposes

RFCC brings together members appointed by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and independent members with relevant experience:

- to ensure there are **coherent plans** for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks **across catchments and shorelines**
- to **promote efficient, targeted and risk-based investment** in flood and coastal erosion risk management that **optimises value for money and benefits for local communities**
- to provide a **link between the Environment Agency, LLFAs**, other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to engender mutual understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in its area



PLANS

- Need joined up approach to flood strategies
 - identify priorities, target resources and secure efficiencies
 - achieve a good mix between small community schemes and tackling major challenges
 - identify cost effective opportunities to integrate flood risk management into development projects
 - coordinate our approach to different types of risk

MONEY

- Working together is best way to secure partnership funding by
 - working up a good portfolio of competitive schemes
 - making good use of Levy
 - negotiating developer and beneficiary contributions
 - taking advantage of new opportunities such as Community Infrastructure Levy

LEADERSHIP

- Benefits of the flooding portfolio holder being involved
 - as a member of the RFCC
 - as a leader of the LLFA Strategic Partnership
- strong, two way relationship between each LLFA and the RFCC
- supported by new LLFA teams and EA secondees

LLFA partnerships match RFCC membership groups

