

## FLOOD DEBATE

On the 7th of February Floodline co-hosted a flood conference with Squire Sanders and Oval Insurance.

It was a very successful event with well over 100 people attending, listening to top speakers from the ABI, the Environment Agency, St Modwen and Barclays.

The attendees enjoyed a rare opportunity to hear firsthand the problems facing each sector as well as understand some of the joint plans and innovative solutions being considered to allow private industry to work in partnership with the Public Sector to mitigate flood risk. The introduction of surface water flooding maps, next year, is only going to make the current predicament more difficult.

Dr Pete Fox from the EA and Matt Cullen from the ABI gave the audience two very good presentations on the scale of the flood problems in the UK, and the impact it has on the insurance industry and wider commercial and residential implications. The audience was then invited to ask questions from the panel which also included Justin Meredith from Floodline and Peter Bide (formerly of the DCLG).

In the second part of the event Guy Gusterson from St Modwen and Gregor Bamert from Barclays gave two extremely interesting presentation from a developer and bank/funders point of view in relation to flood risk. The subsequent panel session which also included Mike Shaw from Squire Sanders and Jonathan Manley from Montagu Evans saw the audience being given expert advice on potential issues around valuations, funding and development options when dealing with flood risk.

The whole event was expertly overseen by the brilliant Sue Highmore from PLC Property.

Given the success of the event as its was full to capacity there will most likely been another similar session to be hosted in the midlands later this spring.

