



## Agency Board Meeting

30 April 2019

### A New Direction for SEPA's Planning and Contaminated Land Service

<b>Summary:</b>	This paper provides an update to the Board on the Annual Operating Plan commitment to review the Service in 2018-19 to deliver against SEPA's ambitions.
<b>Risks:</b>	No risks.
<b>Resource and Staffing Implications:</b>	No resource implications.
<b>Equalities:</b>	No equalities implications.
<b>Environmental and Carbon Impact:</b>	No environmental or carbon implications
<b>Purpose and audience of the report:</b>	For information Agency Board
<b>Report Author:</b>	David Harley (Head of Water and Planning) , Alan Farquhar (Planning, Advice & Engagement Manager) AMT Sponsor, John Kenny (Chief Officer).
<b>Appendices:</b>	None

## A New Direction for SEPA's Planning and Contaminated Land Service

### 1. Introduction

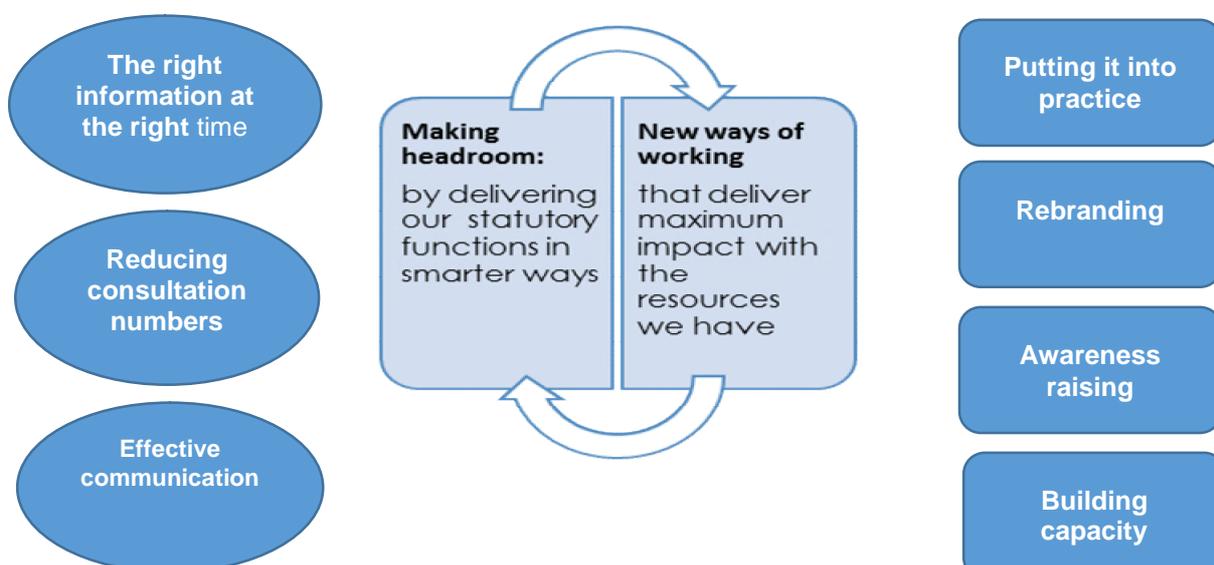
- 1.1 This paper sets out the outcome of a review of the Planning and Contaminated Land Service which has led to production of an implementation plan to move the service to a mostly reactive operating model to a place-making based model where we actively engage with up-stream processes to secure compliance and deliver beyond compliance. We have engaged with all staff in the team to shape this plan and also, critically, with Hydrology, as a significant portion of our current workload is related to flooding.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Planning System in Scotland is currently being reformed to focus on the delivery of inclusive growth, housing and infrastructure delivery and empowering communities. SEPA, as a key planning Agency is engaged in this review work and we are working in partnership with other Agencies (such as Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Water and others) on the place making agenda.
- 2.2 Our Annual Operating Plan gave us a commitment to review the Service in 2018-19 to deliver these reforms and SEPA's ambitions. We engaged with the Board in June 2018 and this direction of travel was positively received. We engaged with Agency Management Team and were asked to come back with proposed new operating model for the Service, which we did on 5 March. This was positively received and the action plan was approved.

### 3. Operating Model and Actions

- 3.1 The short term priority will be to find smarter ways of working so that we can create the space to work in new ways. In the longer term these new ways of working will create further headroom. We recognise that some elements of our current reactive work will need to be retained, but we will look at more innovative ways of delivering on those elements. The scope of the action plan is set out below under these two headings, with the actions broken down under a series of broad headings:



- 3.2 The actions also include emerging actions from Sector Plans, which can be delivered by our proposed new way of working, in collaboration with other parts of SEPA and with external partners. Several of the Sector Plans (e.g. housing, infrastructure and water) together deliver great places, and are mechanisms to drive Scotland's place-making agenda, which also helps communities to see the environment as an opportunity to create social and economic success.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Board is asked to note the contents of the paper.

#### **Author(s) and Date**

David Harley (Head of Water and Planning), Alan Farquhar (Planning, Advice & Engagement Manager)

AMT Sponsor, John Kenny (Chief Officer).

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