

APPENDIX 1 - Defra proposed arrangements for Coastal Groups as part of the EASO on the Coast

Coastal groups (CGs)

Headlines

- 1) CGs should remain in existence and by becoming more strategic they will play a stronger role in the future planning of flood and coastal erosion risk management.
- 2) CGs would advise EA and be represented on RFDCs

Detail

- Defra would like to work with CGs to encourage the evolution of:
 - Fewer, bigger and more strategic groups, perhaps 6-8 for England.
 - CGs boundaries to be reviewed having regard to River Basin Management Plans.
 - Clear and consistent terms of reference and membership embracing LAs, EA, NE and significant other stakeholders (RDAs, GOs etc).
 - CGs would influence the annual programme of works via the RFDC.
 - Consistent and strong EA input.
- Coastal groups' role:
 - CG would be advisory to the EA. A nominated CG representative would be appointed to the RFDC as one of the EA appointments.
 - CG would extend a standing invitation to RFDC chair or nominated representative to attend the CG.
 - CGs would recommend to the EA and LAs who is best placed to undertake SMPs and contribute their expertise to SMP production.
 - Chairs or nominated representatives of CGs would collectively meet Defra, RFDC Chairmen and EA to influence national level policy and implementation (as does the current Coastal Forum).

Implementation

- There would be a Ministerial statement giving clear support for these changes.
- Defra would work with EA and CGs to draw up model arrangements, terms of reference etc
- Extended role of RFDCs to coastal erosion would support this.

Issues

- See issue on "RFDCs" about how CG representation could be brought onto RFDCs.

APPENDIX 2 - Defra proposed arrangements for RFDCs as part of the EASO on the Coast

Regional Flood Defence Committees (RFDCs)

Headlines

- RFDCs present responsibilities for flooding extended to include coastal erosion risk management (except levies).
- RFDCs to be advised by Coastal Groups who would also be represented on the RFDC.
- Other Defra appointments may also reflect coastal erosion interests.
- RFDCs would continue to raise levies to fund (flooding) works not in the EA multi year programmes (but not for coastal erosion as this would be an unfunded new burden).
- RFDC name to be changed to Flood and Coastal Committees or similar to reflect better its role.

Detail

- RFDCs' role in relation to funding allocations by EA will be as agreed in March 2007, i.e.:
 - RFDCs developing and then reviewing needs based plans, agree possible revisions and identify key Committee priorities (October);
 - expressing through their Chairs views on the overall shape of the programme developed by the Directors in making the allocation and the underlying principles;
 - setting local levies (January);
 - formally approving regional business plans (April);
 - enabling Committees to influence the development of planning guidance (June).
- RFDCs would have flexibility around implementation of work in year, including to vire funding for maintenance and small capital schemes within regional allocations as long as they met financial accounting policies, prevailing outcome measure thresholds and were not putting the achievement of targets at risk.

Implementation

- Amendment to Water Resources Act 1991 to extend RFDC scope, membership and title.
- Administrative action to give effect to the March 2007 agreement.

Issues

- How will CG representatives be brought onto RFDC? Using one of the EA two posts? What if there is more than one CG in the RFDC area?