

## FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Flood Warning Dissemination Scoping Study - Update

#### Background

- Following a meeting with the Scottish Executive, attended by the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland (ACPOS), the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) and SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency), it was accepted that if the mission and expectations were clear and if properly resourced, SEPA is best placed to lead in the delivery of a single service to disseminate flood warning information directly to the public in Scotland.
- A position paper 'Flood Warning Dissemination Programme: Scope and Delivery Proposal', was produced in June 2005 by SEPA setting out its vision for such a service.
- Subsequently a more detailed scoping study was undertaken and an outline business case presented to the Flood Warning Dissemination Project and Advisory Boards in March 2006. This provided indicative costs and a programme of work for a range of service and system options. SEPA consulted with key, professional partners to gain their perspective on the current environment and expectations of this service, met with system suppliers to understand the range and capabilities of products available in the market place, discussed potential business impacts with internal stakeholders and visited Local Authorities and other agencies on-site to learn from existing, local warning dissemination schemes.

The study concluded:

- There is a critical need to run an effective public awareness and registration campaign in order to leverage the greatest benefit from the proposed dissemination service.
- The campaign will target properties within existing fluvial and coastal flood warning schemes.
- Targeting of properties at risk outwith existing flood schemes is currently constrained by the capacity of the existing monitoring network and would require substantial additional investment in developing new schemes
- The registration service will operate as an 'opted in' scheme with an estimated 20,000 - 25,000 contacts being signed up in the course of the programme.
- This number is based upon a take up rate of around 30% of the properties at risk within the existing schemes plus additional registrations for Floodwatches, professional partners or external 'area of interest' contacts.
- The public awareness and registration campaign is costed, indicatively, at **£1.05m**
- A number of system options are available for consideration in support of implementing a dissemination service:
  - Scaled up versions of existing 'off the shelf' / packaged AVM's as implemented by Local Authorities in area such as Borders

- Development of SEPA dedicated system functionality and infrastructure based upon current EA FWD solution
- 'Piggy backing' onto existing EA FWD system as ninth region or variants thereof
- Purchasing EA's legacy / decommissioned AVMs
- System solution costs range from one off costs of **£200k to £1.6m** and recurring annual costs of **£300k to £750k**. This reflects the level of functionality, resilience and security provided in each case
- A number of technical architectures are available to support such a service, the report identified:
  - **Hosted** vs **Local** i.e. a third party runs and maintains the system solution on SEPA's behalf as opposed to SEPA maintaining the system locally. A hosted solution is preferred given levels of security, availability and resilience
  - **Dedicated** vs. **Shared**. An infrastructure is constructed solely to meet SEPA's requirements as opposed to SEPA sharing resources with one or more other customers. The former is high cost but ensures optimum performance at all times.
- Overall programme costs for 06/07 - 09/10 incorporating system & awareness campaign costs plus all other project activities and resource ranges from **£5.8m to £9.48m**
- Estimated delivery timescales for the programme is mid November 2008, including 3 months of support before final operational handover.

Arising from business case review was the need to undertake additional or complete outstanding work as follows:

- A number of EA related system solutions which were not fully investigated within the March timescales.
- Consultancy input from both EA and Fujitsu to undertake technical 'proof of concept' work such as capacity planning, for these outstanding system options
- Consultancy to determine costs of developing required schemes and monitoring networks to support dissemination service outwith existing schemes
- SEPA is therefore building up a bid for an additional 3-4 month period to undertake this work.

**SEPA**  
**May 2006**