

NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FLOODING ISSUES

MAPPING AND HYDROMETRIC ISSUES SUBGROUP – REPORT FOR 1 APRIL 2004 NTAG MEETING

Purpose

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

Background

2. The Mapping and Hydrometric Issues Sub-Group met on 12 March 2004 and a second meeting will be arranged for May 2004. Meetings are chaired by Tim Jolley (SEPA) and a list of Members is attached at Annex 1.

3. This Sub-Group is set up to discuss the preparation of a second generation flood risk map for Scotland and related hydrometric issues and consider how these might feed into technical guidance on taking forward flood prevention schemes under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961.

Main discussion points

4. Tim Jolley gave Members some background to events leading up to a second generation map proposal. He also gave members an update on procuring the map; explaining that the contract is likely to be awarded in April.

5. The Sub-Group discussed at length who the second generation map is for and agreed that its main purpose was to support Scottish Planning Policy 7. However individual householders and companies with a commercial interest in flooding will also be able to access it on the internet.

6. Members debated whether it was necessary to have a map that covered all of Scotland. The Sub-Group discussed whether the map would be more valuable if it concentrated on areas known to be at higher risk from flooding, which are in the main in urban areas. Members agreed that it was important to have one uniform map to cover the Scottish mainland and islands. Members discussed the availability of local information through studies commissioned by councils and flood risk assessments carried out by developers to support planning applications. Agreement was reached on the importance of making full use of this information (in particular detailed cross-section surveys for the Forth and Clyde) to enhance the information available from the proposed second generation map.

7. Members also recognised and discussed the problems associated with mapping new schemes which include upstream storage and how storage might affect river flows. It was agreed that the published flood envelopes must reflect any impacts on flow of upstream storage.

8. There was also general discussion around the role of the SEPA Floodline service and how it might be expanded to make best use of the second generation map. This will be followed up at the Sub-Group's next meeting.

12 March 2004 meeting recommendations to NTAG

9. The Sub-Group recommends that NTAG endorses a SEPA leafleting campaign to help raise awareness of flooding. This should run in tandem with Flood Awareness Week.

10. Following discussions about the need for a national second generation map opposed to one which concentrates on urban central Scotland, it was suggested that NTAG should discuss phasing in the maps, area by area. This would allow time to prioritise areas where economic/social benefits etc would be greatest.

11. Members agreed that the map produced should be as accurate as possible and must therefore take account of existing survey data. The Sub-Group recommends that the map be able to be developed to include existing survey data from flood risk appraisals already carried out. Future decisions would have to be made as to whether this information was incorporated through either improved validation of the second generation map or the provision of additional map layers.

12. Tim Jolley gave members a presentation of the SEPA hydrometric network and access to SEPA hydrometric data. Members recommend to NTAG that a review of SEPA's hydrometric network be carried out to establish whether current arrangements are sufficient to meet the requirements for flood estimation.

Next steps

13. SEPA Floodline services will be discussed at the next meeting in May.

Conclusions

14. **Members are invited to:**

- **discuss the above, and**
- **agree the recommendations at paragraphs 9 to 12 above.**

**NTAG Secretariat
March 2004**

THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FLOODING ISSUES

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON
FLOODING ISSUES - MAPPING AND HYDROMETRIC ISSUES SUBGROUP**

Chair

Tim Jolley, SEPA

Members

Andrew Black, University of Dundee (Department of Geography)

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

Sebastian Catovsky, Association of British Insurers

Nick Evans, Scottish Executive (Development Department, Planning Division)

John Riddell, Independent Consultant

Jonathan Chapman, Environment Agency

Secretariat

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

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

**NTAG Secretariat
January 2004**