BEING RESILIENT TO EXTREME WEATHER

Climate change increases the risk of both flooding and drought in England.

This is already having an impact, and will do in the future:

High flood risk:
1 million homes have more than 1% chance of flooding in any given year.

But also a strong risk of drought:
1 in 4 chance of a severe drought between now and 2050.

RESILIENCE SAVES PEOPLE FROM THE TRAUMA OF FLOODING AND THE COSTS OF DAMAGE AND INSURANCE

The Commission have proposed a national standard so that by 2050 communities will be resilient to flooding 99.5% of the time wherever feasible.

This means that someone living in a house at risk of flooding for 20 years would face only a 1 in 10 chance of flooding over that time.

Sources: Commission calculation using inputs from Atkins, Environment Agency, ITRC and Regulatory Economics.
BUT WE ALSO NEED TO BE MORE RESILIENT TO DROUGHT

Relying on emergency measures would cost an estimated £40 billion. Over the next 30 years – being resilient would cost only £21 billion.

The UK needs an extra 4,000ML of water a day to assure long-term supply.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS:

- A national standard of flood resilience with a higher standard in major urban areas.
- A national water transfer network and new water supply, such as reservoirs.
- Nationwide, catchment-based plans combining green and grey infrastructure.
- Halving leakage by 2050 and reducing demand through efficiency and smart metering.

Sources: Commission calculation using inputs from Atkins, Environment Agency, ITRC and Regulatory Economics.