

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Purpose

1. This paper introduces a workplan for the Alleviation Sub-Committee of 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. In support of the work of the main Committee, three sub-committees have been established: Awareness and Assistance; Avoidance; and Alleviation.

Conclusions

4. Members are invited to consider and agree:

- **the workplan for the Alleviation Sub-Committee as set out in Annex A below and**
- **the membership of the Sub-Committee as set out in Annex B.**

FIAC Secretariat
June 2005

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Purpose

1. This paper outlines the proposed workplan for the Alleviation Sub-Committee of the Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (FIAC).

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. NTAG set up a Sub-Group to advise on writing technical guidance for local authorities bringing forward flood prevention schemes under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 (“the 1961 Act”). So far 2 chapters of the guidance have been completed and an outline for another 3 has been drawn up. The Alleviation Sub-Committee will continue this work. It will also discuss the important issues of flood prevention scheme prioritisation and legislative change.

Alleviation***Technical guidance***

4. The Sub-Committee will offer expert advice to the Executive on producing technical guidance for local authorities and interested parties making flood prevention decisions. The new guidance will be set out as follows:

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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. FIAC will also offer advice to the Executive on how best to present the guidance to stakeholders, including whether there is a need to roll out the guidance to practitioners through a series of work shops.

Prioritisation of flood prevention schemes

7. 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 discuss options for prioritising flood prevention schemes for example: the DEFRA scoring system, the sustainable flood management indicators; or accepting schemes and then putting them into a ten year programme of construction.

8. 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.

Legislative changes

9. The Alleviation Sub-Committee will consider the workings of the 1961 Act, 40 years on, and identify any areas which are now considered to be causing difficulties to managing flood risk.

10. The Sub-Committee will wish to consider changes in the funding mechanisms which would result from prioritisation of flood prevention schemes. They will also consider the definition of 'schemes' within the meaning of the 1961 Act and how it might be widened to include an incremental approach to providing protection. The Sub-Committee will also consider how less engineered solutions which are below 'scheme' level, might be encouraged and funded. The role that flood warning systems play should also be considered in particular whether systems should be encouraged when a flood prevention scheme is being considered. However Members will have to bear in mind the impacts of cost benefit analysis and that ultimately all actions must be judged by the level of protection offered.

Cross-cutting issues

13. The Sub-Committee will bear in mind the 'cross-cutting issues' identified in the FIAC workplan, paper FIAC2005(3).

Conclusion

14. The Chair will report progress at each FIAC meeting to inform Members of the Sub-Committee's outputs.

ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Membership

- 1. Judith Tracey, Air, Climate and Engineering Division, SE -Chair**
2. Charles Ainger, MWH UK Ltd
3. John Henderson, Rural Affairs, Agricultural Staff, SE
4. Nick Evans, Planning, SE
5. David Cotterrell, Environment Agency
6. Peter Jones, Welsh Assembly
7. Alvin Barber, City of Edinburgh Council
8. Stan Irvine, Air, Climate and Engineering Division, SE
9. Ronnie Falconer, Jacobs Babtie
10. Jim Hutchison, DEFRA
11. John Riddell, Independent Consultant
12. June Graham, SEPA
13. Tom Harvie-Clark, Environment Economist, SE