

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

**Purpose**

1. This paper introduces a workplan for the Avoidance 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 as set out in Annex A below and**
- **the membership of the Sub-Committee as set out in Annex B.**

**FIAC Secretariat**  
**August 2005**

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

1. This paper outlines the proposed workplan for the Avoidance 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 discuss sustainable flood management. That Sub-Group started work on defining sustainable flood management which Scottish Ministers, SEPA and the responsible authorities have a duty to promote. The Sub-Group produced a draft definition, objectives and principles for sustainable flood management. The Avoidance Sub-Committee will continue this work, in particular it will analyse the outputs of the sustainable flood management pilot study which will get underway in summer 2005. Following the pilot study a full public consultation is being considered on sustainable flood management, which the Sub-Committee will advise on.

**Avoidance*****Planning***

4. The Sub-Committee will provide a further forum for feedback on the “Scottish Planning Policy 7: Planning and Flooding” and “Planning Advice Note 69 – Planning and Building Standards Advice on Flooding” particularly for non planning interests, and an opportunity to ensure that planning issues are appropriately represented in the wider work of FIAC.

***Building standards***

5. Building standards are increasingly taking on a higher profile in the context of flood risk management, particularly in relation to resilience to climate change impacts: the Sub-Committee will wish to consider the nature and extent of the role the standards can play in this field. The Sub-Committee will discuss the implications of building standard’s effects on insurance, and also consider the work of the Alleviation Sub-Committee in considering the Welsh Assembly approach of providing grants to individual householders.

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

6. Part 1 of the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”) transposes the European Water Framework Directive and in doing so introduces a new framework for the management and protection of Scotland's water environment. The Executive will provide feedback to the Sub-Committee on progress being made taking forward the Water Framework Directive through the 2003 Act.

#### *River basin management*

7. Chapter 2 of the 2003 Act promotes river basin management; in particular it calls for river basin districts to be established. The river basin districts have now been designated. The Act also permits Ministers to designate “responsible authorities” who, where consistent with their functions, will have a duty to promote sustainable flood management and will be involved in the preparation of River Basin Management Plans (draft to be completed in 2008).

8. The Sub-Committee will have to consider the impacts of river basin management planning on flood prevention action, and consider its potential as a means of collecting and co-ordinating the data available. The Sub-Committee will also have to consider how the Controlled Activities Regulations (due to be published in spring 2006) link with the approach taken on sustainable flood management and also the flood prevention scheme statutory process. The guidance on flood risk management will therefore need to establish clear links with river basin management planning.

#### *Sustainable flood management – Pilot and Consultation*

9. NTAG produced a paper entitled *What is Sustainable Flood Management?*, which proposes a definition; objectives, principles and indicators to measure sustainable flood management. The Executive will commission a pilot study to test the outcomes from this work, in particular how to apply the measurable indicators. After that we plan to carry out a full public consultation. The Sub-Committee will be invited to offer advice to help the Executive take forward this work. Members will also be invited to offer advice on how sustainable flood management might be promoted and how practitioners might be trained on the technical guidance.

10. The Foresight *Future Flooding* report identified the risk of flooding of our towns and cities as possibly the greatest challenge to be faced in the future: but also emphasised that it is the area of greatest uncertainty. Such flooding can arise from a number of sources - surface water run-off and sewers as well as flooding from rivers and the sea – acting individually or in combination. *What is Sustainable Flood Management?* covers flood risk from all of these sources. The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider the inter-relationships which exist and to offer advice on developing an integrated portfolio of responses – in line with the approach proposed in the Foresight report.

#### *Sustainable (urban) drainage systems*

11. Scottish Water has carried out preliminary consultation on sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) standards. In 2005 the Executive will consult on regulations for construction standards for SuDS as well as reasonable cost and construction standards and vesting

conditions for water and sewerage infrastructure. FIAC will consider how SuDS might be promoted in the outstanding technical guidance chapters and also the important role SuDS play in implementing sustainable flood management. The Executive attends meetings of the SUDS working party which is chaired by SEPA.

***Land use issues***

12. Members will be asked to consider how farming practices impact on flooding and how this can be managed.

***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.

**FIAC Secretariat  
August 2005**

## AVOIDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

### Membership

1. **Jim Conlin, Scottish Water - Chair**
2. Judith Tracey, Air, Climate and Engineering Division, SE
3. Victoria Elliott, Water Division, SE
4. Prof. Charles Ainger, MWH UK Ltd
5. Mike Donaghy, Scottish Environment LINK
6. , SEPA
7. John Hood, FBRD, SEERAD
8. David Howell, SNH
9. Andrew Smith, Homes for Scotland
10. Iain Mathieson, NFU Scotland
11. John Smith, Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland
12. Stephen Tingle, Renfrewshire Council
13. Emily Postan, Sustainable Development Directorate, SE
14. Prof. Alan Werritty, University of Dundee
15. Jonathan Chapman, Environment Agency.