

## Working together to adapt to a changing climate: flood and coast

Future sea level rise and extreme rainfall due to climate change will increase flood and coastal erosion risk for many communities. Where existing measures will not reduce these long term risks, alternative sustainable options may be required. Developing a common understanding of how to manage the future of a community in light of flood and coastal erosion risk is an immense challenge for all involved. Making decisions based on uncertain climate change predictions when the range of options are potentially unknown presents additional challenges.

This project is addressing these challenges. In two different locations it will design and evaluate a community engagement programme creating a shared understanding of flood risk. The research will pilot new approaches and throughout the engagement programme learn from and adapt, according to their effectiveness. It will produce accessible resources tailored to flood and coastal erosion risk management authorities.



### What are the project's objectives?



To design an innovative community engagement programme for two communities, informed by recent examples in the UK and abroad. **April 2018 - March 2019**

To deliver and evaluate the first 18 months of the engagement programme, resulting in a framework to aid collaborative decision making in 2/3 areas where long term management is complex and contentious. **April 2019 - December 2020**

The project will produce interim outputs for each stage.

The project is being delivered by Icarus. It is funded and managed by the Joint Environment Agency, Defra, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government FCERM R&D Programme.

### What's happened to date?

We have to date delivered an **Evidence Review**, which reviewed over 300 publications. The purpose of this review is to support the development of the engagement programme and to ensure that important decisions are informed by current research knowledge. This review has been independently peer reviewed and also reviewed by our own engagement practitioners, Defra and the project board. We aim to publish it in spring 2019.

We have also been working to identify suitable pilot areas to trial engagement. We have:

- Run a Webex to explain the pilot selection process to over 50 people
- Received 13 expressions of interest from local authorities, the EA and partners
- Shortlisted 6 different locations with different types of FCRM risks
- Completed stakeholder meetings in each of these 6 areas to assess their suitability

The project board met on the **18th March** and selected the following two pilot projects:

1. Caterham Hill and Old Coulsdon, Surrey
2. Winterton to Hemsby, Norfolk

## Who's involved?

- **Project board** - representation from Icarus (contractors), EA, NRW and a local authority
- **Practitioner group** (signed-up for regular updates) - 63 engagement staff from EA, local authorities, IDBs, Coastal Groups and the NFU
- **Quarterly webinars** - for practitioner group to help connect those working on similar issues and receive feedback on the project. So far run two with up to 60 attendees
- Presented at AFCRM webinar, to inform them and ask for input to pilot locations
- Engagement with Future Strategy and Investment Portfolio Board
- Consultation website set up - first consultation held over the summer

## What are the next steps?

- Publish evidence review and summary slide pack - **Spring 2019**
- Select 2/3 pilot areas - **18th March 2019**
- Invite successful pilot projects to start up meeting - **8th April 2019**
- Start to design engagement programme - **April 2019**
- Webinar to showcase evidence review findings - **May 2019**

## Contact

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