

A National Policy Statement for Flood Defences: A Route Map to ensure critical projects can be consented and delivered



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The proposal

- Flood defence projects are ‘mission critical’
- NPS + DCO = consenting and delivery of NSIPs
- So why are critical flood defence projects consented not NSIPs?
- Available
- Advantages
- Concerns can be addressed



The flood policy landscape

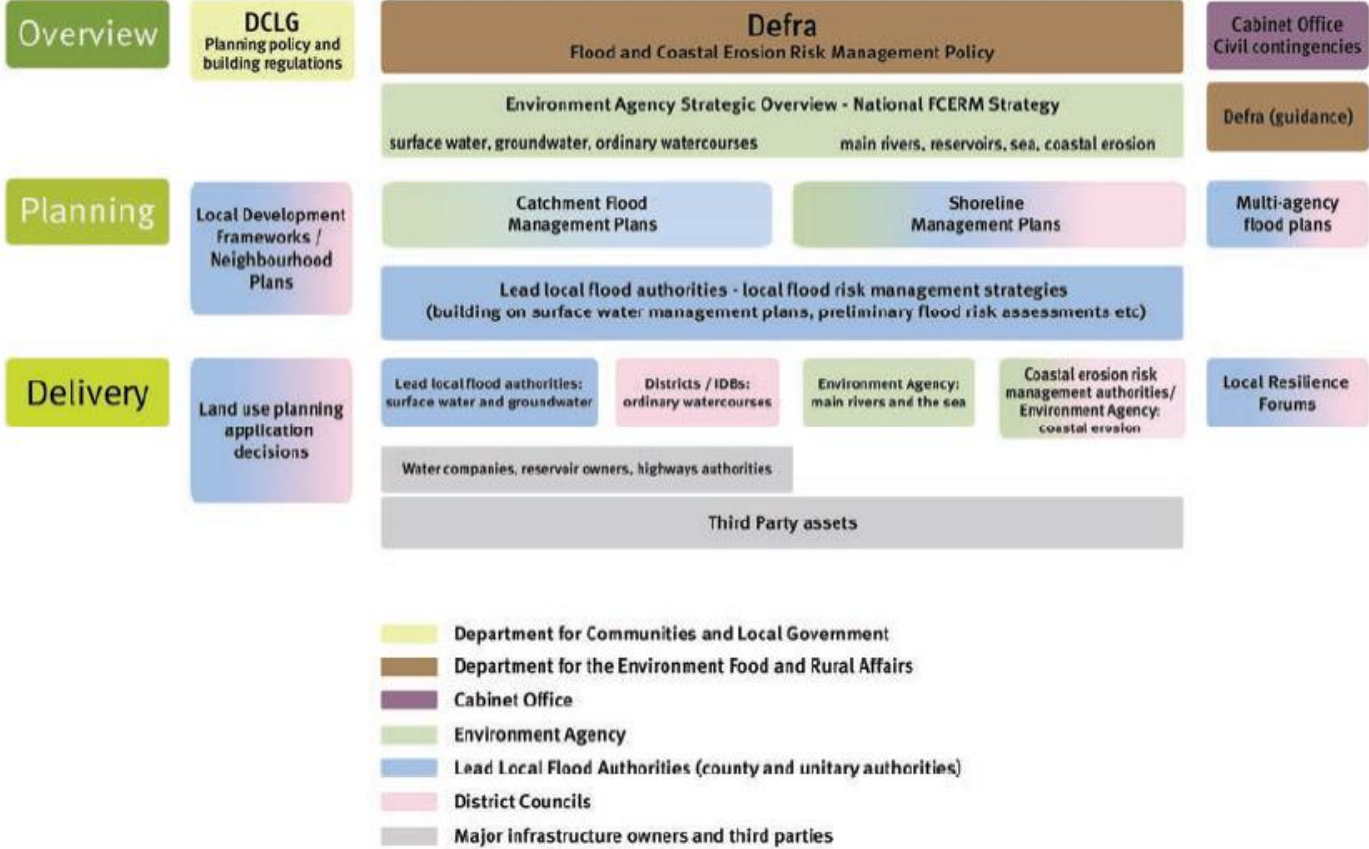


Figure One: Flood and coastal erosion risk management – overview

The flood planning landscape

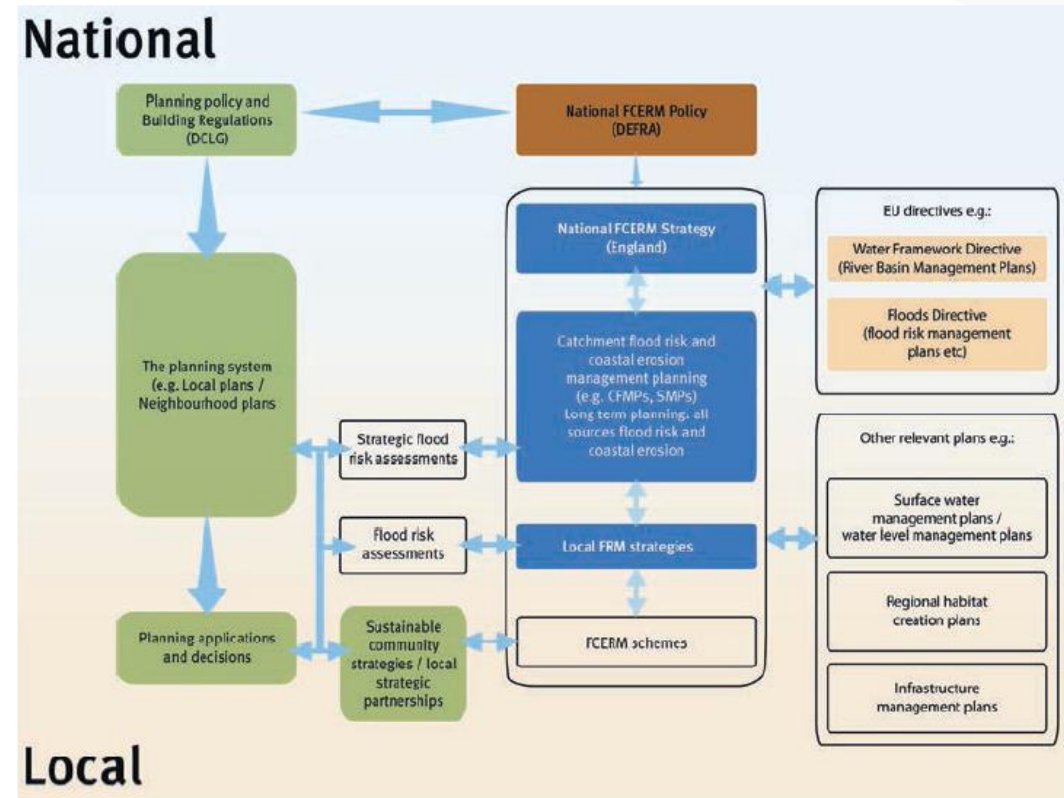


Figure Six: FCERM strategies and plans and their relationship with other planning initiatives

The NPS

- The missing piece and the key to the maze?
- NPS is conclusive as to need and DCO application will be decided in accordance with the NPS
- NPS sets out:
 - Need case
 - Checklist for grant, eg:
 - EIA/HRA
 - Alternatives
 - Design, safety, climate change, nuisance
 - Generic impacts and what is acceptable
- Confidence in grant, consistency of approach



DCO process advantages

- Certainty of timing of consent: significantly shorter from date of application and more certain
- One decision maker
- One process: wrapping up consents
- Compulsory acquisition and temp possession powers
- Fewer decisions, therefore reduced challenge risk



DCO/NPS concerns?

- Legislative amendment?
 - s35
- Making the NPS
 - Not a pre-requisite
- Undemocratic?
 - consultation obligations and hearings
- Costs
 - Not significantly greater and greater timing certainty
- Consultation obligations
 - Reflect good practice and practice well developed
- Tough?
 - Yes, but you know when it will be over!



Conclusion

- NPS sets out need and how to get consent, giving confidence in grant and encouraging national consistency of approach to projects designed to meet local circumstances
- DCO gives certainty of timing, streamlined process for complex projects and one stop shop for majority of consents and powers
- => consenting and delivery of critical projects



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