

drivers are already pushing for a catchment-wide approach, including: climate change modelling, development of more strategic catchment flood management plans, and the Water Framework Directive, with its emphasis on integrated planning at river basin district level. Because of its unique position, the role of the Environment Agency should be one of leadership, working closely with stakeholders to develop catchment-wide solutions based on catchment-wide analysis. But to do this, the Environment Agency will need to take the lead in developing the necessary 'bridging social capital', thereby linking existing and embryonic local stakeholder networks.

6. *Flooding and regeneration* The Environment Agency needs to find the right focus around which to link stakeholder networks. Regeneration and the amenity value of water and rivers could act as an incentive for stakeholders to come together. This would help to frame the negatives of flooding and flood risk management in a more positive way, while supporting the argument for making connections between water quantity and quality wherever possible.

Together with the other Joining Up pathfinders, this study has played a valuable role in helping to shape the Environment Agency's social policy (http://146.213.80.51/icontent/DocDir14/22_04.doc), its position statement on tackling environmental inequalities (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/ourviews/857240/?version=1&lang=e>), an internal report on the Environment Agency's role in communities (2004), and further studies on working with stakeholders in the development of Catchment Flood Management Plans (<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/SCHO0905BJQT-e-e.pdf>)

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