



Pitt Review final report June 2008 – relevance for Rivers Trusts

Based on the Pitt Review final report Executive Summary:

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/the-pitt-review/final_report.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/the-pitt-review/final-report.aspx)

Background

The Pitt Review was started after the devastating 2007 floods experienced by parts of the UK. It looks at the causes, response and aftermath of the floods and makes 92 recommendations to Government how improvements can be made.

The review is obviously heavily focussed on flooding and the response to flooding therefore the impact on Trust work is likely to be low. However, the recommendations contain some useful hooks which it worth being aware of in dealings with local authorities, the EA and others in light of the potential for trusts to reduce surface water flooding and reach different sectors of the community.

Headline lessons to be learned

- Reducing the risk of flooding and its impact
- Being rescued and cared for during an emergency
- Maintaining power and water supplies and protecting essential services
- Better advice and help for people to protect their families and homes
- Staying healthy and speeding up recovery
- Knowing where and when it will flood

Key Recommendations (from an RT point of view)

Numbering follows that of the executive summary document

Recommendation 1 – Given the predicted increase in the range of future extremes of weather, the Government should give priority to both adaptation and mitigation in its programmes to help society to cope with climate change.

Recommendation 4 – The Environment Agency should further develop its tools and techniques for predicting and modelling river flooding, taking account of extreme and multiple events and depths and velocity of water

Recommendation 5 – The Environment Agency should work with partners to urgently take forward work to develop tools and model surface water flooding

Recommendation 9 – Householders should no longer be able to lay impermeable surfaces as of right on front gardens and the Government should consult on extending this to back gardens and business premises

Recommendation 18 – Local Surface Water Management Plans, as set out under PPS25 (Planning Policy Statement 25¹) and coordinated by local authorities, should provide the basis for managing all local flood risk.

Recommendation 27 – Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England should work with partners to establish a programme through Catchment Flood Management and Shoreline Management Plans to achieve greater working with natural processes.

Recommendation 59 – The Risk and Regulation Advisory Council should explore how the public can improve their understanding of community risks, including those associated with flooding, and that the Government should then implement the findings as appropriate. *(see Executive Summary paragraph 101 for more details – linked to lack of public understanding that they live on a floodplain)*

Recommendation 61 – The Environment Agency should work with local responders to raise awareness in flood risk areas and identify a range of mechanisms to warn the public, particularly the vulnerable, in response to flooding.

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<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicystatements/pps25/>