

Readiness assessment survey

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

FCERM Research & Development Programme

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Introduction

This is a copy of a survey developed as part of the project '[Working together to adapt to a changing climate: flood and coast](#)'. The research is a response to concerns about the impacts of climate change and the likelihood of significantly higher levels of risk to communities due to increased flooding or coastal erosion. It aimed to explore how authorities can engage effectively with communities on these issues, particularly where options for addressing increased risk may be complex or contentious.

In a first phase, we carried out an [evidence review](#) that explored the complex challenges involved in climate change adaptation, with a particular focus on flooding and coastal erosion. That report includes 'readiness' as one of the key themes and engagement challenges.

As part of our work in the pilot location of Hemsby in Norfolk, we developed a readiness assessment process designed to encourage thoughtful engagement with the question of how we might initiate and facilitate conversations about the difficult challenges facing coastal communities. The local steering group involved in this work included Coastal Partnership East, residents, local councillors and the Environment Agency.

A key element in this readiness assessment was a survey for residents and businesses. The survey was primarily run online through SmartSurvey, with paper copies available on request.

This survey can be amended to reflect the context and setting of the location you are working in. We have included 'user notes' at key points in the text below to highlight the questions that were very specific to the original pilot location and are therefore more likely to need amending. An asterisk (*) denotes questions that were mandatory in the survey.

Please note that this survey was originally created for use in a coastal setting experiencing coastal erosion. We have adapted it for use in inland settings too and it could also be adapted to address other climate adaptation issues. As you review the questions, you will need to delete or amend the text at certain points highlighted in the survey. If you need to amend a question, please ensure that the nature of each question remains the same. The questions are designed to cover different dimensions of readiness, as outlined in the accompanying guidance, which also includes guidance on undertaking a readiness assessment and how to analyse your survey results.

For further information on carrying out the readiness assessment survey, please see the readiness assessment tools and guidance document.

The text and format from this point in the document map to the survey as it would be structured on SmartSurvey, the online survey tool used by the Environment Agency.

1. About this survey

User notes: Please amend this text to make it suitable to your local context/situation.

Things to think about referring to in the introduction would include:

- **What is the survey about?**
- **Who is doing the survey?**
- **Why are you doing it and how will the results be used?**
- **Text on privacy/data protection**
- **How long will it take to complete? (We estimate about 15 - 20 minutes based on the questions in this version)**
- **Details of prize draw (if relevant)**

Welcome to this survey. If you live in, are employed in, or own a business in x, we would really like to hear from you. The survey includes questions about living or working in x; what issues are important to you; and what you know and think about how climate change might affect x, particularly in relation to coastal erosion and/or flooding (**amend as appropriate**). The survey should take you 15 - 20 minutes to complete.

Participation in this survey is totally voluntary but, if you decide to take part, your time is very much appreciated. All participants who complete the survey, in full, can opt into a prize draw to win (**insert details if relevant**). Full terms and conditions are outlined below. All responses will be treated as anonymous and you are not required to provide your name or contact details, except where you choose to enter into the prize draw. By completing the survey, you consent to allowing your responses to be used by the project.

For further information, please see our (**insert details of your Privacy Policy**).

If you would like to find out more about the project, please email: ...

The deadline for completing the survey is: ...

Terms and conditions of the Prize Draw: (**insert details**)

(User notes: a prize draw can be used to encourage responses to the survey but is not essential. Make sure you check your organisation's policy on offering incentives).

2. About You

This section asks a few questions that will help us know a bit more about who we are talking to and engaging with in x. All responses are non-identifying and protect anonymity. The responses will be useful when we come to designing and planning future work with residents and businesses.

(User notes: holiday homes (second homes or holiday lets) were a particular area of interest in the pilot location but may not be relevant to your location. Skip logic is also applied at this point – if someone answers no to both Q1a and Q1b, they will be directed to the end of the survey, as a non-qualifying response).

1. Living and / or working in x. *

Yes

No

a) Do you live in or own a holiday home in x?

b) Do you own a business, or are you employed in x? This includes part-time jobs and servicing your own holiday property(ies) if they are rented out.

2. If you live in x how long have you lived there?*

Less than one year

1 – 5 years

6 - 10 years

11 – 15 years

16 – 20 years

More than 20 years

Not Applicable

3. If you have a holiday home in x, please tell us how much time you spend in x each year.

(User notes: please delete if holiday accommodation is not a particular issue for the place you are using this survey in).

4. If you are employed in x, please tell us a little about what you do and how long you have worked there.

5. Please look at the map below and tell us which Zone you live in (A, B, C, D, E, F). If you have a rental property or other business in x please also tell us which zone that is in. If your property isn't shown, please select 'Outside Zoned Area'. If one of the statements doesn't apply, please select Not Applicable as you need to give a response for each line. *

(User notes: distance from the coast was a particular area of interest in the pilot location and the survey included a map for respondents to refer to. Including a map is not essential, but you may want to think about including a question that will provide some information about the distribution of respondents in a geographic area – this could be a map, or postcodes may be sufficient).

	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F	Outside Zoned Area	Not Applicable
I live in.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have a rental property in.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have a business in.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Your age *

(User notes: check whether your organisation can carry out surveys with under 18s – if not remove this option/think of other ways of collecting this information).

13-17

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75+

7. Please tell us your gender

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

Other (please specify):

3. Living and Working in x

The following questions ask about what it's like to live or work in x. This will help us understand what is most important to you about your place and community.

8. How would you describe the community in x?

9. What do you most like about living and/or working in x? *

10. What is your favourite place in x - and why?*

4. Planning for x's Future

Now we'd like to ask you a few questions about your top priorities for x's future. This will help us understand what issues residents and businesses feel most strongly about.

11. What do you see as the top three priorities for x in the next 5 years? *

(User notes: if you feel you have a good understanding of potential priorities, you could consider amending this to a list of options from which people can select their top three priorities, (including an option of 'Other – please specify),. This would simplify the analysis of responses but may mean missing priorities you have not already thought of).

12. Do you think the priorities for x are likely to be the same for the longer term (20 years+)?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please explain your answer.

5. Climate Change

13. Do you believe that climate change is happening - i.e. that global warming because of human activity is causing changes to weather patterns, rising sea levels, increasing flooding etc.? *

(User notes: The online version of the survey would use Skip Logic at this point. If respondents answer 'No' to Q13, they will be taken to Section 7, Q22 to explore their views on the issue of flooding or coastal erosion in their particular location. The questions are very similar to those in this section but are not presented within the context of climate change).

Yes

No

Don't know

6. X and Climate Change

(User notes: see note in section 5 on skip logic to this section)

The following questions are about how a changing climate might affect x in the future, particularly in relation to coastal erosion and/or flooding (*delete as appropriate*). This will

help us learn about levels of understanding and concern regarding potential impacts of climate change on x and what that means for future planning.

14. How would you rate your level of understanding about the potential effects of a changing climate on x? *

- I don't know anything
- I understand a little
- I understand a fair amount, but I'm aware of gaps in my knowledge
- I'm quite well informed
- I'm an expert

15. In what ways do you think x might be affected by climate change in the next 50 years?
*

16. How would you rate your level of concern about the effects of climate change on coastal erosion and/or flooding (***delete as appropriate***) in x? *

- I don't worry about it at all
- It's a minor concern
- I sometimes feel anxious and worried, but it's not my top concern
- I quite often feel anxious and worried

It's having a noticeable impact on my mental health

Please explain why you have given this answer.

17. What kinds of actions or initiatives are already happening (by you or by others) that will help x adapt to increased coastal erosion/increased flooding (***delete as appropriate***) because of climate change?

18. What additional actions or initiatives do you think are still needed (by you or by others) to help x adapt to increased coastal erosion/increased flooding (***delete as appropriate***) because of climate change?

19. In your view, which people or organisations are most responsible for helping x plan for a changing climate? (Please select up to three). (***User note: please amend this list according to your local context.***)

Central government

Parish council

District/county council

Local residents

Local businesses

The Environment Agency

Local community groups

Other (please specify):

Comments:

20. Which statements best describe your view of current action to help x adapt to a changing climate? Please select as many options as you want. *

There is visible and active leadership on climate change in our community

I trust that agencies have the right approach to planning and decision-making

There is lots of good work happening on climate change, but we don't have the resources to implement decisions

Progress in addressing coastal/flood (***delete as appropriate***) and climate risks is too slow

Other (please specify):

21. What might encourage you or others in the community to take a more active role to help x adapt to climate change? Please select as many options as you want. *

Knowing more about how x might be affected by climate and coastal change/flooding (***delete as appropriate***)

Knowing more about what options are available to help x adapt to future changes

- Opportunities to engage in constructive conversations about x's future with a range of people
- Feeling heard: trust that participation in climate adaptation planning is taken seriously
- Being personally asked to get involved
- Having the time, energy and/or additional resources (transport, childcare, access etc) to get involved.
- Other (please specify):

Please explain why you have given this answer.

7. Coastal Erosion and Flooding Risks in x

(User notes: see note in section 5 on skip logic to this section)

The following questions are about how coastal erosion/flood risk (delete as appropriate) might affect x in the future. This will help us learn about levels of understanding and concern regarding potential impacts of coastal erosion/flooding on x and what that means for future planning.

22. How would you rate your level of understanding about the potential effects of flooding/coastal erosion (**delete as appropriate**) on x? *

- I don't know anything
- I understand a little
- I understand a fair amount, but I'm aware of gaps in my knowledge

I'm quite well informed

I'm an expert

Please explain why you have given this answer.

23. How would you rate your level of concern about coastal erosion and/or flooding **(delete as appropriate)** in x? *

I don't worry about it at all

It's a minor concern

I sometimes feel anxious and worried, but it's not my top concern

I quite often feel anxious and worried

It's having a noticeable impact on my mental health

Please explain why you have given this answer.

24. What kinds of actions or initiatives are already happening (by you or by others) that will help x adapt to increased coastal erosion/flooding **(delete as appropriate)**?

25. What additional actions or initiatives do you think are still needed (by you or by others) to help x adapt to increased coastal erosion/flooding **(delete as appropriate)?**

26. In your view, which people or organisations are most responsible for helping x respond to coastal erosion/flood risks **(delete as appropriate)?**

- Central government
- Parish council
- District/county council
- Local residents
- Local businesses
- The Environment Agency
- Local community groups
- Other (please specify):

Comments:

27. Which statements best describe your view of current action to help x adapt to coastal erosion/flood risks? **(delete as appropriate)** Please select as many options as you want. *

- There is visible and active leadership in our community on addressing coastal erosion and flood risk. **(delete as appropriate)**
- I trust that agencies have the right approach to planning and decision-making.
- There is lots of good work happening, but we don't have the resources to implement decisions.
- Progress in addressing coastal/flood risks **(delete as appropriate)** is too slow.
- Other (please specify):

28. What might encourage you or others in the community to take a more active role to help x adapt to coastal erosion/flood risks **(delete as appropriate)** in x? Please select as many options as you want. *

- Knowing more about how x might be affected by coastal change/flooding. **(delete as appropriate)**
- Knowing more about what options are available to help x adapt to future changes.
- Opportunities to engage in constructive conversations about x's future with a range of people.
- Feeling heard: trust that participation in adaptation planning is taken seriously.
- Being personally asked to get involved.
- Having more time, energy or additional resources to get involved.

Other (please specify):

Please explain why you have given this answer.

8. Businesses - including Rental Property Owners

The next set of questions are specifically for people who own or run a business in x, including people who own rental properties. If you do not own or run a business in x or don't own a rental property, please answer "No" to Q27 and you will be redirected to the final section of the survey.

(User notes: please amend these questions based on your local context and what you want to find out about business owners' views. For example if knowing about the extent of rental ownership isn't important, you can delete those references).

29. Do you own or run a business in x? This includes owning one or more rental properties. *

Yes

No

30. What is your main area of business? *

31. How long have you been operating? *

Up to 5 years

6-10 years

11-15 years

16-20 years

21+ years

32. To what extent is your location in x important to the success of your business? *

Not important

Quite important

Very important

Essential

33. Do you feel you have enough information about changes to the coastal/flood risks **(delete as appropriate)** and the potential impacts of climate change to make decisions about the future of your business? *

Yes

No

Please explain why you have given this answer.

34. What would you find most helpful in planning for the future of your business in response to future flooding/coastal erosion risks **(delete as appropriate)**? *

9. Thank you/Prize Draw and Future Contact

(User notes: it's important to include a thank you page at the end of the survey. This can be tailored to fit your survey. It should also include the details of someone participants can contact to find out more about the work).

Thank you for completing this survey. The results will be analysed by our team and used to design and plan future work with residents and businesses on flooding/coastal erosion (***delete as appropriate***) and climate adaptation.

We just need to ask if you would like to be entered into the prize draw (see Terms and Conditions below) and whether you are willing for us to contact you about future events or activities associated with this project.

(User notes: please amend this section as needed depending on whether you are holding a prize draw and/or your plans for future contact).

Terms and conditions of the Prize Draw:

(insert details of terms and conditions, if you are running a prize draw).

34. Please select from the options below (select all that apply). If you select some options, please make sure you give us your contact details in the space below.

(User notes: delete/amend the options below as appropriate for your project).

- I am happy to be entered into the prize draw

- I am happy to be contacted about future events or activities associated with the xxxx project

- I am happy to be contacted to take part in a follow-up interview

35. If you wish to be entered into the prize draw and/or to be contacted about further events/activities, please provide your name, email address and/or telephone number. This information will be kept confidential.

All responses to the survey will be non-attributed. This means that your name will not be used in any summary of the survey responses.

(User notes: if you're concerned about collecting/handling personal data, you can remove the option for people to leave contact details if they're interested in future project activities, and instead ask them to contact you.)

Name

Email

Telephone

If you'd like to find out more about our project/work, receive a summary of the survey results, or be kept informed of our ongoing project/work activities, please email: ...

(User notes: edit depending on whether you have asked any of this above).