



North East Local/Area Advisory Group  
Minutes  
01/06/2016  
10:30  
Stewarts Hall, Huntly

**North East Flood Risk Management – Local Advisory Group  
Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> meeting on 01/06/2016  
Stewarts Hall, Huntly**

**Attendees**

Iris Krammer (Minutes)	SEPA, Flood Policy
Gavin Penman (Chair)	Aberdeenshire Council
Steve McFarland	SEPA, Flood Policy
Eilidh Johnston	SEPA, River Basin Management
Linda Mathieson	Aberdeenshire Council
Liz Henderson	Spey Foundation
Shirley Reid	Scottish Natural Heritage
Cordelia Menmuir	SEPA, Flood Advisor
Debbie Halliday	The Moray Council
Will Burnish	Aberdeen City Council
Aftab Majeed	Aberdeen City Council, Planning
Susan Cooksley	River Dee catchment Partnership
Edwin Third	River Dee Fisheries Trust
Ian Cowe	Forestry Commission Scotland
Mark Wilkinson	James Hutton Institute
Anais Junger	James Hutton Institute
Jared Stewart	Scottish Water

**Apologies**

Lorna Paterson	NFUS
Robbie MacDonald	SEPA, Resilience
Ian Francis	RSPB
Hywel Maggs	RSPB
Duncan Ferguson	Spey Catchment Management Partnership
Alan Robertson	Aberdeen City Council
Stephen Addy	James Hutton Institute
Hamish Trench	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Stewart Johnston	SGRPD
Robyn Shilland	Moray Firth Partnership
Zoe Frogbrook	Scottish Water
Ally Maciver	Aberdeen Harbour
Raymond Edgar	Homes for Scotland
Gavin Clark	SNH
Mark Bilsby	Dee Fisheries Trust
Richie Miller	River Deveron



**1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (Gavin Penman)**

Gavin welcomed the group and conveyed apologies as listed above.

**2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting (Iris Krammer)**

The group approved the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to the deletion of the last sentence in the RBMP update section. All actions were completed. Mark noted that there is an update on the NFM video available on You Tube (**Action 7.1 mark to circulate link**).

**3. Local Flood Risk Management Plans (Debbie Halliday, Gavin Penman, Will Burnish)**

Debbie introduced the process of creating the Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMPs). The LFRMPs are based on the Flood Risk Management Strategies (FRM Strategies), which were published in December 2015 and are available here: <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/>

The LFRMPs provide more detail on the actions that are to be taken forward in the first flood risk management cycle, June 2016 – June 2022. Detail on funding, delivery timescales and coordination will be provided. The LFRMPs will be published on 22/06/2016.

The LFRMPs were developed in partnership and will link to other plans, policies, strategies and legislative requirements. These include

- clearance and repair schedules,
- river basin management planning,
- land use and spatial planning,
- emergency planning and response, and
- Scottish Water investment plans.

In addition to specific actions, there are also generic actions that apply everywhere. These include:

- Self help,
- Emergency plans,
- Flood forecasting,
- Awareness raising,
- Maintenance, and
- Planning policies.

Debbie provided detail on the actions to be taken forward in the Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside Local Plan District.

Gavin provided detail on specific actions for the North East Local Plan District.

Will provided detail on the actions for Aberdeen City.

**Awareness raising**

Working with schools was discussed. The Moray Council will do work with schools, but has no concrete plans yet. Aberdeen City Council works with particular schools that are at risk. One school in particular as it has a flood emergency plan and flooding is built into the curriculum.



### **Flood protection schemes (FPS)**

Newmill FPS started around three weeks ago and is scheduled to be finished in December 2016.

Stonehaven FPS is at detailed design stage. Eleven objections were raised and the FPS was submitted to Scottish Ministers to decide if a consultation needs to be launched.

Huntly FPS is about to go to tender and should be on site by the end of summer 2016.

### **Natural Flood Management (NFM)**

The group was very interested in NFM. Aberdeen City Council is looking at NFM to provide an extra level of protection to deal with urban creep and climate change.

Stonehaven flood action group has a NFM working group.

There is a project on the Leuchar and Gormack Burns which feed into the Culter Burn. The Dee Catchment Partnership, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council are working together. Will is keen to have some NFM on the Leuchar and Gormack to reduce flood risk in Peterculter, but there is a difficulty in selling the idea of spending money in Aberdeenshire from City funds. The FRM (Scotland) Act facilitates funding across council boundaries.

### **Flood studies**

Aberdeenshire Council is planning to take flood studies forward in a single package for contractors.

The Moray Council's studies are in the capital plan.

Aberdeen City Council has ring-fenced money for year 1.

## **4. River Basin Management Plans (Eilidh Johnston)**

Eilidh provided an update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> River Basin Management Plans. This sets out a 12 year plan to get all water bodies to good ecological status. The Plan is supported by the Water Environment Hub web tool. The Plans and Environment Hub can be found on SEPA's website:

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/>

The Plan itself has fewer than 50 pages and more details are included in the appendices. Data can be provided to local authorities on request.

*Please refer to RBMP update (circulated with minutes) for further information.*

### **Diffuse pollution priority catchments**

The 14 [rural diffuse pollution priority catchments](#) are continuing and being expanded to take in 43 new catchments (32 in Scotland river basin district). Eilidh to check if the 14 original pilot catchments still receive priority on funding applications for SRDP (**Action 7.2**).

The group asked if the River Spey will be a priority catchment – this is not the case, but Loch Insh will still be investigated as a focus area.

### **Dee update**

Eilidh Johnston from SEPA is leading on the Dee pilot catchment project, which will focus on delivering natural flood management and physical



condition measures on the Tarland Burn, Bo Burn, Dess/Lumphanan Burn, Leuchar and Gormack Burn.

Aftab suggested that small water bodies, currently not considered due to size, could be included with bigger ones they are tributaries to. This could help improve water conditions in small, unnamed, urban water courses, particularly as part of planning casework. It is recognized that it can be difficult to fix the morphology of small water bodies.

The group also discussed the impacts of urbanisation and new development, which can be positive or negative on the water environment. Aberdeenshire Council has a buffer strip policy for new developments. Aberdeen City Council is progressing the Scatter Burn project, which involves opening up the burn through a park and providing council housing.

#### **5. Actions workshop**

Iris provided maps of catchment groups and sheets detailing the flood risk actions proposed for the first cycle (2016 – 2022). The maps also included information on the water body status and fish barriers. Presentation, including maps, to be provided with the minutes (**Action 7.3**).

#### **Findhorn, Nairn, Lossie and Moray coast**

A habitats regulations assessment (HRA) will be required for the study in the Seatown area of Lossiemouth.

The study in Nairn will also require a HRA due to crayfish.

The Moray Council is planning to provide data from the studies to SEPA to facilitate mapping improvements.

#### **Dee**

The Dee Catchment Partnership has a new delivery plan for the next three years with a strong NFM focus. The Dee Catchment Partnership can help with awareness raising and engagement and would like to be kept informed of any actions progressing in the Dee catchment. Aberdeen City Council to ensure linkages between Peterculter NFM and scheme with Dee Catchment Partnership. Keen for green infrastructure to be delivered in Aberdeen City.

Dee Catchment Plan to undertake further studies in Tarland – link with James Hutton Institute.

The Dee Fisheries Trust is progressing a project to remove flood embankments on the Slugan Burn at Braemar to remove flood embankments. They had planned to include woody debris, but SEPA objected to this. They queried the reasoning and are awaiting a response. There was no time to provide further detail due to project time scales and therefore woody debris was removed from the project scope. Steve, Cordelia and Eilidh to follow up (**Action 7.4**).

The group agreed the large woody debris can have positive and negative impacts. Mark said that a CREW publication of recommendations for wood placement for migratory fish will be available in a few months (**Action 7.5**).



### **Banff coast and Deveron**

It is hoped that riverside paths will remain and could be improved as the Huntly Flood Protection Scheme is implemented.

There are regeneration projects ongoing in Fraserburgh and Banff and the group raised that this could possibly fund individual flood resilience measures for historic buildings.

Scottish Water completed catchment surveys in Deveron for drinking water quality purposes. There is an incentive scheme to reduce pollution and to introduce measures, such as swales, to improve water quality

### **Spey**

A number of possible impacts in the Spey catchment were raised:

- The dualling of the A9 between Gynack and Insh marshes could affect flows, NFM and the River Spey.
- Development of a new town “An Camas Mòr” near Aviemore with 1,500 houses over the next 20 years (<http://www.ancamasmor.com/>)
- The RSPB is doing some work in the Insh Marshes
- Aviemore backwater reconnection currently under way (PiP funding). Study report due summer 2016, ground works end 2016
- Tomintoul and Glenlivet landscape partnership received funding for a project. Part of this includes work in the river environment
- The Spey catchment Initiative and Forestry Commission Scotland are looking at forestry, re-naturalisation and reconnection of floodplain in the Fochabers Burn catchment.
- Truim flood plain reconnection project (removal of concrete)
- New Feshie community engagement group, following December 2015 floods
- The Spey Catchment Initiative will publish a new Spey catchment management plan in autumn 2016.

The group discussed the issues around having a catchment wide oversight to avoid cumulative negative impacts from various projects.

### **Buchan coast, Ythan and Ugie**

Scottish Water completed catchment surveys in Ugie for drinking water quality purposes. There is an incentive scheme to reduce pollution and to introduce measures, such as swales, to improve water quality.

There is a regeneration scheme in Fraserburgh to improve the town centre. There may be an opportunity to link this with improving building' flood resilience.

### **Don**

There is a project to improve the Urie-side Park, which is in the flood plain.

The Kirkwood Homes development on an old paper mill site was highlighted.

The opportunity to use Scottish Canals as temporary flood storage areas was raised.



### Aberdeen City and Stonehaven

The Green Burn will be modelled and realigned as part of the New AECC (Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre) development.

The Dee Catchment Partnership would like to be involved in the surface water management plan.

The group discussed the Chapelton of Elsick development. It would be an interesting study as currently the catchment is largely rural and it will be largely urban once developed. Is there a possibility to study the impacts of urbanisation (**Action 7.6**)?

### 6. Future of LAGs/AAGs

A paper on the future of the Local Advisory Groups was circulated ahead of the meeting. The paper proposes annual meetings with all members and working groups to deliver specific actions. The group agreed that if meetings are only held once a year, regular updates need to be circulated to keep everyone engaged. This should also include opportunities for things where LAG members could help.

Many local authorities have an established routine for engaging stakeholders in the studies / schemes and other projects.

The group prefers to have one meeting to cover flooding and river basin management planning to support catchment approach.

There should be flexibility to have additional meetings if required.

### 7. Meeting close

### Actions arising from the Local Advisory Group meeting

Action Number	Action	Owner	Completion Date	Update
7.1	Circulate link to new NFM video	Mark Wilkinson	30/06/2016	10/06/2016: <a href="http://www.stroud.gov.uk/nfmtechnicalfilm">http://www.stroud.gov.uk/nfmtechnicalfilm</a>
7.2	Check if original pilot catchments need to tick box on funding application form	Eilidh Johnston	30/06/2016	The parts of these catchments with diffuse pollution pressures are still recorded as priorities for SRDP purposes. Contact <a href="mailto:srdp@sepa.org.uk">srdp@sepa.org.uk</a> for more information on the specific parts of catchments affected by diffuse pollution.
7.3	Circulate presentation with maps from actions workshop	Iris Krammer	30/06/2016	Complete 27/06/2016
7.4	Follow up on query why SEPA objected to placement of woody	Cordelia, Eilidh and Steve	30/06/2016	Sepa are supportive of nfm measures provided the correct solution is applied in the



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	debris in Slugan Burn by Braemar as part of restoration and NFM project.			correct location. In this case there were concerns that woody debris on a steep and flashy catchment would not come loose and potentially cause a blockage / flooding on a downstream bridge with limited capacity. In areas with placed woody debris and where there is a potential to cause blockages, we would look to get additional information on how the structure would function and how it would be constructed to avoid being washed away.
<b>7.5</b>	Link to CREW report on wood placement in rivers for migratory fish	Mark Wilkinson	As soon as published	<a href="http://www.crew.ac.uk/publication/nfm-wood-fish">http://www.crew.ac.uk/publication/nfm-wood-fish</a>
<b>7.6</b>	Discuss linkages at Elsieck catchment to look at impacts of urbanisation	Mark and Eilidh	30/06/2016	Initial information sharing w/b 6/6/16.