

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT 2 NOVEMBER 2006 FIAC MEETING

Purpose

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

Background

2. The Sub-Committee has met four times, on 25 August 2005, 19 January 2006, 25 May 2006 and on 19 October 2006. The current membership is detailed in Annex A, and Carolyn Girvan, of the Scottish Executive, chairs the meetings.

3. This Sub-Committee is set up to discuss technical guidance for local authorities taking forward a flood prevention scheme under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961, future prioritisation of flood prevention schemes and legislative change.

Feedback from the last meeting on 19 October 2006

Technical guidance

4. DG gave an update on writing the technical guidance:

- 1 Chapter 1 – an Executive foreword is required.
- 2 Chapter 2 – this is now ready to go back to Executive Solicitors for final comments.
- 3 Chapter 3 – final draft received for the Executive to review.
- 4 Chapter 4 – a first draft was discussed at the Sub-Committee meeting. A copy has also been sent to Matt Crossman to get feedback from the Association of British Insurers. A final draft is required from the Contractors for 30 November 2006.
- 5 Chapter 5 – published.
- 6 Chapter 6 – published.
- 7 Chapter 7 – a first draft was discussed at the Sub-Committee meeting. Copy has also been sent to Executive colleagues for comments. A final draft is required from the Contractors for 30 November 2006.
- 8 Chapter 8 – we are waiting for findings from the University of Dundee research on the social cost of flooding. The Executive will agree a revised timetable with the Contractors.
- 9 Chapter 9 – we have agreed that a chapter on scheme prioritisation is not required at present.
- 10 Chapter 10 – has not started yet but Contractors will provide a draft outline for Members to discuss at the next Sub-Committee meeting on 1 February 2007.

5. There is now a single Glossary and References List for the whole guidance instead of one at the end of each chapter. The Glossary will also include a table categorising the different types of flooding. A draft is attached at Annex B.

Chapter 4: Design standards

6. Members discussed and were generally happy with a first draft of this chapter. However it was agreed that geomorphological aspects, which are a particular issue in Scotland, would be relevant to the section on maintenance and it required more information on coastal flooding.

7. The fact that we have 2 design standards was discussed in detail e.g. 1 in 100 year (plus provision for climate change) indicative design standards for flood prevention schemes and 1 in 200 year standard in SPP7. Members agreed that this chapter must be clear about the reasons for the 2 standards and that the main aim for flood prevention schemes is to concentrate on getting people out of 'high risk' category and not to get everyone out of 'no risk' category.

Chapter 7: Environmental appraisal/impacts

8. Members discussed a first draft of this chapter. They agreed that the Chapter needs to explain the difference between SEA and project level environmental assessment. Members also decided that river restoration should be mentioned in section 4. Importantly Members noted that no decision had been taken on whether CAR would be raised under the planning process or the flood prevention scheme process.

Chapter 8: Social appraisal

9. The Dundee University research *Exploring the Social Impacts of Flood Risk and Flooding in Scotland* will form the core of Chapter 8. This chapter should highlight the importance of flood resilience and flood warnings as well as provisions under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 which have significant implications. A revised timetable for this chapter will be arranged with the Contractors.

Individual property grants

10. Carolyn Girvan will take the issue of individual property grants forward with Executive Solicitors.

Streamlining Flood Prevention Process with the Planning System

11. Nick Evans updated the Sub-Committee on streamlining flood prevention process with the planning system and explained that the proposals are with solicitors for their response. He explained that Notices of Intent to Develop (NID) procedure will change next year and flood prevention schemes will come through as a planning application. Therefore references to NIDs in Chapter 2, for example, may require to be revised in light of these changes. These changes were included in the planning white paper released last year.

Other Business

12. Members received a hard copy of *Notes for Guidance on the Legislative Framework for Assessment and Maintenance of Watercourses and the Promotion of Flood Prevention (Mitigation) Schemes* from the SCOTS Flooding Group. A pdf copy is available from the FIAC Secretariat.

Next Steps

13. A further meeting has been arranged for 1 February 2007 to discuss an outline for chapter 10 – *post project evaluation*. There will also be updates on individual property grants and streamlining the planning and flood prevention processes.

Conclusion

14. Members are invited to note the above.

**FIAC Secretariat
October 2006**

ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Membership

- 1. Carolyn Girvan, Climate Change and Air Division, SE - Chair**
2. John Henderson, Rural Affairs Agriculture, SE
3. Nick Evans, Planning Division, SE
4. Peter Jones, Welsh Assembly Government
5. Alvin Barber, City of Edinburgh Council
6. Stan Irvine, Climate Change and Air Division, SE
7. Prof. Charles Ainger, MWH UK Ltd
8. Jim Hutchison, DEFRA
9. Dr John Riddell, Independent Consultant
10. Dr Roy Richardson, SEPA
11. Jonathan Dennis, Analytical Services (ERAD)
12. David Cotterrell, Environment Agency

**FIAC Secretariat
October 2006**