

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE SUB-COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT NOVEMBER FIAC MEETING

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (FIAC) with a progress report from the Awareness and Assistance Sub-Committee.

Background

2. The Sub-Committee has met four times, on 15 June 2005, 17 November 2005, 4 May 2006 and 14 September 2006. The current membership is detailed in Annex A, and David Faichney, of SEPA, has taken over from Tim Jolley as Chair.

3. This Sub-Committee is set up to discuss how we can improve awareness of the risks of flooding through the provision of better flood risk information and additional flood warning systems. It also considers how we can give better support to those affected by flooding. It discusses these issues within the context of promoting sustainable flood management and considers what the resource implications might be for stakeholders, including the Executive.

Feedback from the last meeting on 14 September 2006

Indicative River and Coastal Flood Map- Scotland.

4. Marc Becker gave an update on the *Indicative River and Coastal Flood Map-Scotland*. Licensing and royalties have now been resolved and local authorities now have access to the Map. The launch of the public website will take place on 1 November. While local authorities have access to 100, 200 and 1000 year flood envelopes only the 200-year outline will be available on the web. It was agreed that although the map was originally produced to support SPP7 and the planning process it is clear that it will have a range of users and uses.

SEPA Flood Awareness Campaign

5. SEPA's 6-month awareness raising campaign was launched by the Deputy Minister for the Environment and Rural Development, Ms Rhona Brankin, on 10 October at Colinton Primary School, Edinburgh. The Executive has made £190,000 available to SEPA for the next 2 years. The campaign will focus on 15 flood warning schemes and aim to raise awareness of these schemes and increase the number of people registered for flood warning dissemination schemes. 3 new schemes on the Kelvin, Clyde and Irvine Rivers will also be launched. The campaign will use an exhibition trailer and educational plays aimed at children and will work with existing community groups and needs tailored for each community. There will be a pre-evaluation of the campaign messages as well as an annual overall campaign evaluation.

Overview of Coastal Flooding Issues in the Outer Hebrides

6. Martin Tulloch from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) has joined the Sub-Committee to help with its task of considering coastal flood risk; raising awareness and developing warning schemes. He explained to Members the particular problems faced by local authorities with coastal responsibilities.

Assessing the benefits of flood warning – results from phase one

7. Bridget Woods-Ballard presented the findings from the SNIFFER scoping study to consider the tangible and intangible benefits of flood warning schemes. The study reviewed how benefits can be assessed and a literature review was carried out. The study found that there is a paucity of data on the benefits of flood warning schemes. It recognises the importance of being able to assess the intangible benefits but found no models to evaluate the scale of these benefits. The outputs from the study will help SEPA take a more strategic approach to developing flood warning schemes in the future. Members agreed that it was important not to assume that the same warning scheme will fit all areas. Stage 2 of the research will start shortly.

Coastal Flood Warning – David Faichney

8. David Faichney explained that SEPA is developing a coastal flood warning strategy to help with a several requests for coastal warning schemes. The strategy will be launched this autumn in time for the high tides at the beginning of the year. The Executive has funded stage one of the strategy and SEPA is now trying to identify the risk of flooding in key areas and gather more data to help identify gaps and the extend of the work required and how this might impact on SEPA's resources and day to day business. David Faichney outlined how FIAC might help SEPA continue to develop its coastal flood warning strategy. He suggested that it would be helpful to undertake a scoping study to help identify the gaps in the strategy.

Other Issues

9. The Executive is pursuing with its Solicitors the possibility of grants to local authorities to carry out detailed flood risk assessments in their area and making funds available to local authorities for individual property or small community protection schemes where a full flood prevention scheme is unlikely to meet cost benefit targets.

10. Sadly the Sub-Committee learned that John Greaves from Highland Council, who had been a member of this Sub-Committee and before that the National Technical Advisory Group on Flooding Issues (NTAG), died in February this year.

Next steps

11. A next and final meeting has been arranged for 18 January 2007 at Victoria Quay and Members will discuss the need for a national forum for people affected by flooding; coastal flood warning scoping study; raising awareness of risk to life from flooding and collating work on raising flood awareness.

Conclusion

12. **Members are invited to note the above.**

**FIAC Secretariat
October 2006**

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Membership

1. **David Faichney, SEPA - Chair**
2. Carolyn Girvan, SE, Climate Change and Air Division
3. Jill Boulton, Norwich Union
4. Alistair Dyer, Scottish Water
5. Prof Charles Ainger, Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
6. Alan Motion, Met Office
7. Stephen McLachlan, East Lothian Council
8. Dr. Andrew Black, University of Dundee
9. Dinah Keal, National Flood Forum
10. Steven Merrett, Environment Agency
11. Martyn Tulloch, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
12. Lynn Mills, SE, Civil Contingencies Unit

FIAC Secretariat

October 2006