



Briefing 15/23 April 2015

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency's Flood Risk Management Planning Consultation

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland

For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues:

SEPA and 14 lead local authorities are jointly consulting on the delivery of Scotland's first ever Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans, the most comprehensive assessment of flood risk and its impacts ever compiled in the country. SEPA are welcoming views from everyone on how flood risk is managed and delivered in their area/s of interest (e.g. local, regional, national). Information on how flooding should be managed, coordinated, funded and delivered in each of the Local Plan Districts (the geographic areas for managing flood risk). To inform the individual strategies and plans for each of the 14 Local Plan Districts, a two-part consultation has been announced.

The consultation is currently in phase two and can be completed online at <https://frm-scotland.org.uk> until 2 June 2015. You can contact SEPA about this consultation at 03000 996699 or at FloodActConsultation@sepa.org.uk.

1.0 Background

The following information is available in each Local Plan Districts' consultation:

- A short overview document defining the Local Plan District, the flood risk authorities involved and a summary of the flood risk
- Local Plan District scale objectives and actions to tackle flooding
- River, coastal and surface water flooding chapters, summarised separately for each Local Plan District

- Potentially Vulnerable Area chapters containing: datasheets with information on the source and impact of flooding, and existing actions to manage flood risk; the initial objectives and actions suggested to manage flood risk; a delivery plan developed by the lead local authority that sets out the proposed timescales and funding arrangements for implementation.

The web-link to each Local Plan District's consultation can be found below:

- Ayrshire [\[link\]](#)
- Clyde & Loch Lomond [\[link\]](#)
- Findhorn, Nairn & Speyside [\[link\]](#)
- Forth [\[link\]](#)
- Forth Estuary [\[link\]](#)
- Highland & Argyll [\[link\]](#)
- North East [\[link\]](#)
- Orkney [\[link\]](#)
- Outer Hebrides [\[link\]](#)
- Shetland [\[link\]](#)
- Solway [\[link\]](#)
- Tay [\[link\]](#)
- Tay Estuary & Montrose Basin [\[link\]](#)
- Tweed [\[link\]](#)

SEPA will publish a Flood Risk Management Strategy for each Local Plan District in December 2015 following feedback from the consultation. The lead local authority in each Local Plan District will publish delivery plans in June 2016 setting out how the actions to manage flood risk will be co-ordinated, funded and delivered between 2016 and 2022.

2.0 APSE Comment

APSE welcomes SEPA's consultation on Flood Risk Management Planning in Scotland, which supports our view that local authorities have a responsibility to put in place effective plans for managing the impact their activities have and their ability to respond to the local impacts of climate change. APSE wants to see a positive vision for the future of local government and being able to plan for water related events, respond to emergencies when they occur, manage and maintain the associated infrastructure and benefit from water assets is one element of how local authorities can provide stewardship over resources in their area and so shape the locality. APSE's recent publication '[Local Water: The challenge and the prize for the ensuring council as a steward of water](#)' contains a number of recommendations including looking at flooding as an integral part to water management at a local level, rather than a crisis management approach to flood responses it argues that integrating water management would include planning for flood prevention as well as treating water as a resource. The report also argues that for every £1 spent on proactive flood defensive there would be a saving to the public purse of £8 as

the cost of reactive responses to flooding is much more expensive than prevention measures in the first place. The report argues for a strong ensuring role for local authorities to act as stewards of local water, utilising assets such as parks as floodable areas to use as water stores during times of flooding, and joining up public spending on supplies to maximise value for local authorities purchasing flood supplies and equipment; this requires collaboration at a local level.

Garry Lee
Research & Coordination Officer

Louise McMillan
Principal Advisor (Scotland)