

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WORKPLAN

Purpose

1. This paper introduces a workplan for the Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (FIAC).

Background

2. FIAC is set up to advise the Executive at a strategic level on implementing the National Flooding Framework and to continue the work of the National Technical Advisory Group on Flooding Issues (NTAG). The work of FIAC will help the Executive take forward the four “As” on which the National Flooding Framework is based - Awareness, Alleviation, Avoidance and Assistance.

3. This paper proposes the Committee’s workplan for the period April 2005 to March 2007.

Conclusions

4. **Members are invited to:**

- **consider and agree the workplan as set out in Annex A below;**
- **discuss the role of sub-committees and agree specific areas of work that they might take forward, and**
- **consider membership of these sub-committees.**

**FIAC Secretariat
April 2005**

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WORKPLAN

Purpose

1. This paper outlines the proposed work plan for the Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (FIAC), which will meet between April 2005 and March 2007.

Background

2. FIAC has been set up to advise the Scottish Executive at a strategic level on a range of flooding issues to help take forward the National Flooding Framework. This will include continuing the work started by the National Technical Advisory Group on Flooding Issues (NTAG) on guidance for local authorities taking forward flood prevention schemes and the meaning of sustainable flood management. The four As (Awareness, Alleviation, Avoidance and Assistance), which support the National Flooding Framework, provide a useful matrix for separating the workplan items.

3. We anticipate that much of the detailed work will be done through sub-committees, possibly concentrating on the Awareness, Alleviation and Avoidance elements of the National Flooding Framework. Each sub-committee will report directly to FIAC. FIAC will have a 2-year fixed lifespan and will report its conclusions to the Executive by June 2007. In view of the time constraints on FIAC, we recognise that, exceptionally, some of the work will best be carried out on a consultancy basis.

Awareness

Second Generation/ Indicative flood risk map

4. The Executive has made £1.8m available to SEPA to produce a second generation indicative flood risk map to cover the whole of Scotland. This will be completed by autumn 2005.

5. The Executive has also commenced a research project to compile an asset register of river and coastal flood prevention schemes constructed in Scotland since 1961. In addition, the project includes surveying these schemes to ascertain the level of protection they offer at today's standards and identifying, using modern modelling techniques based on ground level information from a digital terrain model, the existing infrastructure that they protect. This information will be used in conjunction with the new flood risk map and is due to complete in July 2005.

6. FIAC will discuss the role of the map and the information from the asset register in helping to communicate flood risk to a wide audience including local authorities, developers and the public. FIAC may also be invited to discuss whether flood plains identified on the map can serve as a gauge for natural flood attenuation potential and to offer advice on how the map might be developed to meet the demands of future flood risk management issues.

Flood warning systems and dissemination

7. The strategy for flood warning systems and dissemination is being taken forward in conjunction with key stakeholders i.e. Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland (ACPOS), SEPA, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) and CoSLA. FIAC could provide a useful forum for discussing elements of the strategy which require discussion beyond this key stakeholder group. An 'Awareness Sub-Committee' could discuss the practical aspects of flood warning systems and dissemination once the overall strategy in this area has been agreed by the key stakeholders.

Awareness raising

8. Members will consider how the work of the Committee might feed into the annual SEPA Flood Awareness Campaign, which is an integral part of the Executive's flooding framework.

Avoidance***Planning***

9. FIAC will provide a further forum for feedback on the "Scottish Planning Policy 7: Planning and Flooding" and "Planning Advice Note 69 – Planning and Building Standards Advice on Flooding" particularly for non planning interests, and an opportunity to ensure that planning issues are appropriately represented in the wider work of FIAC.

Building standards

10. Building standards are increasingly taking on a higher profile in the context of flood risk management, particularly in relation to resilience to climate change impacts: FIAC will wish to consider the nature and extent of the role the standards can play in this field.

Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003

11. Part 1 of the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act") transposes the European Water Framework Directive and in doing so introduces a new framework for the management and protection of Scotland's water environment. The Executive will provide feedback to FIAC on progress being made taking forward the Water Framework Directive through the 2003 Act. SEPA is currently in the process of producing guidance on this subject and FIAC's role may be limited.

River basin management

12. Chapter 2 of the 2003 Act promotes river basin management; in particular it calls for river basin districts to be established. The river basin districts have now been designated. The Act also permits Ministers to designate "responsible authorities" who, where consistent with their functions, will have a duty to promote sustainable flood management and will be involved in the preparation of River Basin Management Plans. The guidance on flood risk management will therefore need to establish clear links with river basin management planning.

Sustainable flood management – Pilot and Consultation

13. NTAG produced a paper entitled *What is Sustainable Flood Management?*, which proposes a definition; objectives, principles and indicators to measure sustainable flood management. We will commission a pilot study to test the outcomes from this work, in particular how to apply the measurable indicators. After that the Executive plans to carry out a full public consultation. FIAC will be invited to offer advice to help the Executive take forward this work. Members will also be invited to offer advice on how sustainable flood management might be promoted and how practitioners might be trained on the technical guidance.

14. The Foresight *Future Flooding* report identified the risk of flooding of our towns and cities as possibly the greatest challenge to be faced in the future: but also emphasised that it is the area of greatest uncertainty. Such flooding can arise from a number of sources - surface water run-off and sewers as well as flooding from rivers and the sea – acting individually or in combination. *What is Sustainable Flood Management* covers flood risk from all of these sources. FIAC will be invited to consider the inter-relationships which exist and to offer advice on developing an integrated portfolio of responses – in line with the approach proposed in the Foresight report.

15. *Sustainable (urban) drainage systems*

16. Scottish Water has carried out preliminary consultation on sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) standards. In 2005 the Executive will consult on regulations for construction standards for SuDS as well as reasonable cost and construction standards and vesting conditions for water and sewerage infrastructure. FIAC will consider how SuDS might be promoted in the outstanding technical guidance chapters (see paragraph 16) and also the important role SuDS play in implementing sustainable flood management. The Executive attends meetings of the SUDS working party which is chaired by SEPA.

Alleviation

Technical guidance

17. FIAC will offer expert advice to the Executive to help produce technical guidance for local authorities and interested parties making flood prevention decisions. With advice from NTAG we have drawn up a list of chapters for the new guidance as follows:

- 1) Introduction and overview
- 2) Statutory process
- 3) Strategic considerations
- 4) Design standards
- 5) Economic appraisal
- 6) Approaches to risk
- 7) Environmental appraisal/impacts
- 8) Social appraisal
- 9) Project prioritisation methodology
- 10) Post-Project Evaluation

18. NTAG has given technical advice on the production of 2 chapters namely *Economic appraisal* and *Approaches to risk* and these are now ready to be issued.

19. FIAC will offer advice on the remaining 8 guidance chapters, which will be produced over a 2 year period. In doing so it will take a sustainable flood management approach to flood prevention solutions. It will also consider how the guidance can encourage a partnership approach to future flood prevention solutions.

Prioritisation of flood prevention schemes

20. Discussions at NTAG touched on the need for local authorities to adopt a more proactive approach to addressing flood risk management. With increasing demands on resources in the future there will be a need for prioritisation. FIAC gives us an opportunity to develop those discussions and provide a sounding board for how a prioritisation system might be developed to take account of future financial constraints. FIAC will also help inform inputs to the Executive's Spending Review 2006, which will start at the end of 2005. FIAC will be asked to consider how guidance might offer a more strategic approach to flood risk management.

Institutional/legislative changes

21. The Committee will consider the workings of the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 ("the 1961 Act"), 40 years on, and identify any areas which are now considered to be causing difficulties to managing flood risk. In particular legislation that might hinder progress on sustainable flood management.

Assistance

22. Members will be kept up to date on initiatives to give better support to those affected by flooding; particularly the review of home contents insurance schemes and the implementation of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 as it relates to dealing with flood risk.

Cross-cutting issues

Research

23. The Executive will update the Committee on all relevant research projects it is funding or of which it is aware. Details of the Executive's research programme can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/Flooding/16919/6902>. Members will be asked to offer feedback on research findings and to propose topics for research.

24. At the first meeting of FIAC SNIFFER (the Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research) will give a presentation on its work and future flood management research issues.

Climate change

25. The Foresight report suggests that flood risk from rivers could double by the 2080s in some parts of Scotland but with marked regional variations, with the impact of climate change on fluvial flood risk more severe in the east and least in the north and north west.

How climate change assumptions are factored into investment in drains and sewers is recognised as a growing issue which will require to be catered for in future plans. FIAC will wish to consider the findings of a UKWIR (UK Water Industry Research) project “Climate Change and the Hydraulic Design of Sewerage Systems”, which was completed in April 2004. Hence climate change ‘cuts across’ all elements of flooding and will be considered by FIAC at all stages and on all topics.

Final report of the CoSLA Flooding Task Group

26. FIAC will consider the Executive’s official response to the final report, and will discuss if there are any further issues which the Executive could address. FIAC will consider how the recommendations made in the report might be taken forward.

‘Learning to Live With Rivers’ report

27. FIAC will be asked to consider the relevance of the *Learning to Live with Rivers* report and its findings for Scotland. Prof. George Fleming of ICE has offered to explain the implications of this report for Scotland to FIAC.

‘Making space for water’ consultation

28. In July 2004 DEFRA released its *Making space for water* consultation paper which proposes a new strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England and Wales. The UK government has recently published its first response to the consultation. FIAC will be asked to consider the outcomes from the consultation and how these might inform our approach to the National Flooding Framework.

EU flooding directive/developments/committees

29. The Executive will keep FIAC informed of progress on a possible European Flooding Directive and will seek advice where appropriate.

What are the real costs of flooding?

30. FIAC will be asked to consider work being undertaken on determining the social costs of flooding and how the findings might inform the work on sustainable flood management and the guidance

Local authority biennial reports on flooding

31. Section 6A of the 1961 Act (as amended by section 3 of the Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997) places a duty on each local authority to prepare and publish a report every two years detailing the measures it considers necessary to prevent or mitigate flooding in its area. Professor Alan Werritty has produced a report on the biennial reports and how the methodology of reporting could be made more efficient. The Committee will be asked to consider the outputs of this report. Also it will consider whether a biennial national conference would be appropriate to discuss the national position (as aggregated from local authority reports and other sources) and other flood risk matters.

Future of the committee

32. The Committee will review its performance and make recommendations on whether there is a continuing need for members to meet regularly to discuss flooding issues for the Executive to take to Ministers by March 2007.

**FIAC Secretariat
April 2005**