

# [Press release: Work starts on £11million North East flood scheme](#)

The Environment Agency has joined forces with local businesses to reduce the risk of flooding to the community and give wildlife a boost in Teesside.

Work has started on the £11million project, which will increase flood protection from Greatham Creek while creating around 30 hectares of extra habitat.

The Environment Agency is working with local businesses in the area with SABIC UK providing funding towards the scheme and INOVYN ChlorVinyls providing some of their land for the additional habitat creation.

And they are working closely with partners at RSPB and Natural England to design and build a scheme which maximises benefits for the internationally designated habitat, and to ensure disruption to wildlife and visitors to the local area is kept to a minimum.

## **New habitat creation**

The first phase of the project, which saw new flood defences built at Port Clarence to reduce flood risk from the River Tees at a cost of £4.5million, was finished in December 2015.

Phase two will see the Environment Agency raise existing flood embankments along Greatham Creek, to reduce the flood risk to Port Clarence and land which is south of the Creek.

There will also be a managed realignment of part of the current flood defences. This means a new embankment to the north of RSPB Saltholme Nature Reserve will be built around a larger area of land, and then the existing flood embankment will be breached.

This results in the creation of around 30 hectares of intertidal habitat to the north of the nature reserve. It's a popular area frequented by seals, and a variety of bird species including shelduck, knot and redshank.

Seals at Greatham Creek

Phase 2 is expected to be complete by the end of 2018. Together the projects reduce the risk of flooding from both the River Tees and Greatham Creek at Port Clarence, protecting 350 homes and 32 businesses.

## **'Vastly improving existing defences'**

The Environment Agency's Senior Advisor on the scheme Phil Marshall said:

I remember well the devastating impact the tidal surge in December

2013 had on the area, affecting around 50 homes and businesses.

By working together with local industry we're vastly improving existing defences to protect residents and businesses and reduce the risk of flooding now and into the future as sea levels start to rise.

It's a great example of how we're working closely with partners, businesses and communities to create long-term, sustainable solutions to flooding while also making enhancements to the environment.

This is a vital conservation area enjoyed by visitors from far and wide and we're taking the opportunity to create 30 hectares of extra habitat to ensure wildlife continues to thrive.

In addition, while access to the creek is limited during the work, we are working with RSPB Saltholme to enable visitors to see live images from the creek of the ever popular seals.

Image shows (L) Daren Smith, SABIC site director, and (R) Phil Marshall, Environment Agency Senior Advisor

## **Working in partnership**

Daren Smith, SABIC Site Director (acting) added:

As a responsible company, SABIC take the protection of our environment and our communities extremely seriously. Our own land was devastated by the flood but our employees worked extremely hard and quickly with local agencies to rebuild some of the natural habitats that exist there.

SABIC are delighted to be working in partnership with the Environment Agency and other agencies to enable this vital sustainable project to be delivered.

Contractors BMMJV (BAM Nuttall and Mott MacDonald Joint Venture), are carrying out the work on behalf of the Environment Agency.

Phase 1 of the scheme saw new flood defences built in Port Clarence, consisting of a mixture of earth embankments, flood walls, and a raised section of the road on the approach to the Transporter Bridge.

In addition, the Environment Agency worked together with local business Wilton Engineering to install removable steel flood defences along the River Tees to improve flood protection while still allowing Wilton to operate from the river.

If you would like to know more about your risk of flooding and how to be

prepared call Floodline on 0345 988 1188, or visit [www.gov.uk/flood](http://www.gov.uk/flood)

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## **[News story: Tackling urban challenges in Guangdong: apply for funding](#)**

UK businesses can apply for a share of £3 million to work with Chinese partners on challenges faced by cities in Guangdong province.

Innovate UK has up to £3 million to invest in joint UK-China projects that address urban challenges. These should be in areas such as smart mobility, affordable healthcare and sustainable environments.

The competition is funded in China by the [Guangdong Department of Science and Technology](#).

### **Tackling challenges facing cities**

Projects should tackle 3 challenges facing cities in the province. These are:

- smart mobility, including CO2 emissions, efficiency in transport systems, mobility, multi-modal transport and connectivity, and the user experience
- affordable healthcare for an ageing population, using big data to offer patient-centred solutions, integrate healthcare platforms, and deliver high-performance computing services and cloud platforms for health management
- sustainable urban environments, using smart platforms to monitor and forecast industrial and domestic pollution, energy efficiency and optimisation, brownfield management and urban waste

### **Chinese cities among most congested in world**

Guangdong is China's largest provincial economy. Two of its cities, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, are ranked the 14th and 15th most congested in the world. This could lead to problems such as an increase in chronic illnesses, including cardiovascular disease.

The number of individuals over 60 is also expected to double in China by 2050. It will reach 15 million in Guangdong province alone by 2020. In a recent national census, 56% of older adults said they were 'not healthy', and 17% said they needed assistance with daily tasks.

Funding for the competition is part of the UK-China Newton Fund. The [Newton Fund](#) uses science and innovation to promote economic development and social welfare of official development assistance (ODA) partner countries.

## Competition information

- the competition is open, and the deadline for registration is midday 27 September 2017
  - projects must involve at least one UK business working and one business registered in Guangdong
  - total project costs in the UK should range between £350,000 and £500,000. They should last up to 2 years
  - businesses can attract up to 70% of their total project costs
  - a briefing event for potential applicants will be held on 10 July 2017
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## [News story: Maloff Protect successfully reclassified](#)

Maloff Protect anti-malaria tablets are now available to buy from pharmacies, after previously only being available to purchase with a prescription.

The news follows a successful public consultation, where members of the public were asked to contribute their say on the availability of the product.

The tablets will be available to adults aged over 18 weighing more than 40kg travelling to areas where malaria is widespread.

Patients must tell their pharmacist which countries they will be visiting: it is essential that to take an antimalarial that will be effective in those areas. You will need to start the tablets before arriving in a malaria-endemic area and to continue taking them for 7 days after leaving.

A final decision was made by MHRA, on behalf of the UK Licensing Authority, after responses from the public consultation were analysed.

Following a stringent assessment procedure, The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) recommended reclassifying the tablets for those travelling in areas where malaria is common.

MHRA always want to encourage people to be involved in their healthcare and are in the process of holding public consultations for conditions that are suitable for self-care.

Maloff Protect was one of a number of medicines currently being considered for reclassification as an over the counter medicine, to help widen access to medicines for the benefit of public health when it is safe to do.

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# Press release: Maloff Protect antimalarial tablets to be available to buy from pharmacies

Every year there are millions of new cases of malaria worldwide and thousands of travellers are diagnosed after returning to the UK, resulting in occasional and tragically avoidable deaths.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has today announced the approval of an antimalarial tablet which will be available through pharmacies without prescription.

Sold under the brand name Maloff Protect, the tablets contain two antimalarial agents, atovaquone and proguanil.

Maloff Protect will be sold at pharmacies after a discussion with the pharmacist. They will be made available to adults aged over 18, weighing more than 40kg, travelling to areas affected by malaria and where the malaria parasite is not resistant to the Maloff Protect ingredients.

Pharmacists will be able to advise if Maloff Protect is suitable to protect from malaria depending on which countries are being visited, pre-existing medical conditions, and any other medicines being taken.

Make sure you tell your pharmacist which countries you will be visiting: it is essential that you take an antimalarial that will be effective in those areas. You will need to start the tablets before arriving in a malaria-endemic area and to continue taking them for 7 days after leaving.

Pharmacists will also be best placed to advise how to avoid mosquito bites, such as the use of bed nets, repellent sprays and appropriate clothing when outside. They will also be able to reinforce the importance of seeking a full travel consultation, including the need for travel vaccinations.

Maloff Protect was one of a number of medicines currently being considered for reclassification as an over the counter medicine, to help widen access to medicines for the benefit of public health when it is safe to do. This reclassification is a result of a public consultation, held earlier this year.

Dr Sarah Branch, MHRA's Deputy Director of VRMM, said:

Malaria is a very serious disease and taking adequate protection when travelling to malaria infected zones can be life-saving. Today's move to make another antimalarial more widely available will make it easier to access.

Making more preventative medicines more readily available along

with additional healthcare advice for travellers is an important step forward.

A full consultation with a healthcare professional is always recommended before you go to places where malaria is prevalent and pharmacists are well placed to help direct travellers to additional sources of information and information and advice.

Mr Martin Astbury, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, said:

This is great news for both pharmacists and travellers. It means people travelling abroad can access the medicine at their convenience and without a prescription from their GP, which would undoubtedly result in better access to protection from malaria.

Pharmacists already offer a full range of travel advice and in some cases vaccinations. Malaria prevention is a well-established area of expertise for pharmacists and a great opportunity to provide full travel advice to people travelling anywhere in the world.

Pharmacists have access to up to date information and resources and are very well equipped to provide this medicine safely and appropriately. As the professional body for pharmacists, the RPS will be publishing professional guidance on this topic.

## **Background**

1. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe.
2. All our work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgements to ensure that the benefits justify any risks. MHRA is a centre of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency which also includes NIBSC and CPRD. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is an executive agency of the Department of Health.
3. Maloff Protect is a medicine to be taken by mouth to prevent malaria infection in adults travelling to areas where malaria is widespread. The active ingredients are atovaquone and proguanil. Both are in a class of drugs called biguanides used to prevent and treat malaria.
4. Per the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2016 World Malaria Report, there were 212 million new cases of malaria worldwide in 2015. In 2015, there were an estimated 429 000 malaria deaths worldwide. Malaria is not found in the UK, although about 1,586 travelers were diagnosed with the disease after returning to the UK in 2014, and three people died.

5. Following a public consultation, The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) advised in favour of Pharmacy availability of Maloff Protect. The CHM is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department of Health that advises ministers on the safety, efficacy and quality of medicinal products.
  6. Maloff Protect has been reclassified from a prescription only medicine to one available in pharmacies. Pharmacists are experts in medicine, and have the necessary skills and training to ensure the safe and efficient supply of pharmacy medicines. The link to the public consultation is [here](#):
  7. MHRA involved the public and healthcare professionals throughout the decision-making process. We carefully analysed their contribution in the public consultation phases before deciding how to proceed. The responses to the consultation were predominantly positive. Full set of consultation responses can be seen [here](#):
  8. People travelling should also look at: <http://nathnac.net/> and <http://www.travax.nhs.uk/> (for Scotland) Other sites include [PHE's Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention updates which are issued annually](#):, [NICE guidance](#) and the [NHS choices site] (<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Malaria/Pages/Prevention.aspx>).
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## Speech: Justice for All?

I want to thank the RSA for inviting me to speak. Under Matthew's incredible stewardship, the RSA has taken its rightful place as one of the very few leading organisations that are truly innovative and cutting edge in their thinking. This is a place where ideas are generated, nurtured and come to fruition. This is a place where debate leads to change for the greater good of society – and I know Matthew would have it no other way.

So it is with a great measure of hopefulness that I speak to you all today.

As some of you already know, when the Prime Minister asked me to conduct this review, I accepted with little hesitation.

I saw a rare chance to forge a cross-party consensus on an issue that is complex, contested and divisive. I saw an opportunity to hear voices from beyond Westminster and Whitehall, from judges to community groups; prison officers to offenders; and from the victims of crime themselves. And I also saw the prospect of working to improve outcomes – not just for BAME people but also those from working-class and low-income backgrounds.

From the start I have been keen to examine whether the system treats all

people fairly. That has meant understanding if prisoners from particular backgrounds are more likely to get stuck in cycles of reoffending – and what can be done about it.

Remember. Half of all crime is committed by people who have already been through the criminal justice system – costing up to £13 billion per year.

I know that this is an emotive subject. It speaks to issues of personal and professional identity. It concerns the treatment of individuals and the legitimacy of important public institutions. I know that some minds are made up already – from those who believe the system is racist to others who see almost no problem at all.

But having listened carefully to these viewpoints over the last 18 months, I am hopeful that I can help to effect some of the changes that are needed to address racial disparity where it exists, and to restore the system's reputation.

There is a framework I have in mind for how I want to try to achieve this – and that's what I would like to share with you today.

It is the product of the intensive research I have conducted over the course of my Review – both in the UK and internationally, in those countries who also struggle with over-representation of BAME or indigenous people in their criminal justice systems.

It derives from having listened carefully to the views of those who represent each aspect of the system – and most importantly, to those on whom the system has the most direct impact. The offenders, the defendants, their families and communities. And of course the victims of crimes themselves.

The issues and concerns each have raised have been broadly consistent, and this has helped me to identify three broad principles on which I believe the solutions can rest. It is these principles that make up my framework. They are fairness, trust and shared responsibility. I'll explain each of them in turn.

## **Fairness through open decision-making**

In society, the poorest, the disadvantaged and those who need support often suffer the most. When few people care and there is no job or house to lose, a sense of hopelessness and powerlessness prevails. This can span generations and define entire communities.

It breeds disrespect for society and its rules, and distrust in its agencies and institutions. Without any real prospect of improvement in their situation, people's desperation can quickly turn to anger and criminality.

Whilst this is a familiar tale across the UK; I have also seen it be the case further afield in Europe and the US as well.

For some time the very fact of discrimination has been challenging to grip. There are those who would argue, on some reliable measures, that racism is on



the wane – it has become less socially acceptable.

We know this because, for example, the British Social Attitudes Survey has been asking people the same question for over 30 years and the responses to it have changed.

That question is whether people would mind if a close relative married someone from a different ethnic group.

In 1983 over half said that they would mind either 'a little' or 'a lot' if a relative married someone from a West Indian or Asian background.

That figure has halved since then.

There are also those who argue that racism hasn't gone away, it has simply gone underground and become implicit or insidious. Consider for example when the word 'gang' is used and when the word 'group' is used in the reporting of crimes. I suspect most people here know what image 'gang' is supposed to conjure up.

And then there is the school of academic thinking – 'unconscious bias'. This is an idea I sometimes think was designed to terrify Guardian readers. The suggestion is that people with no overt or conscious prejudices may still think and act in discriminatory ways.

This catch-all term, 'unconscious bias', has been a place-holder for many years; and yet the debate continues to rage in academia about the actual science behind this and the best ways of testing for it: it's fair to say that hasn't been settled yet.

My review though, is not about academic debate, it is about the treatment and outcomes for BAME offenders. We still can't seem to agree on the issue and its diagnosis. And the evidence is that, whatever people's diagnosis, the prescription doesn't change a great deal.

The best way to ensure fair treatment is to bring information and decision-making out into the open.

Let me give you three examples from the criminal justice system.

First, Northamptonshire Police and Stop and Search.

This is an area outside of the scope of my review but an initiative with lessons to learn from.

In Northamptonshire, any search grounds which are not clearly and immediately identifiable as reasonable, or which do not meet the Force guidance, are selected for presentation to a Reasonable Grounds Panel. This is chaired by a Police Officer, and made up of members of the public and one other Police Officer.

If the Panel decides that there were not reasonable grounds for the stop, the officer involved is informed of the decision and the reasoning behind it.

In the first instance, the Officer and supervisor are offered training and reminded of the guidance on Stop and Search.

If the officer is involved in a second case, both the Officer and supervisor receive mandatory one-to-one training. In the third case, the Officer and supervisor are suspended from conducting/supervising Stop and Search until a personalised development plan has been completed.

Second, the jury system.

Every so often the jury system comes under attack from those who say that it doesn't work, or that the public can't cope with detail or contain their own prejudices. But the news from my Review is that it is one of the parts of the criminal justice system that is working best.

A comprehensive study by Professor Cheryl Thomas indicated that, statistically, it makes no difference what the ethnicity of the defendant or the jury is.

Why is this? Because 12 people on a jury must justify their opinions to one another. Prejudice doesn't work in that context – you must go on the evidence or you will be out-voted. Openness breeds fairness.

Third, an example from the prison system.

The statistical analysis I commissioned for this Review found that adjudications – that is disciplinary measures against prisoners – are disproportionately brought against BAME prisoners.

Those decisions are taken by individual officers. But when the case is reviewed by a panel, adjudications are less likely to be upheld.

Once again, it's the open forum that seems to correct the problem.

## **Trust and outcomes**

Alongside the need for fairness and transparency is the need for trust. When there is a lack of faith in the system that is supposed to look after you and enforce society's rules, there is also a lack of trust.

Over half of ethnic minorities born in this country, who took part in a survey, agreed with the statement that 'the Criminal Justice System discriminates against particular groups or individuals'.

Over half! That means they think the system is unfair – that it's stacked against them.

In the Netherlands, rigorous academic research on procedural justice has found – perhaps unsurprisingly – that people will be more likely to comply with the law when they feel treated in a just and decent way by law enforcers.

It also found that prisoners' perceptions of procedural justice influence

their behaviour once released from custody. And those who felt they had been treated unjustly during imprisonment were more likely to re-offend, and be re-convicted.

A lack of trust affects the decisions that individuals themselves take when they come into contact with the system. One of the most striking findings in the Review so far is that defendants from ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to plead 'not guilty' across almost every type of offence.

It starts with young men refusing to cooperate with the police and offering only 'no comment' in police stations. It is compounded by a lack of trust in the motives and competence of lawyers provided through legal aid. Legal advice is then refused or ignored by those who think their lawyer is simply part of 'the system'.

So defendants who had no realistic possibility of acquittal, and who subsequently and quite cheerfully admitted their crimes to me in prison, have spurned the chance to be diverted or for their sentence to be reduced – by up to a third, with an early guilty plea.

The result is wasted resources in the criminal justice system; more agony for victims as the case drags on; and many more years in prison for ethnic minority men and women than should have been the case.

Trust matters in other ways too. Society as a whole must have respect for the rule of law – it can't be seen to govern the actions of only the few. This requires the key institutions in the justice system to command not just legal power but also public legitimacy.

One of the surest ways to achieve this is also one of the dullest sounding....

As well as the lack of transparency, there is a significant paucity in the data available at various stages – from point of arrest through to release from custody and back into the community.

Data has a huge impact on an individual's ability to trust. Simply put, how best can we address weighty issues such as potential racial disparity if we don't know what its nature and scale is?

But let us look at what we do know.

According to the most recent census, just 3% of people in England & Wales are Black, and yet 12% of our prison population is Black.

Going further, 25% of our prison population, and over 40% of our youth prison population, come from ethnic minority backgrounds.

That compares to 14% of the overall population.

I don't believe all the causes of this lie in the criminal justice system, or that all the answers do either. But a deficit of trust set alongside that imbalance must be taken very seriously.

It is also the case that offenders from minority backgrounds are more likely to face prison sentences than white offenders for the same crimes.

In a recent analysis of indictable offences in the Crown Court, those self-reporting as Asian or Black were associated with a 50-55% increase in the odds of imprisonment, compared to those self-reporting as White.

## **Shared Responsibility – the role of communities**

Turning to the third principle of my framework, our criminal justice system is conceived as a series of processes, with little sense or understanding of how well they work together – or how they work for the communities they are supposed to serve.

A pronounced example can be found in youth courts – magistrates themselves are not empowered to problem-solve; nor can they hold to account the raft of frontline professionals that surround young people when things go wrong.

When schools exclude them, when there are no role models or mentors to then guide them, when work or training opportunities or constructive pursuits aren't available, children get into trouble.

The definition of 'community' is widening all the time as local courts are closed and boundaries stretched further. So they are a long way from knowing or even owning the problems that their children face.

Parents are not engaged. Parenting Orders exist by law, but are seldom used, let alone prosecuted. In the year ending March 2016 only 250 parents were issued with parenting orders by the courts, despite there being approximately 89,000 arrests of young people aged 10-17 and approximately 28,000 young people found guilty at courts in the same time-period.

Referral Orders have short-term impacts on children and don't treat the root cause of their offending – so before long they are brought before a magistrate again, this time for a more serious offence and now with a history of criminal behaviour building up on their CV.

The teachers, doctors, police men and women and community members, who should already be featuring in their young lives, need to be more actively involved when a child gets into trouble with the law.

If we don't encourage communities to represent the people who live in them, they can't foster social integration, trust, or a sense of belonging. Nor can they adopt the moral and spiritual values they need to embody and impart to their young.

New Zealand's Ran-ga-ta-hi courts offer much to aspire to. They have been designed to embrace not only the traditions of indigenous Maoris, but also their culture and approach towards raising children.

Elders and members of the community take an active part in hearings and in determining appropriate sentences for children who break the law.

The responsibility – and accountability if things go wrong – is shared with the community to which the child belongs, and to which he or she will return.

Its members are also involved in guiding and mentoring the child as well, not just whilst the sentence is served but also to support them in staying on the straight and narrow once it has been spent.

This is something we should learn from.

## **Closing**

Nothing justifies criminal behaviour. People end up in prison when they make bad choices.

But we also have to grasp what it is that leads them to do so.

In 2001 the Cattle report warned of white and black communities living “parallel lives”.

Today the same is true, but the polarisation is not between black and white; it is between those who have a stake in society and those who do not; those who can see a future through education or training and those who cannot; those who can imagine doing an honest job that affords them respect and decent pay and those who cannot; those who have a safe home to live in and those who do not.

Our justice system can't resolve all that on its own and we shouldn't imagine that it can.

But what it can do is eliminate its existing disparities.

Guided by the principles of the framework I have set out today, I want to see innovations brought into the system to help break the cycle of offending and reoffending. I also want to see us draw on the best of what we know works – from home and abroad.

In Birmingham, for example, a new idea called ‘Operation Turning Point’, is currently being evaluated by Cambridge University. This scheme trials a deferred prosecution approach, based on certain eligibility criteria, which allows individuals to opt for a diversion scheme before entering a plea.

If they successfully complete the scheme then the charges are dropped. If they don't the charges can still be brought against them.

The early findings from Operation Turning Point are promising. They show it can deliver reductions in harmful behaviour; far less serious re-offending; and victims of crime have indicated a higher rate of satisfaction with the outcomes for perpetrators than previously.

As well as innovating, we should get smarter about our existing approaches. Delivery partners in the system must be more co-ordinated, sharing intelligence across the different agencies—the local authority, the health authority, the police, social services, youth and probation services and

others—intervening earlier in chaotic families, and supporting vulnerable people caught up in crime.

Recently published data on admissions to youth custody between April 2014 – March 2016 shows that a lower proportion of BAME children were reported as having a mental health condition, compared to white children.

The proportion of BAME children reported as having a learning difficulty or disability was also lower than the proportion of white children recorded with these needs.

But proportionately more BAME children were reported as being a ‘high risk’ to others than White children.

This is appalling evidence – especially for children. The system must do more to offer – fairly widely, and much sooner – the support that is needed to help turn broken lives around.

I recognise we’ve been living in times of austerity, but these services need to be protected to achieve better outcomes for people – and spare future victims of crime.

And so I conclude, having given you all an overview of some of the work that I have been doing, and on what basis I will be seeking to make recommendations in my final report.

The criminal justice system was originally conceived to ensure fair and equitable outcomes for all. Now, more than ever, it needs to happen – regardless of their background and ethnicity.