Defra funding for household flood protection Workshop

1. Community participation
2. Flood risk mitigation surveys
3. Procurement of mitigation measures

Tim Harries, Defra
1. Community participation
Community participation

Residents should be actively involved in planning and in decisions around the selection of protection and resilience products and should be kept informed of the progress of the scheme.
Community participation

Why involve residents?

- Learn about residents’ needs
- Help ensure measures properly used / maintained
- Overcome barriers to take-up:...
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- **Want my home to be comfortable and attractive**: 26%
- **Not my responsibility**: 19%
- **Worry about property values**: 25%
- **Don't want to be reminded of the risk**: 17%
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Would save money in long-term

Would make me feel safer

59%

75%
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Community participation

• **First phase**
  • Listen
  • Defuse anger
  • Build relationships
  • Inform ... about causes of the floods
    ... about low likelihood of community-level defence
    ... about protection / resilience

• **Second phase**
  • Learn... about the nature of the flooding
  • Agree... choice of protection / resilience measures
  • Implement
  • Support with ongoing use of measures
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Community participation

- Community liaison
  - One person as main point of contact
  - People skills
  - Identify key community members / structures
- Public meetings?
- Flood fairs?
  - Focus on range of measures and effectiveness
  - One-on-one and formal presentations
- Facilitation
  - Local authority staff?
  - Professional facilitators?
  - Flood victims?
2. Flood risk mitigation surveys
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- Garden landscaping
- Drainage improvements
- Bunds around a property
- Raised thresholds
- Storm porches
- Peripheral walls
- Flood resistant gates
- Outside wall renders and facings
- Non-return valves
- Temporary barriers
- Airbrick covers

- Water-resistant external doors
- Pump-&-sump systems
- Sealing of floors
- The use of concrete to fill under-floor voids
- Raised electrical sockets
- Flood resilient kitchens
- Raising of white goods, kitchen units etc
- Storage of vulnerable items off the floor or in upstairs locations
- Changes to internal walls
- Flood resilient skirting
- Internal doors that can easily be moved to safety during a flood
Survey / assessments

Any use of the Defra funding to mitigate flood risk in individual properties must be preceded by surveys of those properties by professionals with the requisite skills and experience.
Survey / assessments

- Objectives
  - independent, expert advice
  - best value for money
  - build confidence in protection / resilience
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Survey / assessments

- What is being assessed

- nature of the flood risk
- points of potential water entry
- appropriate measures for reducing the risk
- required performance standards (e.g. leakage rate)

- compliance of completed works
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Survey / Assessment

Who can do the assessment

- Either:
  - a company on the Environment Agency’s Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Framework
  - OR a professional member of a chartered institution who has necessary insurance
3. Procurement of mitigation measures
Procurement of measures

All flood risk mitigation measures funded by the grant should be implemented using products of a sufficient standard to provide a balanced overall package of protection and resilience for the homes concerned.
Procurement of measures

• Consultation with beneficiaries
• Your own usual procurement rules
• Performance standards:
  • Measures must conform with the survey specifications.
  • Surveys should provide list of selection of conforming products.
• Local authority selects supplier?
  ... perhaps giving preference to local supplier
• Each householders select a supplier?
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Discussion

Regarding the guidance on:

1. Community participation
2. The flood risk mitigation surveys
3. Procurement of the mitigation measures

- Points of agreement / disagreement
- Clarity of the guidance
- Sufficiency of the guidance
- Other points