

Briefing: Consultation on Flood Risk Management Plans and Local Flood Risk Management Plans



Background

The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (FRM Act) introduced a co-ordinated partnership approach to how we tackle flood risk in Scotland sustainably. SEPA, Responsible Authorities¹ and Scottish Government have been working closely, building on current evidence and understanding, to improve knowledge and explore sustainable ways to protect communities. It has involved assessing whole catchments and coastlines and examining all sources of flooding. This approach ensures targeted and effective flood risk management decisions across Scotland.

In 2015, for each Local Plan District, SEPA published a Flood Risk Management Plan, previously called Flood Risk Management Strategies, which identified Potentially Vulnerable Areas² (PVAs) and set out actions for targeted areas to address flood risk while delivering other benefits. Together these 14 Flood Risk Management Plans have provided a national plan for Scotland.

In 2016, the Lead Local Authority³ for each Local Plan District produced a Local Flood Risk Management Plan which turned the Flood Risk Management Plans into a local delivery plan. These provided a summary of local objectives and actions to manage flood risk. The interlinkage between these plans required a joint public consultation on the plans.

Consultation Phased Approach

The Flood Risk Management Plans and Local Flood Risk Management Plans are now in the process of being updated using information gained since 2016. SEPA is hosting the

¹ Under the FRM Act, Responsible Authorities are local authorities, Scottish Water and National Parks Authority.

² Potentially Vulnerable Areas catchments identified as being at risk of flooding and where the impact of flooding is sufficient to justify further assessment and appraisal

³ A Lead Local Authority is responsible for leading the production, consultation, publication and review of a Local Flood Risk Management Plan.

joint consultation on these draft updates to gain your views. All consultation responses related to the Local Flood Risk Management Plans will be communicated by SEPA to the Lead Local Authorities.

Responses made during the consultation will help shape the final Flood Risk Management Plans and Local Flood Risk Management Plans.

Despite the challenges of Covid-19 and the cyber-attack on SEPA systems, every effort has been made by SEPA and Responsible Authorities to develop the consultation data in collaboration. The constraints of Covid-19 led to the consultation being delivered in two phases.

Phase one, opened in December 2020 and included a summary of flooding in the local Plan Districts, a description of the Potentially Vulnerable Area and identified the localised target areas.

Phase two, will open for responses on 30th July 2021 and will remain open until 31st October 2021. Phase two builds on the information provided in phase one, and includes:

- objectives and actions for managing flood risk in target areas in each PVA within Local Plan Districts.
- draft implementation information from the local flood risk management plans providing details on how local actions, planned before 2028, may be delivered and coordinated
- information and questions on the Strategic Environmental Assessment carried out for the flood risk management plans.

How can I respond?

The preferred route for responses to the consultation is via:

The online consultation hub: <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/frmplans/>.

For general public enquiries related to the consultation, please contact SEPA:

Phone: 07747 627671

Email: FRMplanning@sepa.org.uk

We will endeavour to respond to all enquiries within 10 working days.

How has the information been presented?

The consultation is hosted on Citizen Space, a widely used tool for public sector consultations. Information has been presented in a way which is easy to understand.

Who is the consultation for?

The consultation is for anyone who has an interest in how flooding impacts our communities and how it is being tackled. In particular, the consultation will be of interest to:

- Members of the public
- Local authorities and other responsible authorities under the FRM Act
- Scottish Government
- Emergency responders
- Flood and resilience community groups
- Environmental organisations, such as NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland
- Transport organisations
- Business and industry
- Health bodies, such as the NHS

How is the consultation being communicated?

The communications campaign for the consultation will encourage anyone with an interest in flooding to have their say on how flood risk is managed across Scotland. Communication activity will include:

- Public notice in the Edinburgh Gazette and The Herald
- National press release
- Social media posts: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram
- National targeted, paid social media campaign: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.

An animation and two graphics have been created to promote the consultation; these will be shared with all responsible authorities in advance of the go live date on the 30th July.

Related information

Hard copies of the documents and consultation questions are available on request. Selected sections may be translated to other languages by SEPA on request if required. Please contact SEPA with your request:

Phone: 07747 627671

Email: FRMplanning@sepa.org.uk

Due to current restrictions, we are not able to accommodate requests for this information at SEPA offices.