

## Local Flood Risk Research Framework

### Project briefing

An [urban drainage research framework](#) was prepared in 2008. It set the agenda for some 85 research projects commissioned by organisations such as the Environment Agency, Defra, UKWIR, Ofwat and the research councils.

In 2013/14 the framework is being refreshed and re-launched so that it continues to meet the needs of Risk Management Authorities. Since 2008 there have been a number of changes including the [Flood and Water Management Act](#), a capacity building programme for lead local flood authorities and a greater emphasis on promoting economic growth. In the current economic climate there is also a need to spend research money more wisely.

The new Local Flood Risk Research framework will define a five year programme of activities which is supported by all those who commission and use research. Research, in this context, includes a spectrum of activities from pure and applied science through to good practice guidance and demonstration projects. The topic area is '[local flood risk](#)' which includes surface water flooding, groundwater flooding and flooding from ordinary watercourses. This is aligned with the duties of lead local flood authorities but also impacts on the role of district and borough councils, water utilities and the responsibilities of householders and businesses.

The Environment Agency's vision is that by 2020 Risk Management Authorities and partners will be working together to develop and share the right knowledge to deliver real benefits for the local flood risk management community.

Key tasks in the project include:

- A review of the previous framework to build on its successes
- Working with all stakeholders to understand their long term needs
- Preparation of brief research proposals which form a five year 'roadmap'
- Development and implementation of an engagement plan to ensure that end-user needs are met
- Development and implementation of a monitoring programme to ensure that the roadmap is kept up-to-date and is successful

The Environment Agency has commissioned CH2M HILL to deliver the project between November 2013 and May 2014. CH2M HILL are working with partner organisations Exeter University and Clear Environmental Consultants.

The first engagement event, to connect with stakeholder organisations, is a workshop session at the CIWEM urban drainage group annual conference on **Thursday 14 November 2014**. At this event the project team will learn about the research priorities of water utilities, lead local flood authorities and their expert supply chain providers. All conference delegates are welcome to participate in the workshop.

For further information please contact either Adam Baylis or Elliot Gill

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