

**River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)  
Room G, Woodhill House  
9.30am, 28 June 2010**

**Present:**

Andrew Carruthers (Aberdeenshire Council)	AEC (Chairman)
Alison Hogge (Aberdeenshire Council)	AH
Eilidh Johnston (SEPA, RBMP Co-ordinator)	EJ
William Murdoch (Aberdeenshire Council)	WM
Eleanor Munro (Aberdeenshire Council)	EM

**1. Apologies**

Alanna Lyle (Strategic Development Plan Team)	AL
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**2. Matters arising**

It was highlighted to the group that the River Dee, Deveron and Ugie as well as the underground water supply at Fochabers (Turriff) water have abstraction issues.

**3. River Basin Management Plan for Scotland's River Basin**

It was reported to the group that the Scotland RBMP was published at the end of 2009 and supplementary plans are currently being prepared. The North East Area Management Plan sets local targets and actions, and these have now gone to the Publications team.

Current targets for achieving good water quality are:

- 2010 – 50% (current target)
- 2016 – 60%
- 2027 – 98%

Issues affecting water quality in Aberdeenshire are

- banks/river morphological;
- fish barriers / passes;
- diffuse pollution;
- pollution from sewers;
- and abstraction.

EJ acknowledges that planning plays an important role, but it is difficult to set targets for planning. However, it was suggested that the Local Development Plan should not allow for the deterioration of water bodies and should seek to increase water bodies to good ecological status. AEC noted that it is not clear whether there is a water abstraction issue in the River Dee. In the Aberdeenshire Local Plan it was identified as an issue, but in the Structure Plan and Local Develop Plan it appears not to be an issue. Any issues must be identified at the Strategic Development Plan stage, rather than waiting for the planning application stage.

It was reported that SEPA is preparing a general abstraction pressure GIS overlay to identify where there is a constraint on further development. AEC suggested that a study on abstraction issues on the River Dee would be beneficial as the majority of the water derives from the River Dee. A plan is needed to avoid the impact, rather than reacting to it. EJ reported there is information on where there are pressures affecting water bodies on a constraints mapping tool. EJ noted that early engagement with SEPA is important.

**Action: EJ to investigate if research is necessary on the River Dee to avoid new issues in the future. An impact study for the River Dee and River Deveron could be used to inform the next Strategic Development Plan.**

The culverting of water courses was also discussed. EJ said she would send some links to the group on culverts. It was raised that culverts can act as fish barriers and there should be a policy on culverting that do not form barriers. WM reported that the council is opening up culverts as much as possible.

It was highlighted that the Council are also owners of structures in watercourses that act as fish barriers. SEPA is currently preparing a list of such structures. However, WM noted that the Council's list was undertaken in 2000, and smaller structures may not have been recorded. WM noted that there is no programme to remove the barriers to fish. Only when there is a need for maintenance are barriers removed. It was suggested that a list matching up to SEPA's list could be undertaken as a priority list.

**Action: SEPA/EJ to send a list of culverts to MW.**

It was raised that the issues to be resolved by the Council in order to meet the RBMP water quality targets, have not been agreed at the Committee level. Therefore, it is unlikely that the councillors know what they are, for example issues to be resolved by 2027.

**Action: EJ to provide a list of actions to AEC/AH and report back at the next meeting (fish barriers and abstraction).**

#### **4. Diffuse Pollution**

SEPA is currently doing work on diffuse pollution across Scotland. There are four priority catchments identified. SEPA is seeking to raise awareness of the general binding rules for farmers along the Buchan Coastal area, River Deveron, River Ugie and River Dee.

#### **5. Raising Awareness in the Development Plan**

It is noted that Councillors are not really aware of the issues affecting water. SEPA will be updating the classification of water bodies to identify if there is

any improvement in water quality. An update is expected in early 2011 and a presentation could be presented to:

- Rural Affairs Working Group (mostly farmers and Councillors). EJ suggests Eddie Nicol from SEPA.
- Planning Policy and Procedure Member Officer Working Group.
- Strategic Development Planning Authority Meeting.

## **6. AOCB**

None

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 1 November 2010, **9.30am** in Room E1, Woodhill House

**North East Scotland Flood Liaison and Advice Group  
Room G, Woodhill House  
10.30am, Monday 28 June 2010**

**Present:**

Andrew Carruthers (Aberdeenshire Council)	AEC (Chairman)
Alison Hogge (Aberdeenshire Council)	AH
Eleanor Munro (Aberdeenshire Council)	EM
Richard Hoggins (Aberdeen City)	RH
Zoë Griffin (SEPA)	ZG
Clare Wheeler (SEPA, hydrologist)	CW
Eilidh Johnston (SEPA, RBMP co-ordinator)	EJ
Jim McKay, (SEPA, Manager of Planning Support)	JM
William Murdoch (Aberdeenshire Council)	WM
Alan Robertson (Aberdeen City)	AR

**1. Apologies**

Stephen McFarland (Aberdeenshire Council)	SM
Daniel Lewis (Aberdeen City)	DL
Sharon Taylor (Aberdeen City Council)	ST
Jim Lister (Scottish Water)	JL
Scott Leith (Scottish Water)	SL
David Crichton (Insurance Industry Representative)	DC

AEC welcomed Jim McKay to NESFLAG.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Item 2 – the two actions listed in item 6 should be deleted as FLAGGIS has been suspended.

**3. Matters Arising**

None.

**4. Flood Risk and Planning**

The Grampian Coastal Partnership stops around Fraserburgh. It was suggested that the two could be merged. It was reported that consultation on the flood risk districts within local authorities will be undertaken before October 2010.

Existing Flood Liaison and Advice Groups are staying until the new group starts. It was agreed that there is a need to review the need for NESFLAG over the next 6 to 12 months.

## **4B – New working arrangements with SEPA**

There is an issue of double handling of planning applications; and SEPA and the Flooding Unit of the Council need to agree a new mechanism to screen the types of consultation that SEPA should receive. It was reported that Development Management consult SEPA and the Flooding Unit at the same time. Therefore there is a need to liaise with Development Management.

A flow chart was discussed in 2009 with Alison Hogge, Joanna Davidson and Steve MacFarland and with SEPA. It was suggested that Steve MacFarland and members of Development Management would be the appropriate officers to correspond with. To date no feedback has been received by AEC.

**Action: AEC to identify appropriate Development Management planning officer.**

## **5. SuDS update.**

Moray Council is collecting data under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland Act). Aberdeenshire is collecting data on water bodies, which includes SuDS. The Act requires local authorities to prepare a map on water bodies within its area. AR noted that this is not currently been done, and is something that planners can put on their GIS mapping system. It was also suggested that the Council requires a mechanism to raise and record new SuDS. It was suggested that this is a building standards issue. However, RH reported that they only require SuDS to conform to building standards if they have been registered with SEPA. Building standard officers rely on planners to keep SEPA informed. It was reported that Sharon Taylor is receiving data on GIS and is keeping it up and running for the City. However, it was raised that planners have limited contact with organisations and they don't get the full information. It was noted that the detail should be provided at the building warrant stage and building standards should seek information on flooding issues, which is undertaken by the Developer. WM suggested that the final plan should be assessed at the building standards stage, as details change during the planning application process. After this stage data should be entered onto the GIS systems.

**Action – WM liaise with John McIntosh on recording new SuDS onto the GIS system in Aberdeenshire Council.**

It was raised that a definition of what a new water body is has to be provided. The Scottish Government has yet to provide the definition.

**Action – JM to clarify when there will be a definition from the Scottish Government.**

It was highlighted to the group that there is a funding issue from Scottish Government, especially as there is an obligation for local authority to record new water bodies.

It was also reported that SCOTS had been discussion with Scottish Water on four acceptable drainage systems for maintenance.

## **6. FLAGGIS**

It has been confirmed that FLAGGIS has been closed down.

## **7. Development of Coastal Management policy**

Some inspection on the coastline has been undertaken. The next stage will be:

- Inspection of the whole coastline.
- Defining coastal types.
- Identifying constraints.
- Identifying hard and soft coastline.
- Proposed planning use of ground adjacent to areas of coastal erosion.

The timescale for the project will be two years.

## **8. Joint Statement on Flood Insurance**

No information has been provided on this, so the group agreed to remove the item from future agendas.

## **9. Development Plan update**

### Structure Plan

Main Issues Report is due to be published in May 2011.

### Local Development Plan

The proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan has been approved by Full Council and community engagement will be undertaken between 9 July 2010 and 1 October 2010 (12 weeks). An examination of the proposed plan is likely to be in June 2011.

### Aberdeen City Local Development Plan

Aberdeen City is only a few months behind Aberdeenshire Council in the development of their Local Development Plan.

It was raised at the meeting a strategic flood risk assessment had not been undertaken for the proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. Therefore, individual sites have not been formally appraised. In light of this, SEPA commented on each individual site at the Main Issues Report stage. SEPA acknowledged that the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan has been caught between the end of one process and the start of another. Therefore, as a solution for the Council not undertaking a strategic flood risk assessment SEPA appraised each site and identified when a flood risk assessment would be required when a planning application is submitted. Although it was raised at the meeting that an informal assessment of flood risk

was undertaken, known as the Goal Achievement Matrix, SEPA noted that the Flood Risk Map on their website is only indicative. Possible solutions on when to raise the need for a Flood Risk Assessment were suggested at the meeting:

1. The settlement statements could include a sentence stating when a Flood Risk Assessment is required for each allocation. However, it was discussed if the statements are selective on which assessments are required, there is a risk of developers contesting their need.
2. Prepare planning advice on sites requiring flood risk assessments, as an alternative to including their need in the settlement statements.
3. Add the need for a Flood Risk Assessment in action programme, as an alternative to including their need in the settlement statements.

It was agreed that Strategic Flood Risk Assessments should be included as a topic for the next meeting.

**Action: AEC to investigate possible solutions.**

## **10. Major Development Proposals**

Davidson Mill at Muggiemoss is a proposed development for 200+ houses which could affect the Hydro Electric scheme.

Third Don Crossing – SEPA objected to the proposal as no compensatory scheme has been proposed. [This objection has since been removed]

## **11. Conferences and publications**

Sustainable Flood Risk Management 2010 on 5 October 2010 in Glasgow from Hollyrood.

RTPI chapter event on flooding in Moray. This is an all day event on 9 July 2010.

## **12. AOCB**

Flood response exercise by SCG Strategic Grampian later in the year. Flood warning connect programme will be rolled out during the year (e.g. text messaging service).

## **13. Topics and Date of next meeting**

Topic suggested for the next meeting – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Monday 1 November 2010, **10.30am**, in Room E1, Woodhill House, first floor.