



Draft flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy: consultation response document

Report – ENVFCPSI00420B00R

25 September 2020

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts, including flooding, drought, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution. We work with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations. A healthy and diverse environment enhances people's lives and contributes to economic growth.

We can't do this alone. We work as part of the Defra group (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), with the rest of government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and local communities to create a better place for people and wildlife.

Published by:

Environment Agency
Horizon House, Deanery Road,
Bristol BS1 5AH

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

© Environment Agency 2020

All rights reserved. This document may be reproduced with prior permission of the Environment Agency.

Further copies of this report are available from our publications catalogue:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

or our National Customer Contact Centre:
03708 506 506

Email:

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Executive summary

Over the past 2 years, we developed the draft Strategy working with over 90 organisations. They all helped to shape the Strategy's vision and ambitions as well as its delivery objectives and measures.

The Environment Agency consulted on a draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy (the Strategy) for England for 8 weeks from 9 May to 4 July 2019.

The purpose of this document is to:

- report on how we approached the public consultation
- summarise the most important issues that emerged from the responses
- capture how the final Strategy has sought to respond to the feedback received
- summarise the responses to the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and habitats regulations assessment (HRA) at a high level

We received a total of 400 online consultation responses from a wide range of public, private and third sector respondents. We also held an internal staff consultation exercise which enabled teams across the Environment Agency to take part.

The consultation feedback suggested that respondents were largely positive about the draft Strategy's vision, ambitions, objectives and measures. Respondents broadly agreed in principle with these, but raised a number of important issues.

Where divergence of opinion did arise, this was often because respondents either agreed 'wholly' or 'partially' with the proposals. We had very few instances where respondents "did not agree at all". We see this as a positive outcome. We believe this is due, in part, to the significant engagement and partnership working we carried out when developing the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy consultation response and [final Strategy](#) will be published on GOV.UK.

Contents

Executive summary	3
Contents	4
Introduction	5
How we engaged before the consultation.....	5
About the consultation	7
Consultation responses	8
Summary of responses to questions	9
Strategy vision	9
Environment Agency's strategic overview role	10
Strategic objective 1.1 - concept of resilience standards.....	12
Strategic objective 1.2 - adaptive approaches	13
Strategic objective 1.3 - use of water and resilience of the environment.....	15
Strategic objective 1.4 - enhancing the natural, built and historic environments	17
Strategic objective 1.5 - use of funding and finance	18
Strategic objective 2.1 - new development and placed based resilience.....	20
Strategic objective 2.2 - environmental net gain	22
Strategic objective 2.3 - supporting sustainable economic growth and local regeneration	23
Strategic objective 2.4 - build back better and in better places.....	25
Strategic objective 2.5 - flooding and coastal infrastructure resilience and owner responsibility.....	26
Strategic objective 2.6 - wider infrastructure resilience.....	28
Strategic objective 3.1 - involving younger people in resilience.....	30
Strategic objective 3.2 - moving from awareness to action.....	31
Strategic objective 3.3 - response and recovery.....	33
Strategic objective 3.4 - being a world leader	34
Any other comments.....	36
Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)	36
Habitats regulations assessment (HRA).....	40
Next steps	40
Appendices	41
Appendix 1 - List of all organisations that responded	41

Introduction

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a requirement on the Environment Agency to develop a Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy ('the Strategy'). The Strategy serves as the lynchpin of the wider legal framework for managing flooding and coastal change in England. Risk management authorities (RMAs) – including the Environment Agency, local authorities, internal drainage boards, Highways England, Transport for London and water companies - all have duties to act consistently with the Strategy when carrying out their flooding and coastal erosion functions. The Strategy provides a framework for guiding the operational activities and decision making of practitioners supporting the direction set by government policy.

A draft Strategy was consulted on in May 2019. The purpose of the consultation on the draft Strategy was to seek views on our original proposals, including:

- the vision: the vision being 'a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100'
- the ambitions: the 3 ambitions being 'climate resilient places', 'today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate' and 'a nation of climate champions'
- the objectives: the long term delivery objectives we should take as a nation over the next 10 to 30 years to support the vision and ambitions up to 2100
- the measures: the short term practical measures we need to take to make progress towards the long term objectives in the coming years

The consultation received 400 responses which have helped to shape the final Strategy.

The consultation considered the roles of risk management authorities as well as the Environment Agency's strategic overview role for flooding and coastal change.

The consultation also asked for views on a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) environmental report and a draft habitats regulations assessment (HRA) report.

The Environment Agency requires the cooperation of many public and private sector partners to implement the Strategy. Consequently the Strategy has been developed collaboratively with over 90 organisations all of whom have inputted into its direction and ambitions since May 2017.

How we engaged before the consultation

Over 90 organisations took part in an extensive engagement process to help shape the direction of the draft Strategy.

There were 3 distinct engagement phases leading up to the formal consultation:

Phase 1: Initial design of the engagement process (May 2017 to September 2017)

Twelve interviews were undertaken. There were representatives from the Environment Agency and other organisations covering a range of sectors. We asked interviewees to reflect on the process used to produce the 2011 Strategy. They were also asked to give their views on the themes to refresh the Strategy and the level of engagement needed.

Phase 2: Scoping the revised Strategy (October 2017 to February 2018)

We held 3 workshops and invited people from a wide range of sectors. Discussions covered a set of core questions, plus:

- what was working well

- the main challenges
- potential future ambitions for managing flood risk and coastal erosion

Working groups were set up to then address these questions. This was a critical step to help shape the draft Strategy and establish collaborative working on the draft Strategy content.

Phase 3: Strategy development period (March 2018 to September 2018)

We created 5 working groups and invited stakeholders to put themselves forward for one or more groups. The working groups had the following themes:

- ambition
- protection and funding
- water related decision making
- communities and business
- roles and responsibilities

Each working group was invited to 2 webinars and 2 workshops to develop and refine ambitions, ideas and actions. Sector-based workshops and webinars were also held to further refine the ideas for change. These included:

- workshops at the Flood and Coast 2018 Conference
- workshops with the regional flood and coastal committees (RFCCs)
- workshop with the Association of Drainage Authorities
- webinars with local authorities
- workshop with Brunel University for students and early career professionals

An Advisory Group, chaired by Professor Colin Mellors, was set up to oversee the Strategy development phase. It included practitioners from risk management authorities, including local government and internal drainage board associations, as well as other national and civil society organisations. Its role was to ensure that the Environment Agency took account of stakeholder opinion, knowledge and expertise when developing the Strategy. It also advised how to resolve competing opinions. The Advisory Group met regularly and its role continued until shortly after the consultation. At that point the project moved into the final phase of Strategy writing.

About the consultation

The Environment Agency launched the consultation on 9 May online and via GOV.UK. Paper copies were available on request. The consultation documents comprised the:

- draft national FCERM Strategy
- draft national FCERM Strategy consultation document
- draft strategic environmental assessment (SEA) environmental report
- draft habitats regulations assessment (HRA) report

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, launched the consultation at Brunel University on 9 May. Over 40 different organisations were represented at the event. Media interest was high, which resulted in significant broadsheet and broadcast coverage. It featured in national, regional and trade press during the consultation period.

The Environment Agency encouraged engagement in the consultation via:

- emails sent directly to individual stakeholders, which encouraged them to mobilise their networks using the Strategy engagement pack provided on the consultation web site
- press releases, which led to coverage in the national press, including the front page of the Guardian and the top story on BBC News Online
- social media, which enabled over 600,000 impressions across the Environment Agency's social media channels over a 6 week social media campaign

During the 8 week consultation period, the Environment Agency ran 6 consultation workshops for external organisations in Bristol, London, Birmingham and Leeds. Over 160 participants attended these workshops. We also held senior level meetings with a range of organisations to discuss the consultation.

The draft Strategy was the central theme of the Flood and Coast Conference in Telford on 18 to 20 June 2019. Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency led a discussion on the Strategy at the opening plenary of the conference. The draft Strategy was also debated at several conference sessions and at the Environment Agency stand in the exhibition hall. Over 3,000 participants attended the conference.

The consultation was also discussed at various events and meetings, including with the:

- Association of British Insurers
- Association of Drainage Boards
- Association of Directors of Environment, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) Board
- Committee on Climate Change
- Country & Landowners Business Association
- Coastal Practitioners conference
- Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
- Flood Re
- Homes England
- Infrastructure Projects Authority
- Major Projects Association Prestige 2019 lecture
- Local Government Association, including Coastal SIG

- National Farmers Union
- National Flood Forum
- National Infrastructure Commission
- Royal Met Society
- RFCC meetings at South West, Wessex and North West
- UK Green Building Council Infrastructure Forum
- World Economic Forum
- Westminster Sustainable Business Forum
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

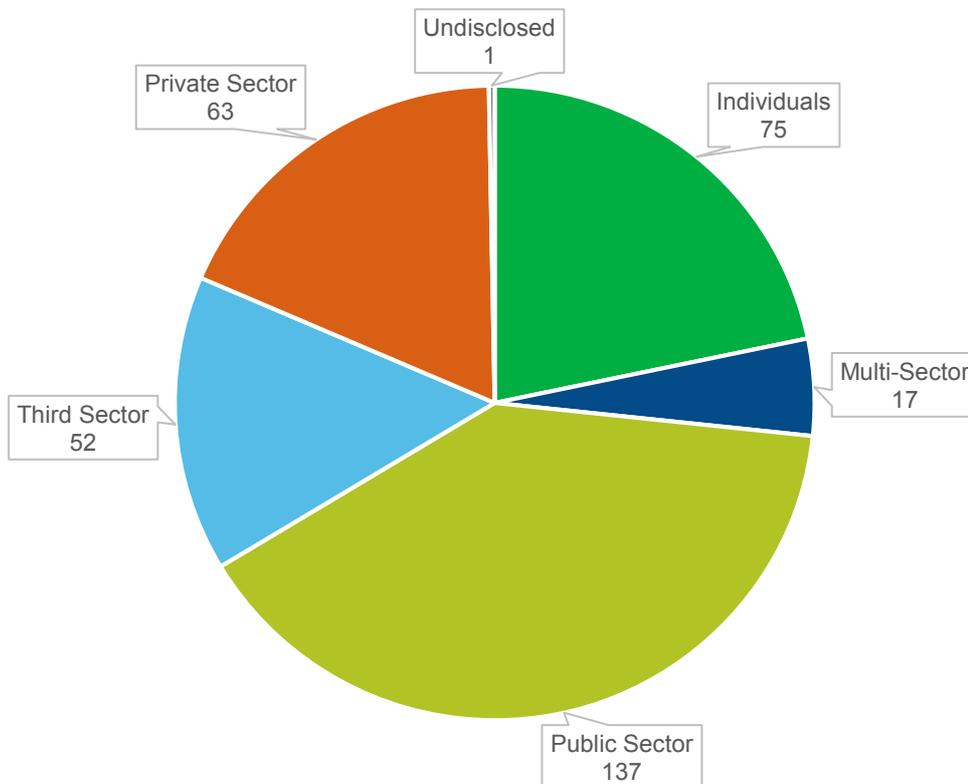
Having publicised the consultation widely, we believe that stakeholders and the general public had every opportunity to engage with and respond to the consultation.

Consultation responses

We received a total of 400 responses, of which 345 were online responses from external stakeholders. We also received 55 responses from stakeholders who commented on our proposals but did not answer the consultation questions directly. We have taken account of these responses wherever relevant and alongside the online responses to our specific questions discussed below.

Of the 400 responses, we received 130 responses to the questions on the draft strategic environmental assessment (SEA) environmental report. One of the respondents commented on the draft habitats regulations assessment (HRA) report.

Chart 1: A pie chart showing the number of consultation responses received by sector



Summary of responses to questions

The overall feedback from the consultation was that respondents welcomed the ambition, objectives and measures in the draft Strategy. The divergence of opinion was primarily in relation to the scale of 'agreement' with the proposals, rather than there being 'no agreement'. We see this as a really positive reflection of how we developed the draft Strategy with partners.

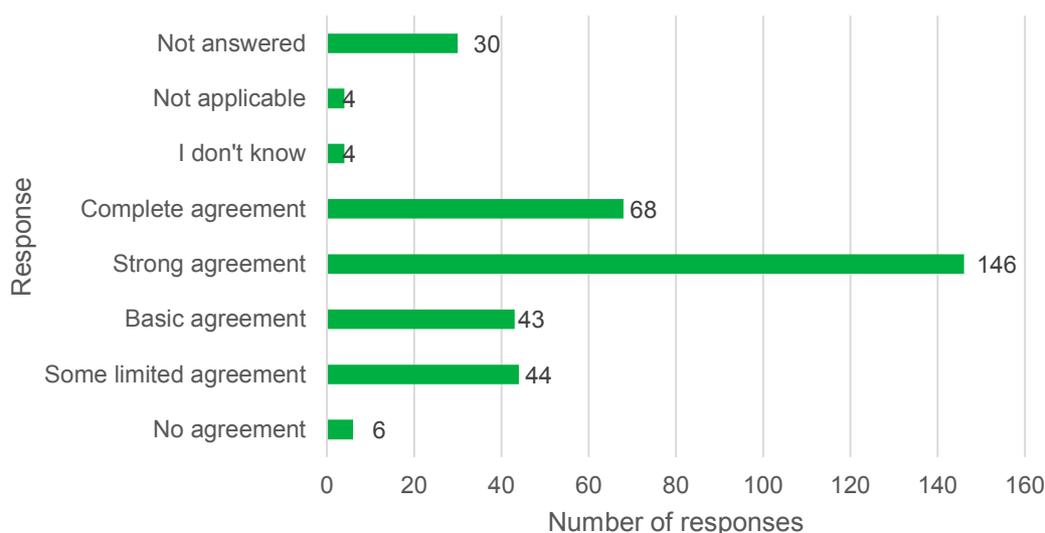
Strategy vision

Question 1: To what extent do you agree with the vision: a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100?

We asked for your views on the draft vision proposed in the Strategy for 'A nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change - today, tomorrow and to the year 2100'.

Of the 345 respondents, 257 (74%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this draft vision.

Chart 2: Consultation responses for question 1 (The "vision")



You said

The large majority of respondents agreed with the vision statement. Many agreed that the vision needs to look to the end of this century. Others had mixed views on what was meant by 'now' and 'tomorrow'.

Respondents were largely supportive of the Strategy's three ambitions.

A summary of additional points raised by the consultation responses included:

- the wording 'ready for' and 'resilient to' is open to different interpretations and needs further clarity
- the vision could better reflect the sustainability pillars, for example, economic growth, environmental improvement, or increased community resilience
- other respondents asked for the changing climate to feature more strongly

- there were concerns about the phrase 'flooding is horrendous' when it is accepted that flooding can offer wider environmental benefits
- there were questions regarding the title of the third ambition, 'a nation of climate champions' - although there was support for the outcomes there were questions regarding the extent to which a Strategy about flooding and coastal change strategy could create climate champions

We did

The final Strategy:

- retains the vision statement from the draft Strategy as it was strongly supported
- retains two of the ambitions from the draft Strategy as they were strongly supported - 'climate resilient places', 'today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate'
- amends the title of the third ambition to 'A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change' to better reflect the purpose of the Strategy
- improves text that describes the purpose and timescales for the vision, ambitions, long term objectives and shorter term measures
- explains the different approaches to flood and coastal resilience in the first ambition of the Strategy about 'climate resilient places'
- captures aspects of sustainable development throughout the objectives
- better reflects the need to adapt now to the impacts of climate change in the context setting chapter and subsequent chapters on the Strategy ambitions
- better reflects the role of nature based solutions to reduce flood risk, improve the natural environment and the importance of integrated water management

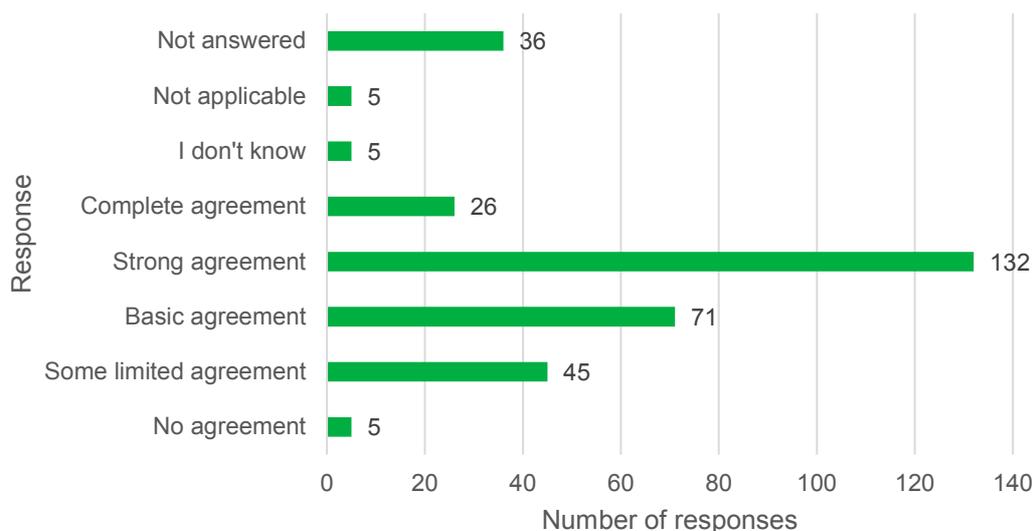
Environment Agency's strategic overview role

Question 2: To what extent do you agree with the Environment Agency's proposed strategic overview role as set out in the chapter 'setting the context for the draft Strategy'?

We asked for your views on the strategic overview role as set out in the chapter, 'setting the context for the draft Strategy'.

Of the 345 respondents, 229 (66%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with the proposals for how the Environment Agency implements its strategic overview role.

Chart 3: Consultation responses for question 2 (The Environment Agency's proposed strategic overview role)



You said

The majority of respondents recognised that it was essential for one organisation to have a strategic overview of flooding and coastal change. Nearly all responses agreed that the Environment Agency is the obvious choice for this role.

However, respondents also highlighted there were misunderstandings about the roles and responsibilities across RMAs. This added to the confusion about the difference between the Environment Agency's strategic overview and operational roles.

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- the Environment Agency's strategic overview should extend beyond risk management authorities to include others such as infrastructure providers, the third sector, and charities
- greater clarity is needed over how the Environment Agency implements the strategic overview role, in terms of how it both leads and supports others
- there should be more reference to the different sources of flooding, other than from rivers and the sea, particularly in the section describing the strategic overview role
- the strategic overview role needs to also support a broader contribution to climate resilience

We did

The final Strategy:

- clarifies the strategic overview role, and the expectations of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 - any significant changes to the strategic overview role would require legislative change
- better explains the activities that are undertaken by the Environment Agency in fulfilling the strategic overview role
- confirms the strategic overview role applies to all sources of flooding and coastal change, and emphasises the importance of data sharing and working with partners

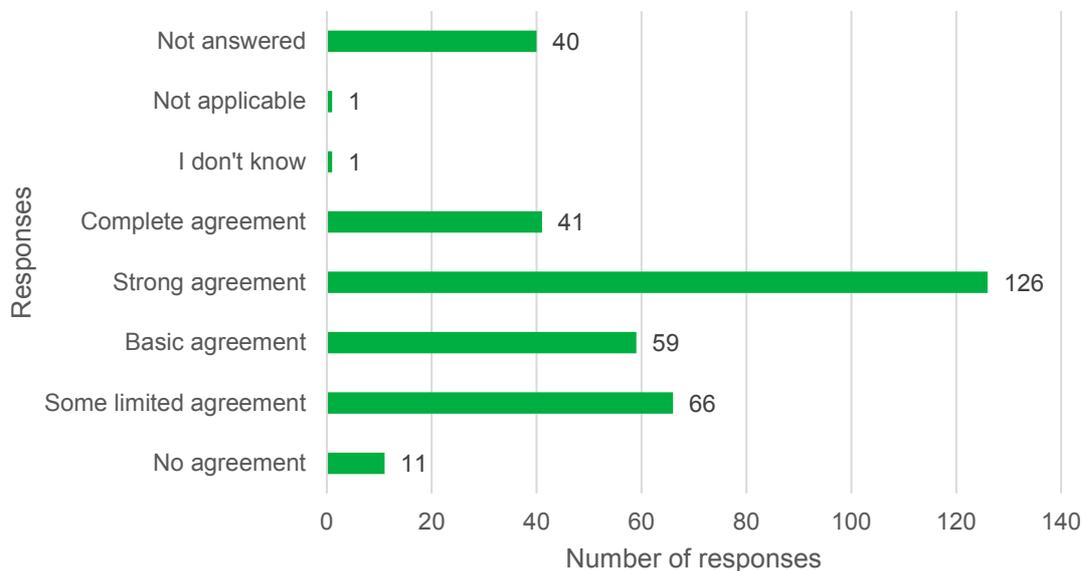
- demonstrates how the strategic overview role will support objectives in the Strategy that build more awareness, knowledge and resilience to future flooding and coastal change

Strategic objective 1.1 - concept of resilience standards

Question 3a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.1: Between now and 2050 the nation will be resilient to future flood and coastal risks. Over the next year the Environment Agency will work with partners to explore and develop the concept of standards for flood and coastal resilience.

Of the 345 respondents, 226 (66%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 4: Consultation responses for question 3a (Strategic objective 1.1)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- requests for clearer definitions about resilience and resilience standards and how the concept will be underpinned by evidence and governed
- calls for approaches to resilience to consider all place types and not just urbanised, highly populated areas or environmentally designated sites

We did

The final Strategy:

- clarifies what we mean by 'resilience' and introduces four approaches to flood and coastal resilience: 'improve place making', 'better protect', 'ready to respond' and 'recovery quickly'
- changes the language from resilience 'tools' to resilience 'actions'
- explains that resilience actions are practical actions that can be chosen by practitioners and policy makers to improve resilience to flooding and coastal change in local places

- describes how we will work closely with government and other partners to develop and consult on ways of measuring the effectiveness of different resilience actions in local places

Question 3b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.1, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- strong support for a national suite of tools, but also requests for further information on how resilience standards would work
- support for developing the concept of standards for resilience alongside requesting confirmation of who will be involved
- uncertainty about if and how resilience standards can keep up with future climate change

We did

The final Strategy:

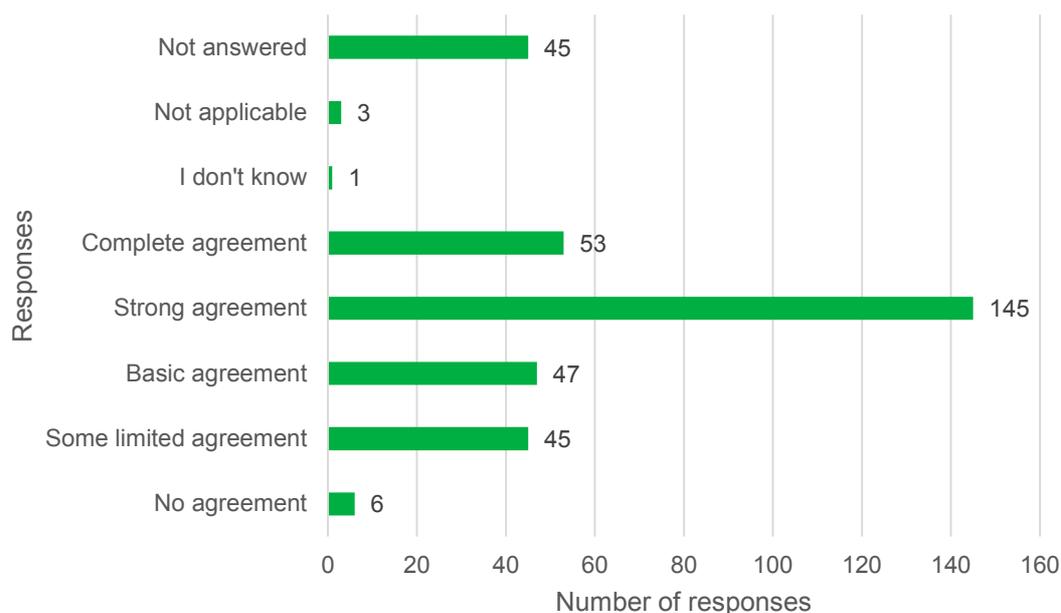
- provides examples of resilience 'actions' that people and places can use to improve resilience to flooding and coastal change
- recognises that every place is different and so the exact combination of resilience actions will be tailored to a particular place
- aligns the testing and delivery of resilience actions in places to the government's £200 million resilience fund (announced in Budget 2020)
- underlines the importance of thinking about resilience to flooding and coastal change and adaptation to future climate risks going hand in hand - it describes how approaches to resilience need to be monitored over time against changes in climate, growth projections and environmental conditions

Strategic objective 1.2 - adaptive approaches

Question 4a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.2: between now and 2050 risk management authorities will help places plan and adapt to flooding and coastal change across a range of climate futures?

Of the 345 respondents, 245 (71%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 5: Consultation responses for question 4a (Strategic objective 1.2)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- calls for the emphasis to be on people adapting rather than places, with clarification needed on how people will be involved in the adaptive pathways frontrunner work
- strong support for adaptive pathways but also queries about whether there is too much information about the process and not the benefits of adaptive pathways in this strategic objective

We did

The final Strategy:

- improves the description and case for adaptive pathways and how they will equip practitioners and policy makers to better plan for future flood and coastal risks and adapt to a changing climate - looking out to 2100 and beyond
- better describes how adaptive pathways will be developed with a range of partners - risk management authorities, infrastructure providers, other local partners and local communities

Question 4b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.2, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- uncertainty about how we will put adaptive pathways in place and the role that risk management authorities will play
- calls for frontrunner places to cover a range of flood risks at a variety of different locations and scales

- more emphasis on working with communities to incorporate local data and knowledge into adaptive planning and decision making
- confirming support for a national framework for adaptation, but it needs to be developed with risk management authorities, partners and local communities

We did

The final Strategy:

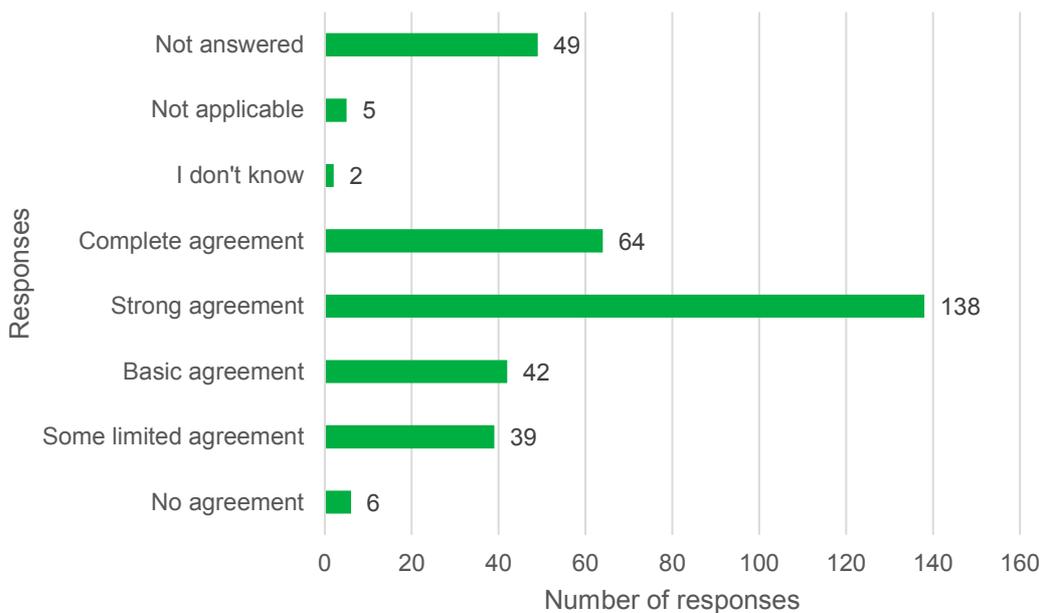
- clarifies that we will develop adaptive pathways with risk management authorities, local partners and communities across a range of geographies and contexts
- reassures that adaptive pathways (in range of different places around the country) will advocate local leadership and ensure that local people are involved
- explains how the learning and evaluation from the adaptive pathways will help develop national guidance, resources and tools to better integrate adaptation into projects, investments and strategic plans

Strategic objective 1.3 - use of water and resilience of the environment

Question 5a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.3: between now and 2030 all those involved in managing water will embrace and embed adaptive approaches to enhance the resilience of our environment to future flooding and drought?

Of the 345 respondents, 244 (71%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 6: Consultation responses for question 4b (Strategic objective 1.3)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- concerns that the draft Strategy missed opportunities to work towards net zero carbon from natural solutions, such as natural flood management and peatland restoration
- a call for a shared understanding between water companies and other risk management authorities on resilience and adaptation to flooding and coastal change
- a need for more emphasis on the benefits of working with natural processes and to extend this to urban environments, for example, green infrastructure
- a call to strengthen and extend the text on working with farmers particularly in low lying areas
- support for greater integration of strategic water management and the benefits to both flood and drought resilience as well as the natural environment

We did

The final Strategy:

- provides more detail on the topics of environmental protection and enhancement, agriculture and water management issues, and the importance of catchment based approaches
- presents a new strategic objective to describe how nature based solutions can support climate resilient places as well as help us meet carbon reduction targets
- presents a new strategic objective to suggest how risk management authorities can help farmers and landowners adapt their businesses and practices to be more resilient
- presents a new strategic objective that more clearly articulates the role of water companies as risk management authorities in supporting both flood and drought resilience

Question 5b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.3, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- a request for the lessons learnt from implementing natural flood management to be shared widely
- an appeal for measures to incentivise working with natural processes and securing additional benefits such as to local environmental quality
- calls for a greater alignment of planning and funding cycles between flood risk and water company management

We did

The final Strategy:

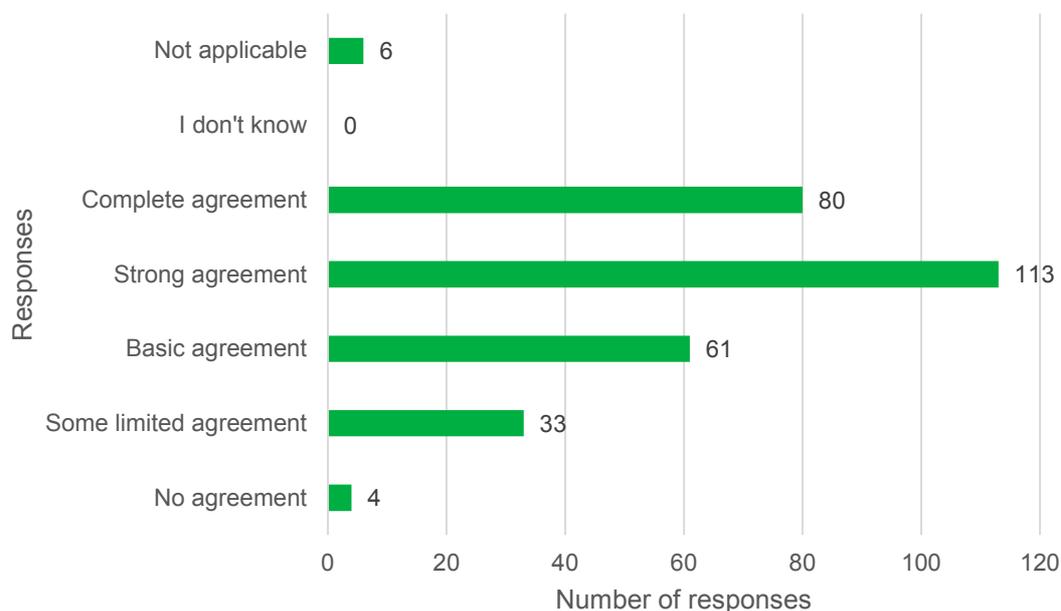
- improves text on learning lessons between partners and communities on the effectiveness of natural based solutions such as natural flood management
- highlights how nature based solutions will support other outcomes such as improving local water quality, enhancing biodiversity and encouraging wellbeing
- improves the text and measures on how water and sewerage companies, as risk management authorities, can support flood and coastal resilience through their strategic planning

Strategic objective 1.4 - enhancing the natural, built and historic environments

Question 6a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.4: between now and 2030 risk management authorities will enhance the natural, built and historic environments so we leave it in a better state for the next generation?

Of the 345 respondents, 254 (74%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 7: Consultation responses for question 6a (Strategic objective 1.4)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- calls for the final Strategy to balance the environmental outcomes proposed with other outcomes, such as safeguarding food security
- support to seek flood and coastal management improvements which provide multiple benefits for people and wildlife and to make this normal practice
- requests for more specific information on how we will monitor progress on the environmental measures

We did

The final Strategy:

- presents a new objective on how risk management authorities should work with farmers and landowners to encourage agricultural practices that reduce flood risk and support food security outcomes
- highlights the importance of maximising opportunities to secure additional environmental benefits across flood and coastal management projects rather than only focussing on statutory designated sites
- proposes how the Strategy's objectives and measures will be reported on to measure progress under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 – the 'Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Report' (the 'section 18' reports)

Question 6b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.4, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- calls for nature based solutions to better highlight initiatives such as peat restoration
- requests to bring forward the start and completion dates of the measures

We did

The final Strategy:

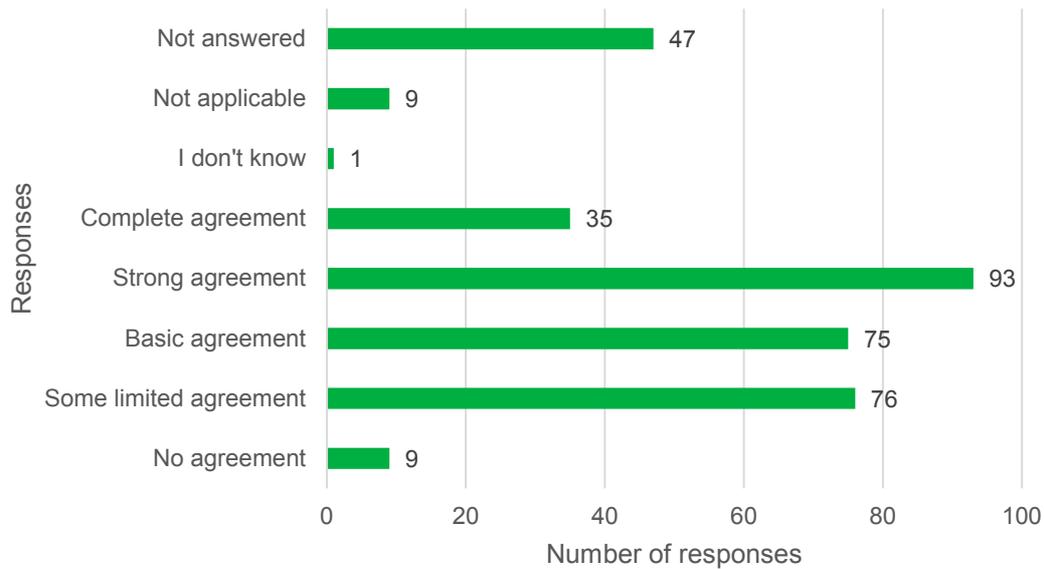
- emphasises the importance of restoring wetland and peatland to help us reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion and store carbon
- adjusts the timings to bring forward measures to commence once we have published the final Strategy and/or alongside the start of the next long term flood and coastal risk management capital programme in 2021

Strategic objective 1.5 - use of funding and finance

Question 7a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.5: between now and 2030 risk management authorities will use funding and financing from new sources to invest in making the nation resilient to flooding and coastal change?

Of the 345 respondents, 203 (59%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 8: Consultation responses for question 7a (Strategic objective 1.5)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- calls to clarify where other sources of funding could come from and questions about the current partnership funding rules
- requests for reassurance that additional funding from other sources will not replace government funding
- suggestions to learn lessons from private finance and Green Deal initiatives and to reflect on these in the final Strategy

We did

The final Strategy:

- presents the importance of finding other funding and financing sources in a new chapter titled 'Future Risk and Investment'
- improves the text to explain that most partnership funding contributions come from the public sector and that in future more private contributions will also be needed
- presents different case studies for sourcing funding from non-public sector sources including infrastructure providers, community groups and developers
- proposes a measure for risk management authorities to work with other public and private sector partners to trial and learn lessons from new and innovative financing

Question 7b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.5, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses included:

- observations that risk management authorities will need to get new skills and resources to achieve the strategic objective and measure
- comments that the Strategy should explore 'who pays' and the role of beneficiaries, although respondents were divided on who should pay

We did

The final Strategy:

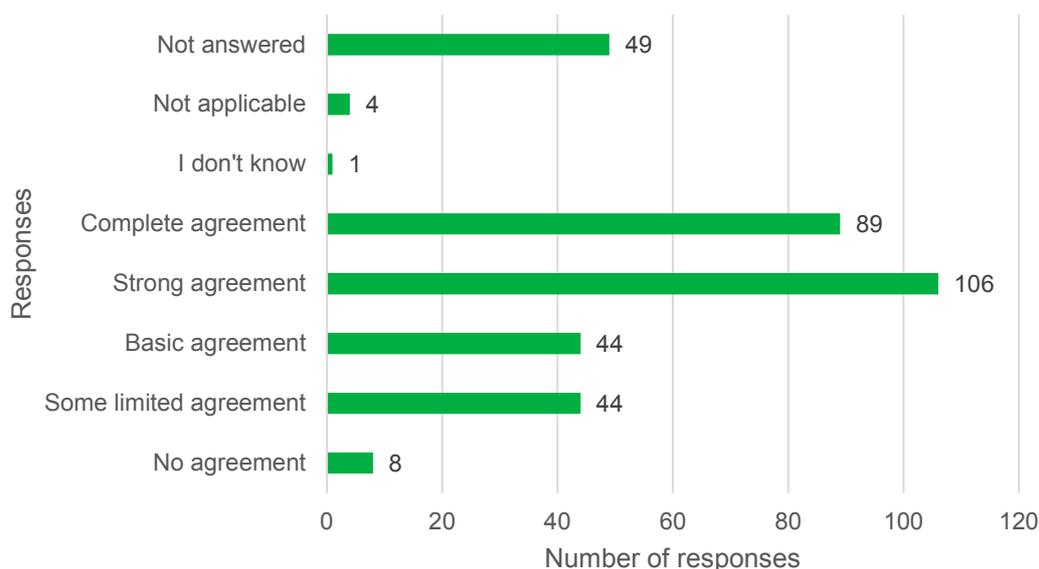
- highlights the need for risk management authorities to build their skills and capabilities in securing new and innovative funding and financing for flood and coastal resilience
- recognises that funding cannot all come from public sources and that we will need to make greater use of funding and financing from other sources and provides case studies

Strategic objective 2.1 - new development and placed based resilience

Question 8a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.1: between now and 2030 all new development will contribute to achieving place based resilience to flooding and coastal change?

Of the 345 respondents, 231 (69%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 9: Consultation responses for question 8a (Strategic objective 2.1)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- uncertainty about the Environment Agency's role as a statutory planning consultee advisor versus the Environment Agency's role as a risk management authority and infrastructure provider

- uncertainty about the Environment Agency's role where it supports sustainable growth alongside its statutory consultee role as a planning advisor on flood and coastal risk
- requests to clarify the findings from the Environment Agency's long term investment scenarios (LTIS) study about future development in the floodplain and the implications
- request to reference coastal spatial planning matters better in the Strategy

We did

The final Strategy:

- better articulates the Environment Agency's role and responsibilities as a spatial planning advisor
- provides greater information on the findings from the long term investment scenarios study about future development in the floodplain in the 'Future Risk and Investment' chapter
- provides more detail on the role for coast protection authorities in informing spatial planning decisions on the coast

Question 8b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.1, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- a call to clarify the measures presented to ensure they are 'SMART' (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time-related)
- request to clarify what is meant by 'place based' in the context of the Strategy
- request to better explain government policy on flood risk and development
- request that the text on development covers all scales of new development and clarifies how regeneration can improve the resilience of existing developments

We did

The final Strategy:

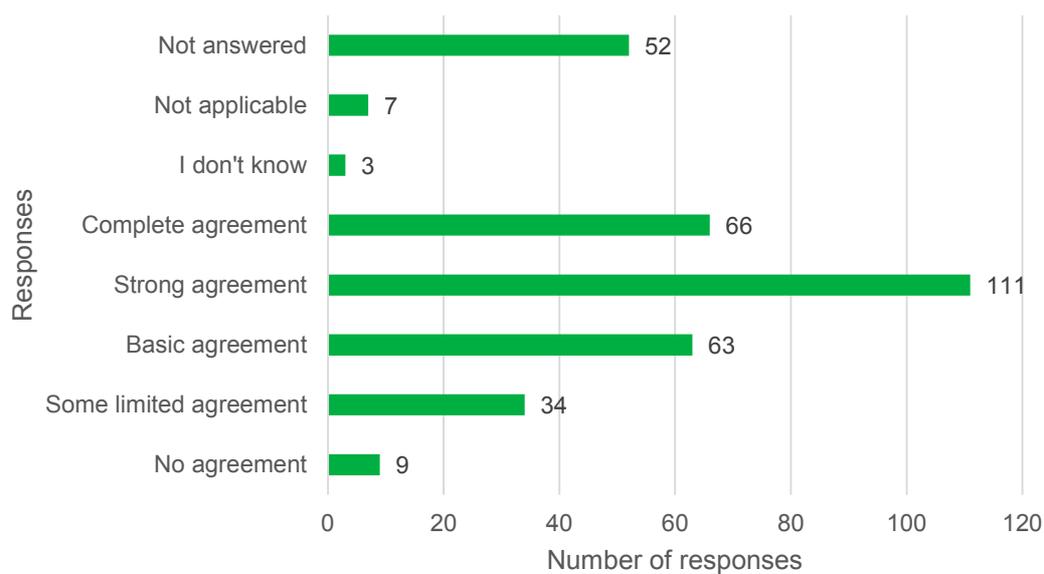
- presents new timescales for measures throughout the final Strategy to ensure they are SMART
- better defines key terms using in the Strategy including the 'place based approach' and 'new development'
- better articulates current government planning policy on flood risk and development from the national planning policy framework
- describes the Environment Agency's strategic overview role in terms of informing spatial planning decisions at neighbourhood, local and strategic scales

Strategic objective 2.2 - environmental net gain

Question 9a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.2: between now and 2030 all new development will seek to support environmental net gain in local places?

Of the 345 respondents, 240 (70%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 10: Consultation responses for question 9a (Strategic objective 2.2)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- greater clarity about the role of risk management authorities in supporting the achievement of environmental net gain
- calls for a clearer definition of environmental net gain and what it will achieve

We did

The final Strategy:

- improves the description about how risk management authorities will plan all flood and coastal defence projects and programmes to deliver biodiversity gain
- improves the description of how risk management authorities will work with developers and planners to maximise the opportunities for flood and coastal resilience as part of contributing to environmental net gain for development proposals
- clarifies the definitions for net biodiversity gain and net environmental gain from government policy documents and the Environment Bill

Question 9b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.2, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- highlight the importance of early engagement with developers and planners to achieve environmental net gain
- emphasise the importance of working with Local Nature Partnerships and other local environmental organisations to achieve environmental net gain
- calls to revise the measures in response to the wider government mandate on net biodiversity gain

We did

The final Strategy:

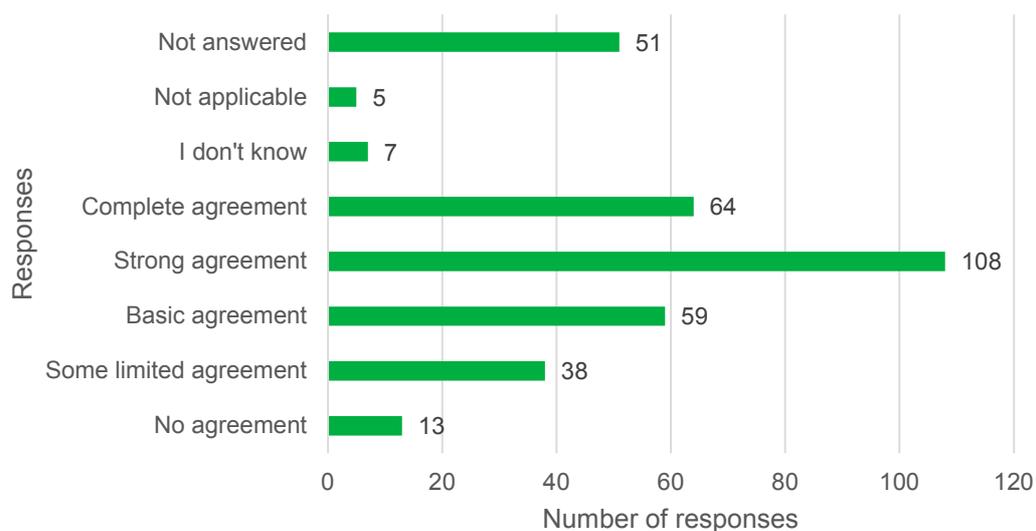
- encourages risk management authorities to work with developers, planners and other local partners, including environmental organisations, to maximise opportunities to contribute towards environmental net gain
- clarifies that risk management authorities will plan all flood and coastal defence projects and programmes to deliver biodiversity gain, in line with the government's mandate

Strategic objective 2.3 - supporting sustainable economic growth and local regeneration

Question 10a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.3: between now and 2030 all risk management authorities will contribute positively to local economic regeneration and sustainable growth through their investments in flooding and coastal change projects?

Of the 345 respondents, 231 (67%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 11: Consultation responses for question 10a (strategic objective 2.3)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- support in principle with the strategic objective and supporting sustainable economic growth and local regeneration
- calls to better share information between risk management authorities and local authority planners and developers to identify investment opportunities in sustainable new growth

We did

The final Strategy:

- includes clearer messages about how investments in flooding and coastal projects can help to enable growth in a sustainable and climate resilient way
- outlines how risk management authorities are well placed to work with developers and planners to identify the synergies between investment in flood and coastal projects and new development plans

Question 10b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.3, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the issues raised by the consultation responses, included:

- calls for the text to confirm that investments in flood and coastal change projects should contribute to local regeneration in both rural and urban areas
- requests that the text highlights the role of investments in flood and coastal change projects in supporting sustainable growth rather than just regeneration
- asking for a review of timescales, as respondents believed that measures reflect activity already taking place and are not ambitious enough

We did

The final Strategy:

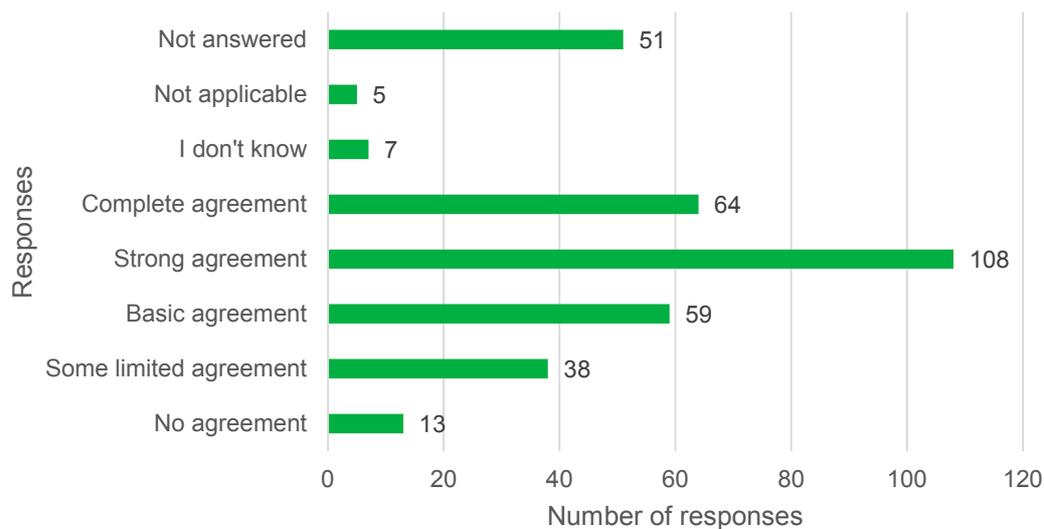
- acknowledges that investment in flood and coastal resilience in places of national economic importance, such as cities, major estuaries or ports, can contribute to national economic growth
- outlines that for some local economies the focus is about improving flood and coastal resilience to help to avoid further local economic decline following successive flooding events
- has updated the measure to commence from 2021 which is aligned to the start of the next flood and coastal risk management capital programme

Strategic objective 2.4 - build back better and in better places

Question 11a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.4: between now and 2050 places affected by flooding and coastal change will be 'built back better' and in better places?

Of the 345 respondents, 231 (67%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 12: Consultation responses for question 11a (Strategic objective 2.4)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- calls for clearer language and definitions around new concepts such as 'build back better' and 'build back better and in better places'
- a request that the concept of building back better relates to all property and infrastructure and not only household property flood resilience
- the need to be clearer about how insurance and financial institutions can be more involved in supporting building back better

We did

The final Strategy:

- better explains the concept of build back better and how it applies to homes, businesses and infrastructure
- better explains how risk management authorities can help places 'build back better' and 'transition and adapt' to future flooding and coastal change (in the strategic objectives in 'climate resilient places' Ambition 1 and 'today's infrastructure in tomorrow's climate' Ambition 2)
- outlines the role that the insurance and financial sector can play in helping to stimulate and support the market in property flood resilience measures and overcome financial barriers

Question 11b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.4, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, include:

- concern about the scale of behaviour change that will be needed to achieve the objective and measures
- requests that the Strategy is more explicit about the need for shoreline management plan policies to be better reflected in spatial planning documents and decisions
- concerns that risk management authorities provide sufficient support to communities facing coastal erosion where they may need to relocate out of harm's way

We did

The final Strategy:

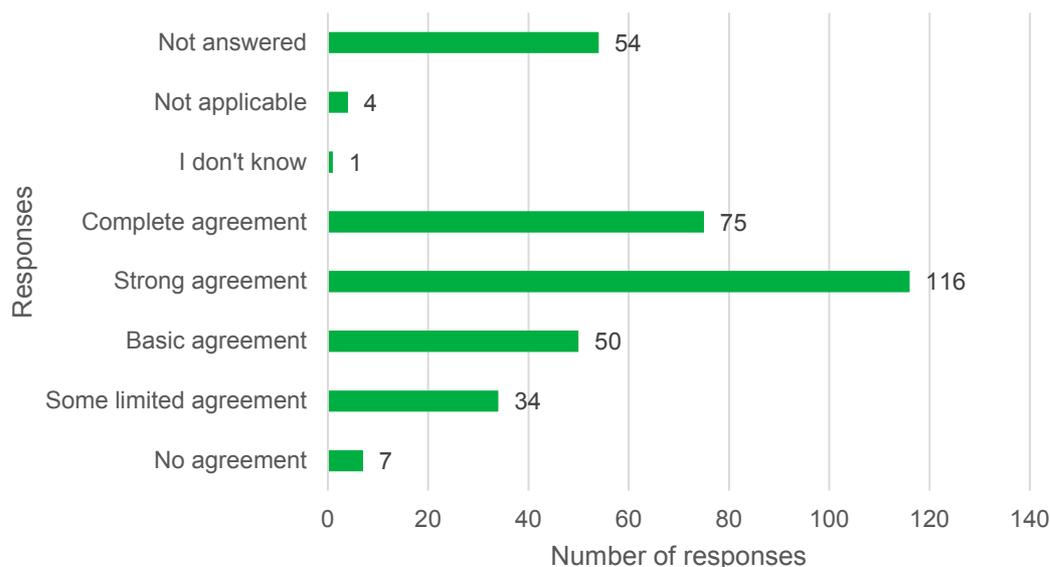
- better recognises the behavioural barriers to building back better which is explored further under the 'nation ready to respond and adapt' Ambition 3 text
- introduces a new measure for the Environment Agency and coast protection authorities to advise planning authorities on how shoreline management plans can better inform planning policies for the coast
- introduces a new measure for how risk management authorities should support coastal communities to transition and adapt to a changing climate, where the scale and pace of future flood and coastal change is very significant

Strategic objective 2.5 - flooding and coastal infrastructure resilience and owner responsibility

Question 12a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.5: between now and 2030 all flooding and coastal infrastructure owners will understand the responsibilities they have to support flood and coastal resilience in places?

Of the 345 respondents, 241 (70%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 13: Consultation responses for question 12a (Strategic objective 2.5)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- requests that the Strategy is clear that there needs to be both best practice guidance on local flood infrastructure management and record keeping
- calls for more information sharing across risk management authorities
- the importance of a nationally consistent approach for recording all flood and coastal defences and producing regular condition assessments

We did

The final Strategy:

- clarifies the legal framework around the current responsibilities of owners of flood and coastal defences
- commits the Environment Agency to working with government, lead local flood authorities and other expert bodies to develop best practice guidance for local flood defence management and record keeping
- identifies the need for a common approach for inspecting and managing all flood and coastal defences to improve information sharing and collaboration between owners of flood and coastal defences

Question 12b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.5, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, include:

- the need for greater information sharing across risk management authorities about the condition of their flood and coastal defences

- confirmation that the measures are consistent with the recommendations in the government's Surface Water Management Action Plan
- clarification sought on how reservoirs are considered in the Strategy

We did

The final Strategy:

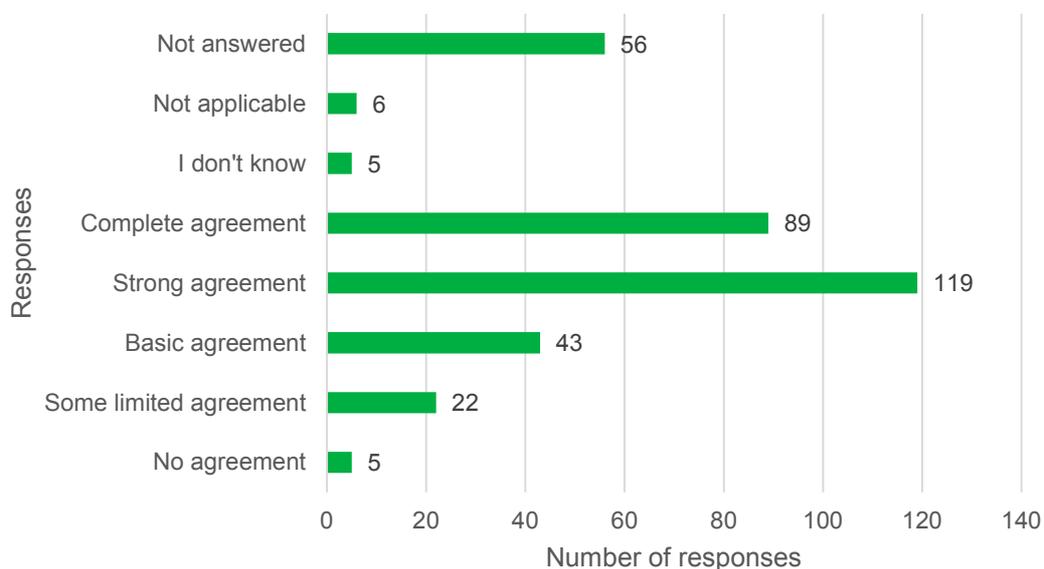
- confirms that risk management authorities should share best practice, maintain consistent records and share information about their flood and coastal defences
- confirms that the measures are consistent with the government's Surface Water Management Action Plan
- includes a new strategic objective to cover the responsibilities for owners and operators of large raised reservoirs

Strategic objective 2.6 - wider infrastructure resilience

Question 13a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.6: now and 2050 the Environment Agency and risk management authorities will work with infrastructure providers to ensure all infrastructure investment is resilient to future flooding and coastal change?

Of the 345 respondents, 251 (73%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 14: Consultation responses for question 13a (Strategic objective 2.6)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- requests to make the link between this strategic objective and the Environment Agency's strategic overview role stronger
- concern that the timescale 'by 2050' for infrastructure to be resilient is too far into the future and not ambitious enough

- calls for stronger governance and assurance to be in place to track progress on how infrastructure providers are contributing to this strategic objective
- greater clarity sought on the role of water and sewerage companies in ensuring their infrastructure is resilient to flooding and coastal change

We did

The final Strategy:

- clarifies that the Environment Agency's strategic overview role includes providing advice, evidence and data, to help infrastructure providers be more resilient to future flooding and coastal change
- articulates the need for risk management authorities to work in partnership with infrastructure providers (for road, rail and utilities) to achieve this strategic objective
- retains the 'between now and 2050' timescale for the strategic objective because this is realistic given the scale and complexity of the objective for all infrastructure to be resilient - the 'between now' timescale also encourages progress to start being made as soon as the Strategy is finalised
- introduces a new strategic objective that covers the role of water and sewerage infrastructure and the role of water companies as risk management authorities

Question 13b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.6, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- considerable support for a 'task force' or another mechanism for sharing learning across infrastructure providers
- the importance of the Environment Agency learning from other infrastructure providers and sharing lessons to inform next steps
- emphasising that progress may be affected because there are limited statutory levers and opportunities for the Environment Agency to influence the investments of other infrastructure providers in the short term
- clarity sought on the role of the water regulators in supporting and enabling more water resilient infrastructure

We did

The final Strategy:

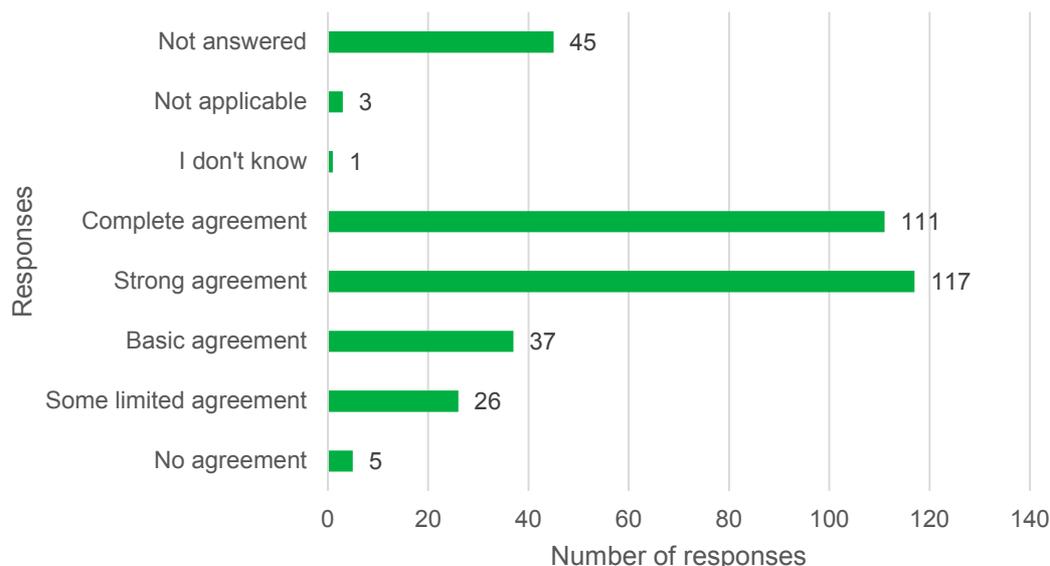
- updates the text to reflect the findings from the Green Finance Taskforce (2018) and National Infrastructure Commission's work (2019) on infrastructure resilience
- emphasises the importance of risk management authorities working with infrastructure providers to provide advice and information to inform their investment decisions
- outlines the role of water company regulators, Ofwat and the Environment Agency, in providing guidance to water companies on how their strategic planning can contribute to long term flood and coastal resilience

Strategic objective 3.1 - involving younger people in resilience

Question 14a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.1: between now and 2030 young people at 16 should understand the impact of flooding and coastal change, but also recognise the potential solutions for their place, and opportunities for career development?

Of the 345 respondents, 265 (77%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 15: Consultation responses for question 14a (Strategic objective 3.1)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- highlighting support for 16 year olds to understand flooding and coastal change issues, but with a preference to extend this to Key Stage 2, during primary school years
- concern that the final Strategy should ensure that everyone can learn from flooding and coastal resilience, not just children
- suggestions for extra-curricular activities to raise awareness of flood and coastal risks and to broaden this further - for example, including youth workers, scouts, and guides

We did

The final Strategy:

- puts greater focus on the role of communication, engagement and education across all parts of society
- makes clearer links between school education, universities and the skills the flooding and coastal change sector will need in the future

Question 14b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.1, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- confirming that it will be important to work with educational professionals to design educational materials on flooding and coastal resilience
- highlighting offers of help from partner organisations who are currently engaging with younger people on flooding and climate change topics
- highlighting the need for greater coordination of the skills and capabilities that risk management authorities need to deliver the Strategy's ambitions

We did

The final Strategy:

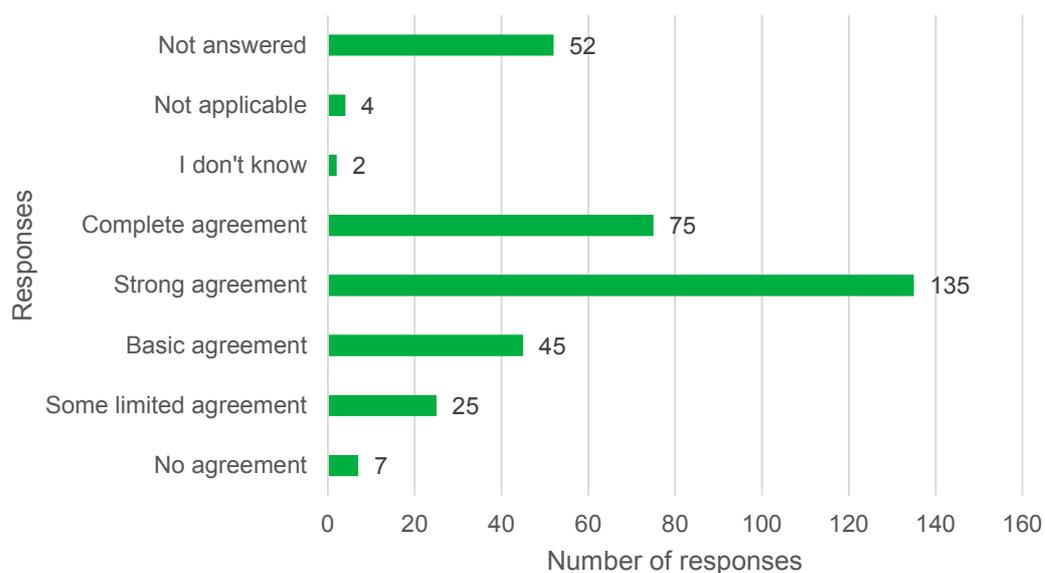
- includes a new strategic objective which covers how the Environment Agency will gain greater oversight of skills and capabilities across the flooding and coastal change sector which includes working with education providers

Strategic objective 3.2 - moving from awareness to action

Question 15a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.2: between now and 2030 people will understand the potential impact of flooding and coastal change on them and take action?

Of the 345 respondents, 265 (77%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 16: Consultation responses for question 15a (Strategic objective 3.2)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- raising awareness about the scale of behavioural change needed for climate change and flooding to become a priority issue for most individuals
- flagging that to move beyond awareness to taking action, people need to understand how they can help themselves to be more resilient
- observations about the need for risk management authorities to be more inclusive of local communities and civil society in their decision making
- highlighting the importance of using digital tools to transform how we communicate risk from flooding and coastal change

We did

The final Strategy:

- emphasises the importance of behaviour change in ensuring people not only understand and know their responsibilities but also know how to take action
- provides more information on how risk management authorities can use digital tools to better engage with a wider range of the population
- highlights the importance of local flood groups who act as a conduit for the community and also build confidence and capability to take action
- underlines the importance of giving local people a voice in how flooding and coastal change resilience is achieved and how to influence the decision making of risk management authorities
- is clearer on the information and support people need to help prepare and respond to flooding incidents

Question 15b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.2, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of issues points by the consultation responses included:

- wanting more risk management authorities to use digital tools to better communicate flooding and coastal change sooner
- requesting that the role of the third sector is better recognised in supporting local flood groups and local communities
- suggesting it would be beneficial to confirm support for communities wanting to develop and test local flood plans

We did

The final Strategy:

- better captures the opportunities to use digital tools for raising awareness of flood and coastal risks for people living and working in flood risk areas

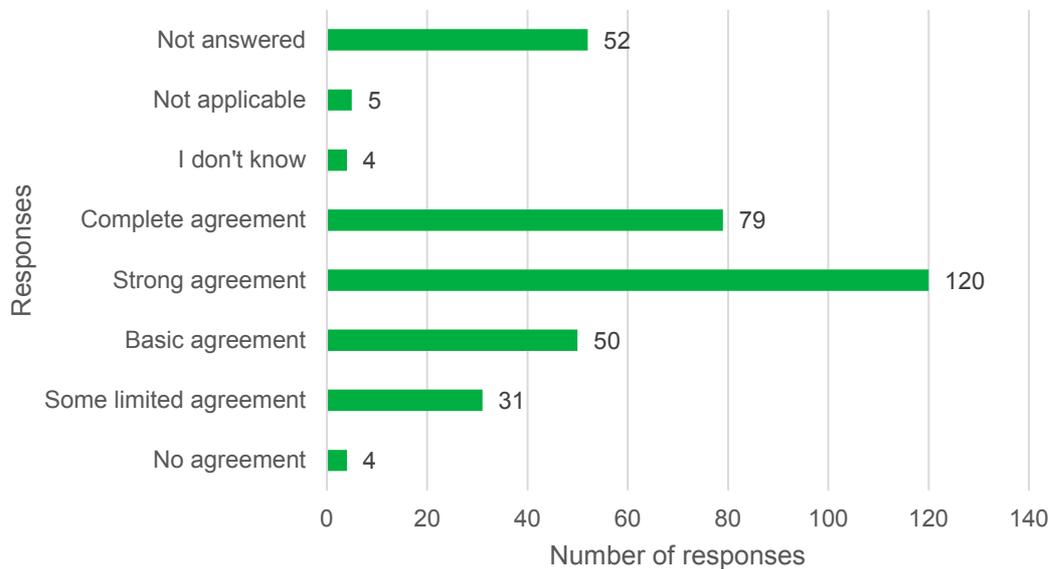
- recognises the role of the third sector in supporting local flood groups alongside risk management authorities
- confirms that risk management authorities will support people living in places at high risk of flooding to develop and test local flood plans

Strategic objective 3.3 - response and recovery

Question 16a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.3: between now and 2030 people will receive a consistent and coordinated level of support from all those involved in response and recovery from flooding and coastal change?

Of the 345 respondents, 249 (72%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 17: Consultation responses for question 16a (Strategic objective 3.3)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- strong support for the strategic objective but with calls for the final Strategy to improve how flood and coastal incident response and recovery can contribute to more resilient places
- support for all parties involved in response and recovery - including risk management authorities and emergency responders - to provide consistent and co-ordinated support
- support for continuing to improve the coverage of the Environment Agency's flood warning service
- more information sought on the role of the insurance sector in enabling building back better following flooding to aid recovery

We did

The final Strategy:

- includes 'ready to respond' and 'recover quickly' as two of the four approaches to helping people and places achieve greater flood and coastal resilience - as described in the climate resilient places Ambition 1 chapter and the nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change Ambition 3 chapter
- explains how risk management authorities, local responders, the insurance sector and other partners should work together to help people and businesses build back better and recover more quickly after flooding
- explains the Environment Agency's plans to expand its flood warning service to reach all places at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea by 2022

Question 16b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.3, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- the need to better reference Flood Re and its role helping to provide affordable insurance to people living in areas at flood risk
- the need to better reference the impact of flooding on peoples' mental health wellbeing
- the need to better reference to the role of the third sector in supporting response and recovery efforts in local communities

We did

The final Strategy:

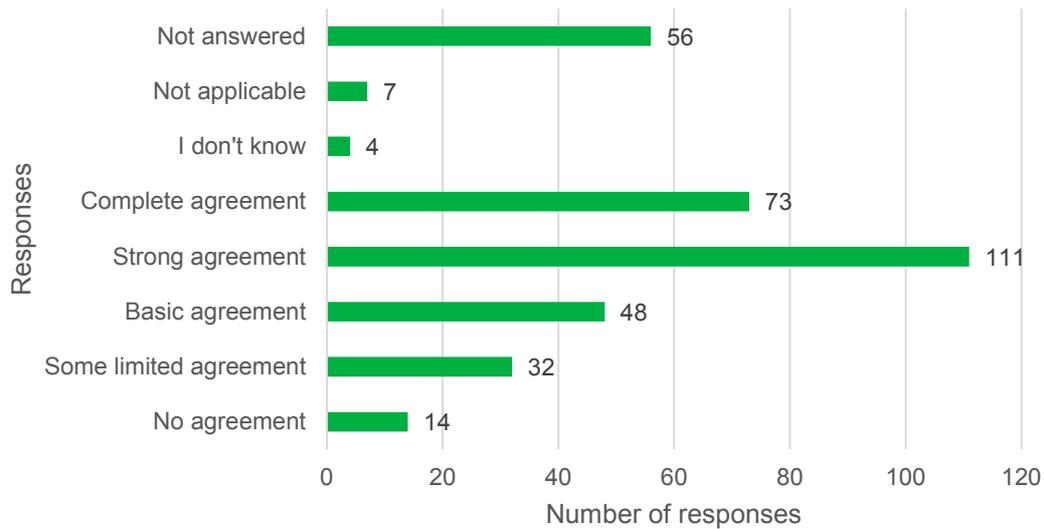
- recognises the role of Flood Re and the wider insurance sector in supporting flood recovery and helping people to 'get back to normal' as quickly as possible
- includes evidence on the link between flooding events and mental health and wellbeing
- better references the role of the third sector in working with emergency responders and other public bodies, following significant flood events

Strategic objective 3.4 - being a world leader

Question 17a: To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.4: between now and 2030 the nation will be recognised as world leader in managing flooding and coastal change, as well as developing and attracting talent to create resilient places?

Of the 345 respondents, 232 (67%) were in complete, strong or basic agreement with this proposed strategic objective.

Chart 18: Consultation responses for question 17a (Strategic objective 3.4)



You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- some respondents recommended having the topics of being 'world leading' and 'attracting talent' handled separately rather than under the same strategic objective
- other respondents outlined that innovation will be central to meeting this strategic objective, but the text and measures did not demonstrate this sufficiently
- other respondents asked whether leading research work should come under this strategic objective

We did

The final Strategy:

- includes a new strategic objective that encompasses being recognised as a world leader in researching and managing flooding and coastal change
- includes a new strategic objective on the Environment Agency taking an oversight role for monitoring the skills and capabilities needed to deliver on the Strategy's ambitions
- puts greater emphasis on the importance of innovation in driving the future climate solutions we will need, such meeting the government's zero carbon target

Question 17b: Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.4, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

You said

Some of the points raised by the consultation responses, included:

- requests examples of how we are already world leading
- highlights the opportunities to learn from and engage more with academic and other institutions that have world leading status

We did

The final Strategy:

- cites how Research Councils and wider academia can forge research collaborations and undertake world leading research into the future challenges posed by flooding and coastal change
- includes examples of how we as a nation are already world leading on the international stage with regard to researching and managing flooding and coastal change

Any other comments

Question 18: Please provide any other comments

We received a wide range of additional comments and points in answer to question 18. The majority were either repeated messages, extremely specific, related to localised issues or raising awareness of work that the respondent was undertaking. Respondents also used this question to provide offers of help to support implementing the final Strategy.

We have considered these comments and wherever relevant incorporated them into how we have updated the Strategy following consultation.

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)

The consultation included 3 questions on the SEA environmental report. The questions asked:

- do you agree with the conclusions of the environmental assessment?
- are there any further significant environmental effects (positive or negative) of the draft Strategy you think should be considered?
- are there further mitigations for potential negative effects or opportunities to achieve positive effects that should be considered for the final national FCERM Strategy?

There were over 130 responses to the questions on the SEA environmental report. A wide range of respondents commented across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

This included responses from Historic England and Natural England who are the statutory consultation bodies in England for the SEA. We also received responses from:

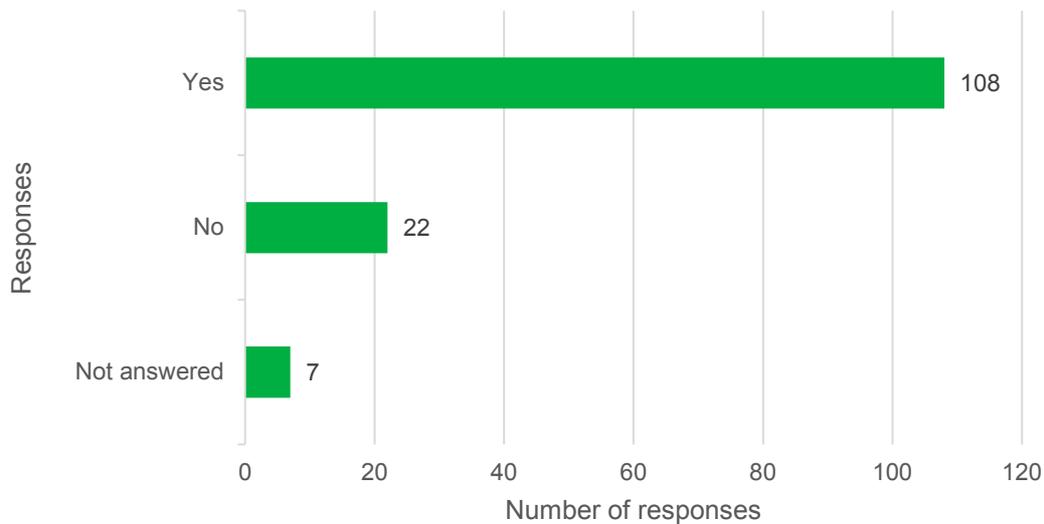
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) was also consulted to ensure we took any potential cross border effects into account.

Question 1: Do you agree with the conclusions of the environmental assessment?

The vast majority of respondents (79%) who answered question 1 agreed with the conclusions of the environmental assessment.

Chart 19: Consultation responses for SEA question 1



You said

The points raised by the consultation responses, related to:

- the type and location of potential environmental effects and their variation at the local level
- the Strategy's approach to considering climate change, planning and improving the environment
- proposals for monitoring the Strategy's environmental effects

We did

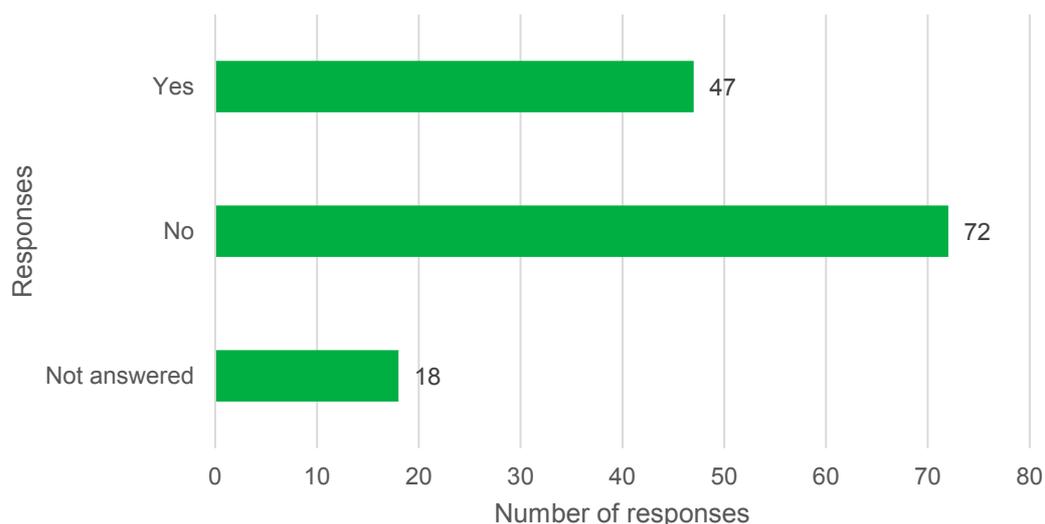
The final Strategy:

- recognises that specific plans, strategies and projects will need environmental assessments at the local, site based level, to detail any potential positive or negative effects on the environment in different places
- includes a new section on the changing climate which outlines the latest evidence
- provides more information on the role of risk management authorities in planning and refers to government planning policy relevant to flooding and coastal change
- provides examples of how investment in managing flood and coastal change can contribute to protecting and enhancing the environment
- will be accompanied by a separate document - called the statement of environmental particulars (SOEP), as required by the SEA process
- addresses SOEP findings, which captures the SEA environmental report and consultation responses findings, and indicates arrangements for monitoring the final Strategy's potential environmental effects
- presents in the SOEP further mitigations for potential negative effects or opportunities to achieve positive effects in how the final Strategy is implemented

Question 2: Are there any further significant environmental effects (positive or negative) of the draft strategy you think should be considered?

Over a half of respondents (53%) did not identify any further significant environmental effects of the draft Strategy that we needed to consider. Just over a third of respondents (34%) identified additional suggestions.

Chart 20: Consultation responses for SEA question 2



You said

The points raised by the consultation responses, related to:

- the positive effects of nature based solutions, including natural flood management approaches
- potential effects on natural landscapes, different types of habitats and species, carbon emissions and people's health and wellbeing
- the benefits of involving stakeholders to help identify potential effects at the local level

We did

The final Strategy:

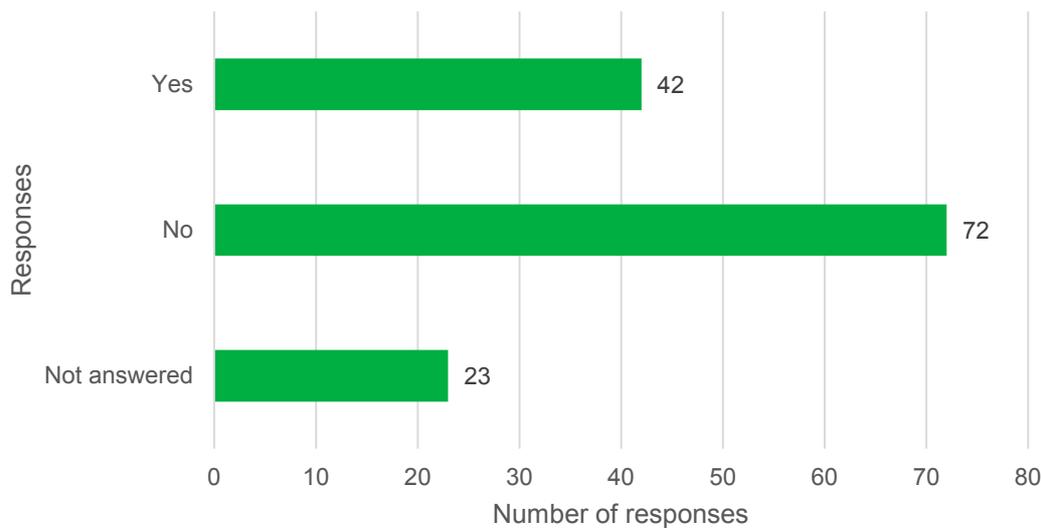
- provides further support for nature based solutions to manage and adapt to flooding and coastal change, and highlights the environmental benefits of solutions such as natural flood management
- refers to local level, site based assessments of r specific plans, strategies and projects as explained in our response to SEA question 1
- encourages risk management authorities to work with Natural England and others to develop new approaches to conserve protected sites, species and natural landscapes
- gives greater emphasis on people's health and wellbeing as well as helping to reduce carbon emissions
- encourages more work with catchment partnerships and other environmental organisations to understand the needs of stakeholders involved in managing flooding and coastal change

- presents more detail of how the final Strategy takes account of the SEA environmental report and consultation responses in the SOEP

Question 3: Are there further mitigations for potential negative effects or opportunities to achieve positive effects that should be considered for the final national FCERM Strategy?

Over half of the respondents (53%) did not identify any additional mitigation measures or enhancement opportunities. A third of respondents identified additional suggestions.

Chart 21: Consultation responses for SEA question 3



You said

The points raised by the consultation responses, related to:

- the need for more nature based solutions and encouraging land management practices that contribute to resilience
- the importance of taking forward actions in river basin management plans for improving the water environment
- improving engagement and support for working with communities and other stakeholders

We did

The final Strategy:

- includes a new objective and supporting measures on agriculture and land management encouraging risk management authorities to work with farmers and land managers
- refers to objectives set out in river basin management plans and encourages risk management authorities to support government ambitions to improve water environments
- includes more measures that involve local communities in understanding and managing flooding and coastal change, such as setting up local flood groups

- commits to sharing learning and best practice when working with communities and encourages risk management authorities to invest in relevant skills they need to support community and local partner engagement

More detail of how the final Strategy takes account of the SEA environmental report and consultation responses can be found in the SOEP.

Habitats regulations assessment (HRA)

We published a draft habitats regulations assessment (HRA) report alongside the draft Strategy. We invited consultees to provide their comments on the HRA by email.

We received one response from Natural England, which was supportive of the HRA. We also worked closely with Natural England to finalise the HRA alongside the final Strategy.

Next steps

Our aim is to publish the final Strategy in the summer of 2020, after Parliament has scrutinised it.

By March 2021, we will develop an action plan to help progress the measures within the final Strategy in the coming years. The action plan will be developed with risk management authorities, such as local authorities, and other partners.

Any individual or organisation who would like to follow up on the responses or points made within this document are welcome to contact us.

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 - List of all organisations that responded

Action with Communities in Rural England

Affinity Water

Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership

Anglian Water

Arup

Association of British Insurers

Association of Directors for Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport

Association of Drainage Authorities

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK Maritime Committee

Association of SuDs Authorities

Atkins Ltd

Aviva

AXA UK

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards

Bedfordshire Local Nature Partnership

Black Drain Drainage Board

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

Blackpool Council

BMT Global

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Bristol City Council

Bristol Water

British Insurance Brokers' Association

British Property Federation

British Red Cross

Broads Authority

Brunel University London

BT

Buckfastleigh Town Council

Buckinghamshire County Council

Building Research Establishment

Business in the Community
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cambridgeshire Peterborough Combined Authority
Canal and River Trust
Catchment Based Approach National Support Group
Caterham Flood Action Group
Central Bedfordshire Council
Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
Chedgrave Parish Council
Cheshire East Council
Cheshire Mid-Mersey Flood Risk Management Partnership
Chichester District Council
City of London Corporation
Clarence Court Management Company (Worthing) Ltd
Coastal Group Network
Coastal Partnership East
Construction Industry Research and Information Association
Consumer Council for Water
Copeland Borough Council
Cornwall Catchment Partnership
Cornwall Council
Cottenham Parish Council
Country Land and Business Association
Cringleford Parish Council
Crossrail 2
Croydon Council
Cumbria Community Resilience Network
Cumbria County Council
Cumbria Farmer Flood Group
Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership
Cumbria River Authority Governance Group
Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership
Derby and South Derbyshire Friends of the Earth
Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership
Devon County Council
Dorset Campaign to Protect Rural England

Dorset Council
Downham Market Group of Internal Drainage Boards
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
East Sussex County Council
Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards
Essex County Council
Exmoor National Park Authority
Exmouth Town Council Flooding and Drainage Working Party
Extinction Rebellion
Extinction Rebellion Charmouth
Felixstowe Town Council
Fenland District Council
Flood Hazard Research Centre - Middlesex University
Flood Re
Floodplain Meadows Partnership
Forestry Commission
Galampton Residents Association
Gateshead Council
Geographical Association
Geospatial Research Ltd
Gloucestershire County Council
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
Greater London Authority
Groundwork South
Hadlow Parish Council
Hammersmith and Fulham Council
Hampshire County Council
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
Herrington Consulting Ltd
Hertfordshire County Council
High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership
Highways England
Historic England
Holme-next-the-Sea Parish Council
HR Wallingford Ltd

Infrastructure Operators' Adaptation Forum
Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
Institution of Mechanical Engineers
International Sea Level Institute
Isle of Wight Council
Iwade Parish Council
Jacobs
JBA Consultancy
John Drury & Co Ltd
Kabina Ltd
Kendal Flood Action Groups Committee
Kent County Council
Keswick Flood Action Group
Kings College Playing Fields Sports Association
Kingston upon Hull City Council
Lake District National Park Authority
Lancashire County Council
Leicester City Council
Leicestershire County Council
Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Local Government Technical Advisers Group
London Borough of Barnet
London Borough of Ealing
London Borough of Haringey
London Borough of Hounslow
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
London Borough of Sutton
London Borough of Waltham Forest
London Drainage Engineers Group
Lostwithiel Town Council
Love Braunton Community Forum
Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board
Luckley Wood Flood Mitigation Home Owners
Lympstone Flood Resilience Group
LYMPWatch Community Action Group
Maldon District Council

Marine Management Organisation
Medway Council and North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage Board
Mersey Rivers Trust
Met Office
Mott MacDonald
National Farmers Union
National Fire Chiefs Council
National Fire Chiefs Council National Resilience
National Flood Forum
National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes of England
National Trust
Natural England
Natural Flood Management Research Programme
Network Rail
New Forest District Council
Newcastle City Council
Norfolk County Council
North Devon Council
North East Coastal Group
North West Flood and Coastal Committee
North West North Wales Coastal Group
North Yorkshire County Council
Northamptonshire County Council
Northumberland County Council
Northumbrian Water Group
Oakington and Westwick Environment Action & Flood Mitigation Group
Peterborough City Council
Plymouth City Council
Portsmouth City Council
Portsmouth Water Ltd
Primary school children - Humber Estuary
PyTerra Ltd
Radcliffe and Redvale Flood Action Group
Rekrab Ltd
RESCUE, the British Archaeological Trust
River Restoration Centre
River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board

Rivers Trust
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Royal Institute of British Architects
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Runnymede Borough Council
Runwell Parish Council
Salford City Council
Secondary school children - Staines-Upon-Thames
Sefton Council
Severn Trent Water
Sidmouth Town Council
Slough Borough Council
Social Studies of Flooding Research Team - Lancaster University
Somerset County Council
Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium
Somerset Rivers Authority
South Downs National Park Authority
South East Water
South Gloucestershire Council
South Holdemess Internal Drainage Board
South Lancaster Flood Action Group
South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils
South Tyneside Council
South West Coastal Group
South West Water
Southampton City Council
Southern Coastal Group
Southern Water
Stroud District Council
Sturmer Flood Action Group
Suffolk Coast Against Retreat
Suffolk County Council
Surrey County Council
Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board
Sustainable Soils Alliance
Tandridge District Council
Tees Valley Strategic Flood Risk Management Partnership

Tendring District Council
Test Valley Borough Council
Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
Thames Water
The Alde and Ore Association
The Coal Authority
The Emergency Planning Society
The Wildlife Trusts
Thorpe Ward Residents' Association
Torbay Council
Town and Country Planning Association
Turner & Townsend
Tyne Rivers Trust
United Utilities
University of Hull
University of Southampton
VolkerStevin
Wakefield Council
Wandsworth Borough Council
Warwickshire County Council
Water Care Partnership
Water Management Alliance
Water UK
Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
Wessex Water
West Cumbria Rivers Trust
West Mersea Town Council
West Somerset Flood Group
West Sussex County Council Lead Local Flood Authority
Wild Trout Trust
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
Witham and Humber Drainage Boards
WSP
York Consortium of Drainage Boards
Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme Office - University of Leeds
Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Environmental Sub Group
Yorkshire Water Services

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Zurich Insurance

The consultation also received responses from 75 individuals.

Would you like to find out more about us or your environment?

Then call us on

03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

or visit our website

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

incident hotline

0800 807060 (24 hours)

floodline

0345 988 1188 (24 hours)

Find out about call charges (www.gov.uk/call-charges)

Environment first

Are you viewing this onscreen? Please consider the environment and only print if absolutely necessary. If you are reading a paper copy, please don't forget to reuse and recycle.