University of the
West of England
UWE BRISTOL

Learning and Action Alliance
for a Blue Green City of Newcastle
Jessica Lamond

bluegreencities.ac.uk

EPSRC
Pioneering research
and skills

Environment
Agency

RIVERS
Agency

blue
green
CITIES

Context

Traditional FRM- living with water

Traditional master planning – participatory urban planning

Flow control – catchment management

Urban rural delineation – greening of urban spaces

From analytical thinking to pluralist inclusive vision making

Blue green infrastructure requires a cooperative approach and multidisciplinary thinking

But how?

Somebody else's problem

Too busy

Lack of knowledge

Jargon

Silo Thinking

Lack of Trust

Fragmentation of knowledge

blue green CITIES

Learning and Action Alliances (LAA)

A LAA is usually an **open arrangement** where participants create a **Joint understanding** of a problem and its **possible solutions** based on rational criticism and coherence through **discussion.** It facilitates the identification of **innovative ideas** for the solution of complex (wicked) problems **outside the constraints of existing formal institutional settings**.

Solutions or ideas are afterwards presented in formal inter-organisational decision-making processes.

Can it work?

- Don Catchment (Rotherham & Sheffield),
- Bergen,
- Dordrecht,
- Hannover
- Hamburg
- Taiwan
- Overarching

Establishing a LAA for Newcastle with a blue green vision

Establishment

Functioning

Sustainability

No Single Model
Varying Outcomes
Collaborative Working
Shared Vision
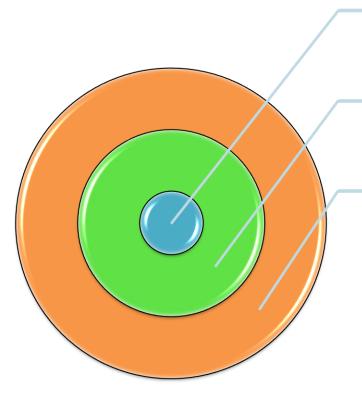Communication
Specialist Support

blue green CITIES

Learning and Action Alliances (LAA)

Learning and action alliances typically consist of a series of structured platforms at different institutional levels (city, river basin, national, international) designed to break down barriers to both horizontal and vertical information sharing and thus to speed up the process of identification, adaptation and uptake of new information

Establishment

- Aim – learning or action
- Vision – has to be shared
- Context
- Stakeholders
- Focus
- Culture

Organising group (coordinator)

Core Group (Regular meetings)

Wider Group (LinkedIn)

blue green CITIES

Creating a strategy for implementing blue green infrastructure to reduce flood risk for Newcastle by projects in the following areas

Next steps

- LinkedIn group set up next week

- Express your interest in joining using the forms

- Evening Reception 17th March with Visitors from Portland – you are all invited

- First LAA meeting W/C 7th April 2-3 hours in ther afternoon - probably 8th

- Frequency of meetings – 4-6 weekly ongoing sharing via linkedIn

Functioning

Legitimacy

Trust

Innovation

Leadership

Decision makers

Terms of Reference - purpose, structure, rules

Sustainability

Active learning

Communication

Facilitation

Characteristics

Clear rewards

Acknowledgement

The researchers are participating in this presentation and workshop as part of the Blue-Green Cities Research Consortium with support from the:

- **Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council**
- **Northern Ireland Rivers Agency**
- **Environment Agency**
- **National Science Foundation**

bluegreencities.ac.uk