

**FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AVOIDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23 November 2006, Conference Room 3,  
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.**

**Present:** Jim Conlin (Scottish Water) – chair.

**Scottish Executive:** Helen Kemp (SE, Climate Change and Air Division) - minutes, Debi Garft (SE, Climate Change and Air Division), Carolyn Girvan (SE, Climate Change and Air Division).

Professor Alan Werritty (University of Dundee), Steven Tingle (Renfrewshire Council), Dr Roy Richardson (SEPA), Professor Charles Ainger (MWH), David Rae (Forestry Commission), John Smith (Royal Town Planning Institute), Morag Garden (Scottish Water); Andrew Smith (Homes for Scotland), Arthur Philp (Norwich Union), Mike Donaghy (Scottish Environment LINK), Angus Tree (Scottish Natural Heritage).

**Observers:** Ronnie Falconer (Jacobs), Luke Comins (Tweed Forum), Stephen Renwick (Scottish Borders Council).

**Apologies:** John Hood (ERAD), Phil Boon (Scottish Natural Heritage), Iain Matheson (National Union of Farmers of Scotland), Jonathan Chapman (Environment Agency), Stephen Tingle (Renfrewshire Council),

**Agenda Item 2: Welcome from Chair and introduction**

1. Jim Conlin (JC) welcomed everyone to the fifth Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (FIAC) Avoidance Sub-Committee meeting. He introduced Angus Tree who attended for Phil Boon representing Scottish Natural Heritage and Luke Comins (LC) and Stephen Renwick who were attending for the agenda item on Catchment Management Planning on the Tweed.

**Agenda Item 3: Minutes and action points from the fourth Avoidance Sub-Committee meeting on 10 August 2006.**

2. Members agreed the minutes from the last meeting. Secretariat confirmed that all the action points from the last meeting had been completed.

**Agenda Item 4: Review of Avoidance Sub-Committee Workplan – Jim Conlin (JC)**

***Planning and Building Standards***

3. It was agreed that the final report from the Sub-Committee should include a final position statement for each topic highlighted in the original Sub-Committee workplan. Secretariat explained that the Sub-Committee report would go to FIAC on 1 March and form part of FIAC's final report to the Executive and Ministers.

4. The Sub-Committee looked at planning and building standards as cross cutting issues and it was agreed that the Alleviation and Awareness and Assistance Sub-Committees would also discuss these issues.

**Action point 1: Secretariat to ensure that the Awareness and Assistance Sub-Committee covers building standards in its final report.**

5. John Smith (JS) explained that the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Policy Officer was now in place. He asked if there was more that the Sub-Committee could do to ensure that flooding issues was included in a joined-up planning process and said that he was happy to take this back to the RTPI.

6. JS agreed to start the final report and address the planning issues part. Members may be asked for contributions i.e. Morag Garden (MG) on Sustainable (Urban) Drainage Systems (SUDS).

**Action point 2: Secretariat to coordinate the final report and circulate to Members for comments.**

***Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003***

7. Members discussed the role of the National Advisory Group (NAG) and Area Advisory Groups (AAG) in the River Basin Management Planning process and the importance of them responding to the sustainable flood management consultation. Roy Richardson said it was important that the NAG and AAGs knew about FIAC's work and was able to support FIAC's approach.

8. Mike Donaghy (MD) suggested a formal meeting with AAGs to explain FIAC's position and allay any fears about flooding issues adding to their already full agenda. JC said he would be happy to meet with SEPA and NAG and present FIAC work. Members agreed that NAG and AAGs should be invited to respond to the sustainable flood management consultation.

9. Members agreed that the Sub-Committee has covered land use issues, sustainable flood management and links with the River Basin Planning process in depth and this would be reflected in the final report by the papers produced.

10. Alan Werritty said that it was important that the final report has a statement on the Foresight Report especially on urban flooding.

**Action point 3: JC agreed to produce a final statement for the report on Foresight and urban flooding.**

11. Members agreed that the Sub-Committee has addressed the cross cutting issues in the main FIAC workplan.

**Agenda Item 5: SUDS Policy Consultation – Jim Conlin**

***Sustainable (urban) drainage systems (SUDS)***

12. JC gave an update on the forthcoming Executive's consultation on SuDS. Scottish Water is working closely with the Executive on the consultation. He warned that while the consultation addresses issues such as joined up thinking it would not solve all problems, such as runoff and flood routing. Members discussed the importance of SuDS no longer just being

about water quality but recognising its role in flood management. JC suggested that Sub-Committee should respond to the consultation.

13. Members discussed the importance of linking the work back to Foresight.

14. Members agreed that there are examples of integrated systems, which demonstrate best practice and it is essential that legislation should not hinder best practice. Building Standards must consider the effects that building conservatories and extensions etc. can have on drainage by increasing the size of the impervious urban area. Planners must take drainage into consideration when making planning decisions,

15. David Rae highlighted the need to consider green corridors to take surface water away from built up areas and JC confirmed that this is being considered as part of the Glasgow drainage plan.

**Action point 4: JC to liaise with the Executive to find out if FIAC can contribute to the consultation exercise before it is released.**

**Agenda Item 6: Catchment strategy planning for sustainable flood management – Working Group feedback and next steps – Charles Ainger/Alan Werritty**

16. AW presented the revised paper and explained that it takes account of the Members' comments and FIAC discussions. It was agreed that the Executive wants to use the paper as a clear decision-making framework and does not expect the Sub-Committee to come to a final conclusion at this stage.

17. In taking forward the paper Members agreed that:

- where appropriate individual input should be kept to an annex.
- there should be some detail on SuDS roles and responsibilities even at this stage.
- it would be helpful to have a Gant chart in an annex to show critical dates.
- foresters and farmers should be added to the list of stakeholders and a full list of stakeholders should be included in an annex.
- as stakeholders have different responsibilities at different levels the paper needs to separate responsibilities into national strategic planning and local implementation.
- the paper should address vulnerability to climate change.

18. Members discussed whether the option for an organisation led by the Executive might minimise legislative requirements. However this might interfere with the Executive's neutral stance if they were overseeing decisions.

19. Members favoured an organisation rather than a long-term committee to take forward this work. MD said that we would have to agree a framework before we can go on. Charles Ainger agreed that the framework should be amended to reflect an integrated approach rather than being under the control of the River Basin Management Planning process during the first

phase of the WFD. It was suggested that FIAC could be funded to take the lead in the first cycle, with a formal delegated agency set up in the second cycle.

20. Tom Ball is preparing a paper on sustainable flood management examples and this should be added as an annex to the paper.

**Action point 5: MG to review paper and add SUDS references where appropriate.**

**Action point 6: Paper to be revised for the FIAC meeting on 1 March 2007.**

**Action point 7: Paper to be agreed at the next Avoidance meeting on 8 February 2007 and finalised to take to FIAC on 1 March 2007.**

**Agenda Item 7: Catchment Management Planning on Tweed and the Integration of Sustainable Flood Management – presentation from Luke Comins – Tweed Forum Manager**

21. Luke Comins (LC), the Tweed Forum manager gave an overview of the work of the Tweed Forum and in particular how it is encouraging catchment management planning on the Tweed. LC confirmed that the Forum has been contracted by SEPA to provide the Area Advisory Group role. He explained that the Forum is taking a more catchment based approach to tackling flooding in urban areas. To help understand these processes better it will be commissioning work on sustainable flood management to look at land management techniques.

22. Members commended the Forum on its approach. RR explained that the Forum was the best example of an existing group looking at catchment flood management planning as an AAG .

23. JC said that this was an opportunity for the Executive to support best practice and consider whether this work could provide outputs to complement the work of FIAC. Members agreed that it was encouraging to see the Forum and Scottish Borders Council take such a strategic approach within the current legislation.

**Action point 8: The Tweed Forum to approach the Executive with a request for funding to help with the shortfall in funds for the sustainable flood management project.**

**Agenda Item 8: Sustainable Flood Management and Land Use – next steps – Debi Garft**

24. Debi Garft (DG) explained that the Executive is looking at ways to take forward the FIAC paper on land use management techniques. CA proposed questions to include in the sustainable flood management consultation that would recognise that links should be made to the River Basin Management Planning. It was agreed that it these should be included.

**Action point 9: Secretariat to circulate CA's questions to Members for comments.**

**Agenda Item 9: Update on the sustainable flood management consultation – Debi Garft**

25. DG explained that the consultation has been delayed and confirmed that the Executive will have resources to help analyse the consultation responses. She explained that the Executive is looking at ways of setting up workshops and that they will have to be completed

before Purdah starts at the end of March. Members will be given the opportunity to comment on the paper.

**Agenda item 10: Any other business and next steps**

26. JS asked what range of properties are shown to be potentially at risk by the Second Generation Flood Planning Map and what kind of problems could this raise.

**Action point 10: Secretariat to follow up enquiry about revising the number of properties at risk of flooding with David Seaman and David Faichney.**

27. Members were given the latest details on the SNIFFER conference arranged for 27 February in Dunfermline.

**Agenda Item 11: Next meeting**

28. The next meeting was arranged for 8 February 2007 at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

**FIAC Secretariat  
February 2007**