Our Partnership with the *Blue-Green Cities* Project

e-Bulletin #5

In this e-Bulletin I look at how our project fits alongside the Blue-Green Cities project, and how we can both benefit from building this key partnership.

Malmö, Sweden – a prototype blue-green city?



In this bulletin:

- Blue-Green Cities overview
- How does the partnership support work in Hebden Bridge?

How it supports work in Hebden Bridge?

The pilot work we are doing in Hebden Bridge is structured to sit alongside the Blue-Green Cities project – to benefit from the research undertaken and allow us to contribute our own findings and experiences.

Being part of the Blue-Green Cities consortium grants us access to a wide range of knowledge and expertise from many different sub-fields in flood risk management.

The methods we develop in Hebden Bridge will in turn be transferred to the Blue-Green Demonstration City (to be announced soon), to explore whether they work in a different context, and to evaluate their capacity for enhancing communication and stakeholder involvement.

Blue-Green Cities

The Blue-Green Cities project is a multi-disciplinary project bringing together a wide range of experts from across the UK. It aims to develop new strategies for managing flood risk in urban areas as part of much wider urban planning that looks to evaluate the multiple benefits of recreating (as far as possible) the natural water cycle.

This is achieved by combining elements of blue (water supply, flood risk management, drainage) and green (parks, recreation, agriculture, biodiversity) infrastructure together. Key elements might include protecting natural systems, restoring pre-drainage hydrology, increasing infiltration, and developing water storage and water retention. In an earlier bulletin we saw how this wat of thinking is being taken up with great enthusiasm in Portland.

The project identifies a need for research to better understand how individual elements are interlinked, how far they can go to reducing flooding, and how different stakeholders/communities are responding to these changes.

The project is in the process of publishing its inception report, which will detail the work to date on these different work packages:

1. Communications between scientists, institutional stakeholders and communities
2a. Inundation simulation (how flooding is spatially distributed across an urban area)
2b. Sediment, debris and habitats (and how these relate to the effectiveness of sustainable urban drainage and blue-green infrastructure)
2c. Behavioural responses of individuals and institutions
3. Flood risk management components and interfaces
4. Evaluation of benefits (assessing, quantifying and valuing the adopting of blue-green infrastructure)

Next steps

The first modelling workshop will take place at Hebden Bridge Town Hall from 7pm on Tuesday 2nd July. Thank you to those who have let me know that they can make it, or sent their apologies. If you haven't been in touch yet, please let me know whether you will be attending as soon as possible.

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