

Flood Risk Management Planning in Scotland: statement of consultation arrangements

Addendum – November 2020

Every day SEPA works to protect and enhance Scotland's environment, helping communities and businesses thrive within the resources of our planet.



We call this **One Planet Prosperity**

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1. Reason for addendum

This addendum, produced by SEPA, updates the consultation arrangements for flood risk management planning in Scotland. It supersedes Flood Risk Management Planning in Statement of Consultation Arrangements published on SEPA's website in May 2018.

2. Background

Flood risk management in Scotland has moved on massively since the Flood Risk Management Act (Scotland) 2009. Working together, SEPA, responsible authorities (local authorities, Scottish Water and national park authorities. Transport Scotland and Forestry & Land Scotland are departments under Scottish Government) and Scottish Government have helped the most sustainable way to protect the highest risk communities. While also developing a better understanding of current and potential future flood risk too many more communities. SEPA and Local authorities will consult the public and other stakeholders addition consult the public and other bodies on the second Flood Risk Management Strategies (FRM Strategies) and Local Flood Risk Management Plans (Local FRM Plans). These plans will build on the work carried out so and inform the prioritisation of national investment, decision-making and local delivery, while maintaining a coordinated delivery. Since the publication of the Statement of Consultation Arrangements in May 2018 the approach to consultation has changed due in main to the impact of Covid-19 on the ability to develop a coordinated plan. Consultation on the FRM Strategies and Local FRM Plans will now be phased. This phased approach to consultation is outlined in this document. The phased approach sets out new dates when the FRM Strategies and Local FRM Plans will be consulted upon and ensures a coordinated approach to consultation and collaborative partnership working.

We hope that in providing information on the consultation arrangements in advance you will be able to participate and feed in your views to how flooding is best managed in the future. If you have any queries regarding this addendum please contact:

Email: FloodActConsultation@sepa.org.uk

Telephone: 03000 99 66 99

3. Phased consultation

Even with the disruption cause due to Covid-19, flood risk management authorities have continued to work in partnership, as much as possible produce the FRM Strategies and Local FRM Plans. A period of public consultation on the document will run from December 2020 to June 2021. The final FRM Strategies and Local FRM Plans (due for publication in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively) will take account of views expressed through consultation and include further detail as to national priority and delivery.

Lead local authorities and SEPA are working together to coordinate their consultation arrangements during the production of the FRM Strategies and Local FRM Plans. The consultation will be delivered through a phased approach between December 2020 and June 2021.

There will be two phases to the consultation, as follows:

Phase 1:

On 21 December 2020 the sections of the draft FRM Strategies that include background information will be made available for review. During phase 1 there will be no linked consultation questions, although SEPA will respond to general queries.

Phase 2:

On 22 March 2021 in addition to the characterisation reports, objectives, actions and additional information relevant to the management of flood risk will be available for public consultation with linked questions. This phase will be open for 3 months until 22 June 2021.

Key elements of the documents to be consulted on are:

- Characterisation reports;

These define flood risk in the Potentially Vulnerable Areas and provide the evidence base upon which future actions to reduce risk can be assessed and compared.

- Objectives;

Identifying objectives is an important step towards determining what actions should be taken to reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding. Some objectives are set across the whole Local Plan

District. However, most will be targeted to priority communities. FRM Strategy objectives are linked to overarching national principles to manage flood risk. These include:

1. Take a long term, risk-based approach to flood risk management decisions and one that considers the impacts of and adaptability to climate change.
2. Deliver coordinated and integrated flood risk management by engaging with communities and working in partnership, sharing data, expertise, services and resources.
3. Consider whole catchments and coastlines and work with natural processes and the environment to deliver multiple outcomes.
 - Identifying actions to reduce flood risk;

The most sustainable combination of actions will be selected to manage the identified flood risk in the target areas.

- Delivery arrangements.

The Local FRM Plans will provide detail on how actions will be delivered. Information on responsibilities, funding sources and timescales will be included.

4. Coordination with Local FRM Plans

It is proposed that the Local FRM Plans consultation by lead local authorities is run concurrently with Phase 2 SEPA's FRM Strategy consultation. Closely aligning and coordinating these consultation requirements is an example of the collaborative partnership based approach being taken to manage flooding by responsible authorities in Scotland and will help achieve an open, transparent and accessible consultation process. There has been strong support for this approach by the lead local authorities. However, should a lead local a

authority subsequently decide to consult separately more details with regard to coordination arrangements will be provided.

5. Next steps

Key dates for the consultation and preparation of the FRM Strategies and Local FRM Plans is as follows:

Table 1: Key dates for the consultation and preparation of FRM Strategies.

Key dates	Consultation and preparatory actions
21 December 2020	Phase 1: SEPA will make characterisation reports available for review.
22 March 2021	Phase 2: SEPA/lead local authorities launch a formal consultation on the draft FRM Strategies and draft Local FRM Plans. Aimed primarily at the public, public bodies and stakeholders involved in the management of flood risk. Three month consultation period.
22 June 2021	Opportunity closes to make comments on the draft FRM Strategies and draft Local FRM Plans.
By 22 August 2021	SEPA to receive from the lead local authorities any comments relevant to the FRM Strategies made on the draft Local FRM Plans.
October/November 2021	SEPA submit FRM Strategies to Ministers for approval. Modifications made to FRM Strategies to be publicised prior to 22 December 2021.
By 22 December 2021	FRM Strategies 2021 published.
By 22 June 2022	Local FRM Plans 2022 published.

6. Coordination with River Basin Management Plans

SEPA and the lead local authorities will continue to work closely together and with stakeholders to ensure consistency between the FRM Strategies, Local FRM Plans and the River Basin Management Plans. The consultation on River Basin Management Plans is available on SEPA's website and will be open from Dec 20 – June 2