



Urban Water Management Workshops 2018

1.) Background

With funding from the EA, the CaBA Urban Water Group held a series of 4 Urban Water Management workshops during 2018 in Manchester, London, Kettering and Durham respectively (See Appendix A for Agendas) realising a total of 12 such events over the last 3 years. The workshops were designed to champion the benefits of collaborative urban water management to key stakeholders including Catchment Partnerships, Local Authorities and Water Companies and to illustrate the multiple benefits that can be realised through collaborative delivery.

Two hundred and fifty delegates participated in the recent 4 workshops, drawn from a wide range of organisations, including environmental NGO's, Catchment Partnerships, Local Authorities, Water Companies, Developers, Internal Drainage Boards, Community Groups, Academia, Environment Agency, Defra and Natural England. Seventy-seven individuals from 38 different Local Authorities, and 19 individuals from 6 water companies participated. Presentations included those from Local Authorities, potentially exerting a significant influence on those Local Authorities in the audience through hearing directly from their peers. Additionally, representatives from 4 housing developers participated, providing an important and differing viewpoint. In addition to presentations illustrating collaborative working, the workshops explored the opportunities and barriers to integrated urban delivery and, in London assessed the potential to deliver green infrastructure in the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood Opportunity Development Area (see accompanying report). An overview of the Durham workshop and its key recommendations are provided in the accompanying report and Excel file.

Key Participants across the 4 workshops were as follows:

Local Authorities: Oldham Council, Stockport Council, Leicester City Council, Manchester City Council, Wigan Council, Salford City Council, City of London Corporation, London Borough of Waltham Forest, London Borough of Hackney, The Royal Borough of Greenwich, West Sussex County Council, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Cambridge City Council, London Borough of Bexley, Peterborough City Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, London Borough of Enfield, Luton Borough Council, Kent County Council, Greater London Authority, Central Bedfordshire Council, Daventry District Council, Kettering Borough Council, Norfolk County Council, East Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Wellingborough Borough Council, Durham County Council, Gateshead Council, Darlington Borough Council, South Tyneside Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Newcastle City Council, Northumberland County Council, Stockton Council, North Tyneside Council, Sunderland City Council, Middlesbrough Council

Water Companies: Northumbrian Water Group, Thames Water, Southern Water, Albion Water, United Utilities, Anglian Water,

Developers: Miller Homes, Story Homes, Taylor Woodrow, Persimmon Homes Limited

2.) Key Workshop Findings

Opportunities to deliver integrated urban water management

Adopting a collaborative and integrated approach to urban water management maximises the multiple benefits that can be realised including; reduced flood risk, improved water quality, enhanced biodiversity, increased recreational opportunities, enhanced community health and well-being through recreation and engagement with green-blue spaces (now well proven through a wealth of academic research), reduced crime, and improvement of local economies.

The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) Partnerships provide the framework to draw together a wide range of organisations, to help them to understand each other's strengths and objectives, to breakdown silo thinking, and to collectively agree priorities for action. Collaboration also means that multiple funding sources can be accessed enabling partnerships to 'get more for less' and realise cost-effective delivery. A growing number of examples of collaborative delivery in the urban environment are emerging, often involving local authorities.

Incorporating sustainable and integrated urban water management into strong local policies and plans provides a framework for delivery and helps to set out what is required of developers. The workshops identified a need to continue to provide examples of strong policies within local plans and to disseminate these widely. Longer term strategies (e.g. London Green Grid) set out a vision that and support partnership working to a common goal. They can also secure funds from a diverse range of sources

Strong local community engagement can influence policies and plans; elected members will listen. To achieve this requires communities to be engaged. This requires community groups to understand the benefits of integrated water management; and also understand how their local planning system works, so they can engage with local authority planning officers and lobby elected members, particularly those on planning committees. Catchment Partnerships can play an important role in educating and local communities, providing data and evidence to support their empowerment.

Challenges and Barriers to Delivery

Changing mind-sets in organisations that are time and resource constrained can be a challenge, with inertia inhibiting change of traditional approaches, coupled with concerns regarding the efficacy and cost benefit of some delivery approaches. Rigid organisational procurement frameworks can also prevent collaborative delivery. The Urban Water Group Team were able to highlight the substantial body of information that is now available quantifying SuDS benefits in economic terms, for example, those captured in CIRIA's BeST and SuDS Manual.

The long-term ownership and maintenance of SuDS was raised as a significant challenge. Examples were presented, however, whereby local partnerships and/or community collaboration have helped to address maintenance and to some extent scheme ownership issues.

The need for greater collaboration on SuDS was also highlighted, both between departments in local authorities (e.g. highways and planning) and between local authorities and other stakeholders like sewerage undertakers and Highways England. Early and widespread engagement can lead to better schemes implementation. Time must also be taken to continue engagement; key people move on and fresh efforts must be made to re-engage

Developers continue to be resistant to SuDS due to perceived costs and maintenance concerns. The lack of a 'level playing field' was also cited. Participants cited a clear need for SuDS legislation in England and for it to follow the lead of Welsh Government whereby SuDS are now mandatory on all new developments in Wales, need to be designed in accordance with statutory standards and approved by the SuDS approving body. Currently in England there is no formal SuDS adoption body and standards are non statutory.

3.) Next Steps

These 4 workshops represented a third tranche of engagement work by the CaBA Urban Water Group that, combined with a similar series of workshops run in 2016 and 2017, has now engaged more than 700 individuals including more than 60 differing Local Authorities. Feedback from the workshops has been very positive with the over-arching aim of engaging key stakeholders and helping to 'start a conversation' achieved.

Continued local engagement is desirable, addressing issues of direct relevance to key stakeholders in a particular city and/or catchment. However, more national scale engagement would also be of value, enabling key policy makers to hear about the numerous developments in collaborative and integrated urban water management across the country, and the multiple benefits it realises. Knowledge exchange and understanding of the key issues would also be enhanced through the drafting of guidance and collation of case studies; a wealth of excellent examples of delivery exists nationwide but few attempts have been made to capture them in a single accessible source.

Appendix A: Workshop Agendas for Manchester, London and Kettering (Agenda for Durham is within the accompanying document)

Urban Water Management Workshop

21st May – Mechanics Institute, Manchester, M1 6DD



10.00	Welcome and workshop objectives	<i>Prof. Peter Batey, Mersey Rivers Trust</i>
10.15	Green City Programme – Salford	<i>Peter O'Hare, Salford City Council</i>
10.30	Delivering more from SuDS	<i>Paul Shaffer, CIRIA</i>
10.45	Urban Diffuse Pollution – Evidence-based Approach	<i>Peter Dennis, APEM</i>
11.00	Questions	
11.15	Refreshments	
11.45	Irwell Flood Mapping	<i>David Johnson, The Rivers Trust</i>
12.00	Collaborative Delivery	<i>Rob Collins, The Rivers Trust</i>
12.10	How to deliver Integrated Urban Water Management under the 25 year Environment Plan	<i>Group discussions, led by Rob Collins, The Rivers Trust</i>
12.45	Lunch	
13.30	SuDS Concept Design in Carlisle	<i>Catherine McIlwraith Eden Rivers Trust</i>
13.45	Creating High Quality Urban Habitat	<i>Mike Duddy, Mersey Rivers Trust</i>
14.00	Refreshments	
14.15	Natural Course Ecosystem Services Opportunity Mapping	<i>Krista Patrick GMCA</i>
14.30	Local Action Project: Supporting Biodiversity Innovation and Citizen Action for Nature in Manchester	<i>Nick Paling West Country Rivers Trust</i>
14.45	Summary	



CaBA Urban Water Management Workshop – CIRIA, London

25th October 2018 - Programme

9.30	Registration, networking and refreshments
10.00	Welcome and overview of the day Peter Bide, Independent Consultant and Chair of the CaBA Urban Working Group
10.15	Better water management and planning Peter Bide, Independent Consultant and Chair of the CaBA Urban Working Group
10.35	CAMELLIA: Integrated Community-Engaged Water Management for London Sarah Bell, UCL and/or Adrian Butler, Imperial College
10.55	Delivering a vision for better water management in Ebbsfleet Simon Harrison, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
11.15	Refreshments
11.40	Thames Water's vision for integrated water management John Hernon, Thames Water
12.00	Albion Water's vision for integrated water management David Knaggs, Albion Water
12.20	Discussion
12.50	Lunch
13.45	An Integrated Water Management strategy for Charlton to Crayford Carl Pelling, Aecom and Tiffany Lynch, London Borough of Bexley
14.05	Better water management in Thamesmead Phil Askew, Peabody
14.25	Outline of the workshop to discuss options for Thamesmead Paul Shaffer, CIRIA
14.30	Workshop
15.15	Coffee available – working groups can continue
15.30	Feedback
16.00	Close



**Catchment
Based Approach**

Urban Water Management Workshop

Hosted by CaBA Urban Water Group with funding by the Environment Agency

Kettering Conference Centre, Thurston Dr, Kettering NN15 6PB

Thursday 17th January 2019, 10.00 - 1600

	Item	Who
10.00	Registration and Refreshments	All
	Welcome and Introduction to the day	Kathryn Hardcastle <i>River Nene Regional Park</i>
	Better Water Management and Planning	Peter Bide <i>CaBA Urban Water Group</i>
	Working Together – Part 1 the PACM pilot examples	Kathryn (Harpers Brook) Paul Sharman (Mortens Leam) <i>North Level IDB</i>
	Working Together – Part 2 the NCC experience Surface Water Management a Partnership Approach	Ruth Burnham / Jo Maddams <i>Northamptonshire County Council</i>
	Urban Water Management and the 25-year environment plan	Introduced by Rob Collins <i>CaBA Urban Water Group</i>
	Lunch	
	CaBA and Collaborative Delivery in the Urban Environment	Rob Collins
	Support for SUDS	Louise Walker <i>CIRIA</i>
	Comfort Break	
	Drainage and Wastewater Managements Plans	Kerry Rhodes <i>Anglian Water</i>
	Working Together - Part 3 the Peterborough experience Werrington Brook and grand ambitions!	Richard Whelan <i>Peterborough City Council</i>
	Nene Valley Catchment Partnership Urban Working Group	Kathryn
15.00	Closing tasks and workshop close	Kathryn / Rob / Peter