Better relationships for better Flood Risk Management delivery

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Where did we start?

- Concept planning – Shaw to Rochdale strategy establishing flooding mechanisms and level of flood risk
- Over 1000 houses and business at risk in Rochdale and Littleborough
- Key risk sources – Rivers/ Surface water/ Reservoirs
- Local awareness and ownership of risk not widespread
- Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder
Where did we start?

- Storm Eva Boxing Day 2015 – serious flooding to homes and businesses in Littleborough and central Rochdale.
- Political leaders and communities at risk wanting quick response and action.
- The challenge now – how do deliver better protection, manage expectations and raise awareness/ownership of current and future risks?

It can be done better in partnership
R. Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough FRMS
Priorities for partnership

- Shared objectives/priority for change – some headlines

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<td>Deliver prosperous economy</td>
<td>Reduce risk to businesses, communities and support economic and housing growth</td>
<td>Revitalising town centres and secure long term sustainable economic growth.</td>
<td>Investment in rural and urban infrastructure for resilient urban and rural growth.</td>
<td>A nation better protected against natural threats and hazards</td>
<td>Take further actions to sustain the current level of flood risk into the future (responding to the potential increases in risk from urban development, land-use change and climate change).</td>
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<td>Sustainable housing growth and neighbourhoods</td>
<td>Delivery of sustainable and improved flood resilience and reduced flood risk in the borough</td>
<td>Safe guarded by providing greater resilience against regular storm events</td>
<td>Maximise flood management function of green space</td>
<td>Higher visibility with strong partnerships and local choices</td>
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<td>Promotes greener environment – manage flood risk and contribute to climate change mitigation</td>
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Priorities for partnership

- Transparency and visibility
- Resources – financial and data sharing
- Building and sharing expertise and experience – communities, planning, engineering, public health, housing, communication
Priorities for partnership

• Political and senior management project “Champions”
• Reaching out to communities and businesses – owning risks and solutions
• Managing expectations – about the speed of delivery/current and future risks after a scheme
• Managing project risks
Priorities for partnership

- Future proofing the scheme where possible
- Natural Flood Management opportunities
- Long term community resilience
How we have achieved an integrated project team approach

- Early Contractor Involvement
- Designer
- Internal project management team EA (NEAS/NCPMS)
- EA support teams (PSO, Fisheries and biodiversity, Legal)
- Rochdale Planning and development & Housing teams
- Rochdale Highways & Bridges
- Rochdale Public Health & Housing teams
- Project Management team
- Project Board
- Project Steering group
- Senior Project Management
Some lessons……..

• Establish a strong and holistic partnership as early as possible to agree a shared understanding and approach

• Ensure lead politicians and senior managers across partners are part of the core project delivery structure – scheme champions, direction, escalation, resources, decision making

• Define and agree project objectives to limit scope creep
Some lessons

• Take the time to understand the community and environment you are working with and within – local intelligence and evidence
• Use existing community networks and ‘honest brokers’ where available.
• Good communication is essential – a strong communications strategy should support this.
• Encourage stakeholder ‘ownership’ – for your objectives, the delivered project and its ongoing management and operation. It is a core community asset.