

Roles in Flood Risk Management



Steve Webster
Service Manager Flood and Water Management

SSDC Parish Council Event
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Roles in Flood Risk Management

- The Flood and Water Management Act defines bodies as risk management authorities:
 - Environment Agency
 - Lead Local Flood Authority
 - District Council
 - Internal Drainage Board
 - Water Company
 - Highway Authority
- Somerset Rivers Authority



Roles in Flood Risk Management

Environment Agency

- Strategic supervisory role in relation to all sources of flooding – National Strategy
- Permissive powers to undertake flood risk management work on main rivers and the sea
- Powers to regulate activities by others on main rivers
- Operate a flood warning service



Roles in Flood Risk Management

County Council

- As Lead Local Flood Authority a supervisory role in relation to ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater – Local Strategy
- Permissive powers to undertake flood risk management work for surface water and groundwater flooding
- Powers to regulate activities by others on ordinary watercourses – outside IDB areas
- Duty to investigate flooding to the extent it deems appropriate to determine which authority has relevant powers



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District Council

- Permissive powers to undertake flood risk management work on ordinary watercourses
- Emergency response
- Controlling the impact of new development on flooding through the planning process



Roles in Flood Risk Management

Internal Drainage Board

- Permissive powers to undertake flood risk management work on ordinary watercourses
- Land drainage and water management for agricultural benefit
- Powers to regulate activities by others on ordinary watercourses within their area
- Powers to make and enforce bylaws for securing the drainage of land



Roles in Flood Risk Management

Water Company

- Responsible for flooding from public foul and surface water sewers

Highway Authority

- Respond to flooding incidents affecting the highway
- Maintenance of bridges and culverts under the highway
- Power to discharge surface water from the highway into adjacent ditches and watercourses
- Generally not responsible for ditches alongside the highway



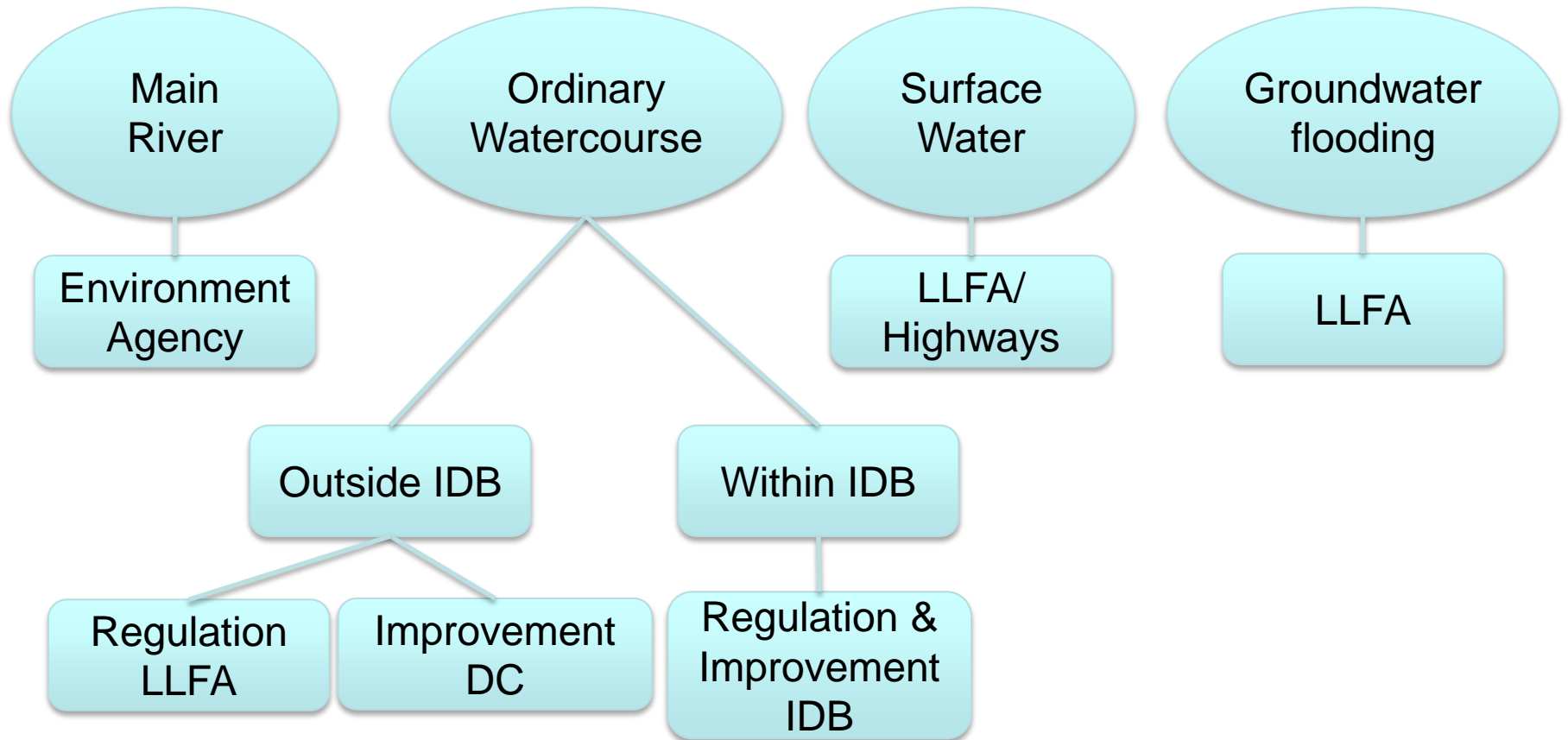
Roles in Flood Risk Management

Riparian and Property Owners

- Responsible to maintain watercourses on/adjacent to their land
- Must accept and pass on flows in a watercourse
- Right to protect property from flooding and land from erosion



Roles in Flood Risk Management summary - works



Roles in Flood Risk Management

New development and flood risk

- National Planning Policy Framework requires that development does not increase flood risk elsewhere
- Since April 2015 there has been a specific requirement for major development to incorporate SuDS – unless demonstrated to be impractical
- Surface water disposed of, in order of preference, to:
 - The ground – infiltration
 - Watercourse
 - Surface water sewer
 - Combined sewer



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New development and flood risk - cont

- Runoff rates restricted to greenfield rates for up to 1 in 100yr + climate change allowance storm
- Volume restricted to greenfield volume or allowed to runoff at a lower rate
- LPA to ensure through the use of planning conditions or planning obligations that there are clear arrangements in place for ongoing maintenance over the lifetime of the development



FRM summary – New Development (from 6 April)

Environment Agency (as consultee)	LLFA (as consultee)	LPA
Development in Flood Zones 2&3	Surface Water Drainage of major development (≥ 10 houses)	Surface Water Drainage of minor development (<10 Houses)
Development in Critical Drainage Areas		Flood risk to development FZ 1
Development within 20m of a main river		Securing maintenance of drainage system
		Enforcement if drainage system not constructed as approved or adequately maintained

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Flood Mitigation Fund

- £200,000 fund for community groups to apply to undertake small scale flood management work
- Details sent to Parish Clerks
- 18 schemes funded this year but small amount of funding left
- Whether it runs again in 16/17 will depend on budgets



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Thank you

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