

## NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FLOODING ISSUES

### GUIDANCE SUBGROUP – REPORT FOR 3 JUNE 2004 NTAG MEETING

#### Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the National Technical Advisory Group on Flooding Issues (NTAG) with a second progress report from the Guidance Sub-Group.

#### Background

2. The Guidance Sub-Group met on 21 January and 25 May 2004. A third meeting will be arranged for August/September 2004. David Wilson of Scottish Water is now a Member of the Sub-Group. Meetings are chaired by Alan Burdekin (Scottish Executive) and a list of current Members is attached at Annex 1.

3. This Sub-Group is set up to offer advice to the Scottish Executive on the production of technical guidance to take forward flood prevention schemes under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 (“the 1961 Act”).

#### Outcome of recommendations made at 21 January 2004 meeting and taken to NTAG on 1 April

4. NTAG agreed the following recommendations:

- a) **Technical guidance should include a section on “Methods of Partnership Working” upfront in an overview chapter.**
- b) **A chapter on the statutory processes under the 1961 Act should be included in guidance.**
- c) **A chapter titled “Consequences of Failure” should be included in guidance, and will cover residual risks.**
- d) **The proposed guidance outline was endorsed.**
- e) **A two phase approach to producing technical guidance should be adopted.**
- f) **Training should be provided for practitioners.**

5. In addition to the above, NTAG also recommended that the Guidance Sub-Group considers including a separate chapter on the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”).

#### Main discussion points from 25 May 2004

6. Members discussed how local authorities should be encouraged to get together at a higher (catchment) level to help promote a more strategic approach to flooding. It was agreed that it was important that examples of good practice are fed back to FLAGs.

7. Members discussed at length the role of River Basin Management Plans in delivering sustainable flood management.

8. Peter Bolton introduced his drafts of the “Economic appraisal” and “Approaches to risk” guidance, which are based on DEFRA guidance. The drafts provoked discussion

around “the do-nothing” option, asset ownership and maintenance, minimum standards and adopting an incremental cost/benefit approach. Members were asked to forward detailed comments on these two drafts to Peter and Secretariat by 14 June.

9. Members were given an update on the areas of its guidance that DEFRA intends to revise.

10. Members discussed what the next steps should be and agreed that the Sub-Group should be considering the “Introduction and overview”, “Strategic considerations” and “Statutory process” chapters next.

11. Members were advised of how the post project evaluation process works in England and discussed its relevance to Scotland.

#### **Recommendations to take to NTAG on 3 June 2004**

12. The Sub-Group proposes that the “Strategic Considerations” chapter should encourage local authorities to work in partnership in assessing the flood risks in any catchment and to take a more strategic approach to flooding and set out how River Basin Management Plans should fit into the process.

13. Members recommended that the Executive should consider how FLAGs might be developed to help encourage local authorities to get together to discuss flooding on a higher catchment level.

14. The Sub-Group considered NTAG’s proposal that there should be a separate chapter to cover the 2003 Act. However it recommends that the 2003 Act should be covered by a specific section in the “Statutory process” chapter. It also recommends that guidance on sustainable flood management should be dealt with in the “Strategic considerations” chapter.

15. Issues around “risk to life” and “consequences of failure” should be included in the “Design standards” chapter.

16. Members propose the following as an amended outline to the contents of the new guidance:

- a) **Introduction and overview** – highlighting partnership working.
- b) **Statutory process** – explaining the 1961 Act, the 2003 Act etc.
- c) **Strategic considerations** – cover mapping and hydrometric issues and sustainable flood management.
- d) **Design standards** – to be supplemented by the Baptie Report findings on climate change.
- e) **Economic appraisal** – to be taken from DEFRA guidance PAG 3.
- f) **Approaches to risk** – to be taken from DEFRA guidance PAG 4.

- g) **Environmental appraisal/impacts** – based on DEFRA guidance PAG 5.
- h) **Project prioritisation methodology** – new guidance required.
- i) **Post-Project Evaluation** - new guidance required possibly based on the developing Guidance DEFRA is preparing for PAG6.

17. The Sub-Group recommends that Peter Bolton should offer advice to the Executive on what the “Introduction and overview”, “Strategic considerations” and “Statutory process” chapters should encompass. An outline for each of these chapters should then be drafted for the Sub-Group to consider in detail.

#### **Next steps**

18. A further meeting will be arranged for August/September to discuss the outlines of the “Introduction and overview”, “Strategic considerations” and “Statutory process” chapters. The Sub-Group will also discuss how best to introduce training to the practitioners.

19. **Members are invited to:**

- **discuss the above, and**
- **agree the recommendations at paragraphs 12 to 17 above.**

**NTAG Secretariat  
May 2004**

**THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FLOODING ISSUES**

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FLOODING ISSUES - GUIDANCE SUBGROUP**

**Chair**

Alan Burdekin, Scottish Executive (Environment Department, Air, Climate and Engineering Division)

**Members**

Tom Harvie-Clark, Scottish Executive (Environment Department, Analytical Services Division)

Jim Hutchison, DEFRA

Stan Irvine, Scottish Executive (Environment Department, Air, Climate and Engineering Division)

Adam Olejnik, COSLA

Dr John Riddell, Independent Consultant

Jonathan Chapman, Environment Agency

David Wilson, Scottish Water

**Secretariat**

Debi Garft, Scottish Executive (Air, Climate and Engineering Division)

William Walker, Scottish Executive (Air, Climate and Engineering Division)

**Observer**

Peter Bolton, Consultant

**NTAG Secretariat**

**May 2004**