

ROADS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

FLOOD PREVENTION POLICY

The Council's general policy on Flood Prevention Maintenance and assessment was agreed at the Roads and Transport Services Committee of 11/06/97.

The general policy is as follows:-

1. Assessment

1.1 It is proposed that formal assessments are carried out by a member of staff in Network Management with close involvement of Area staff. These assessments will be prioritised as follows:-

- a) Known areas of flooding
- b) Urban areas, in order of size of population and possible risk of flooding
- c) Rural areas, in order of possible risk of flooding

1.2 The assessments shall be carried out when resources permit. Given the magnitude of the task the requirement to carry out the assessments "from time to time" is likely to lead to the intervals between assessments to be several years. It is also unlikely that all the watercourses that require to be assessed will be completed in less than 3 years.

1.3 SEPA have responsibilities to also carry out formal assessments. Co-operation between the Council and SEPA will be instigated to reduce duplication of effect.

2. Works

2.1 Where the need for works is identified by the assessment process then the works will be carried out in order of priority within available resources. Prioritisation will consider the following:-

- a) Where there is risk to life.
- b) Where there is a risk to property which shall be prioritised in the order of residential premises; commercial premises; residential land; commercial land.
- c) Areas of denser population will be given higher priority than single residences.

2.2 The prioritisation will take into account the frequency of the risk. Flood frequencies are expressed in terms of statistical return periods which are expressed in terms of 1 in 5 years, 1 in 20 years return periods, etc. These indicate that a 1 in 20 year flood is likely to occur, once during a 20 year period.

However with all statistical analysis the actual occurrence of flooding may be more or less frequent than the prediction. There is also no method of predicting when a 1 in 20 year flood may occur. The lower the return period, the higher the risk of flooding.

- 2.3 The prioritisation will take into account the possible magnitude of the effects of a flood event.
- 2.4 Works will be carried out when resources are available.

3. **Formal Flood Prevention Schemes**

Where the assessment identifies a potential problem which will not be alleviated solely by works under Section 2 of 'The Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961', but would be alleviated by a formal flood prevention scheme, the feasibility of such a scheme will be investigated with a view to considering such a scheme in the Service Capital Expenditure Plan.

4. **Review**

- 4.1 In consideration that these are new duties imposed on the Council, it is proposed to review this strategy at suitable intervals as necessary.

At the meeting of the Roads and Transport Services Committee on 27/08/97, the minutes of the Roads and Transport Strategy Group of 19/06/97 were agreed which included the following policy:-

- Procure flood prevention works only for residential properties and public roads.
- Allocate capital and revenue funds to flood prevention schemes within the budget constraints imposed on the Service, along with adequate resources to procure schemes within the required timescale, taking into account the Statutory requirements.
- Maintain flood prevention schemes constructed by The Highland Council or the previous authority, but not those constructed by other parties except where failure to do so would threaten property.
- Make discretionary contributions to flood prevention works procured by others as deemed appropriate, on an individual basis with Committee approval.
- Seek contributions from outside bodies or individuals where appropriate in order to procure flood prevention works.
- Those parties promoting Flood Prevention schemes be informed of the Council's inability to fund their schemes in view of the restricted availability of capital expenditure and the schemes already programmed in order that alternative funds could be investigated by them.