

South East River Basin District

river basin planning: working together



Statement of Steps and Consultation Measures for preparing the South East River Basin Management Plan

FOREWORD

The Environment Agency has been working with others in the South East River Basin District to develop a shared understanding of our water environment. We want to propose ways in which all concerned can work together to agree and carry out actions to preserve and protect this vital resource.

Working Together is the first step towards a Management Plan for this River Basin District. We have worked closely with the South East River Basin District Liaison Panel, whose members endorse this document for consultation.

We are issuing *Working Together* to help you understand how the river basin planning process could work in the South East River Basin District and how and when you can get involved. We invite you to study the proposals set out and to give us your views.



Howard Davidson

**Regional Director, Environment Agency Southern Region
Chair, South East River Basin District Liaison Panel**

CONTACT

Environment Agency (Southern Region)
Regional Strategy Unit, Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road
Worthing, W Sussex, BN11 1LD

Customer Services: 08708 506 506
Email: southeastRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd

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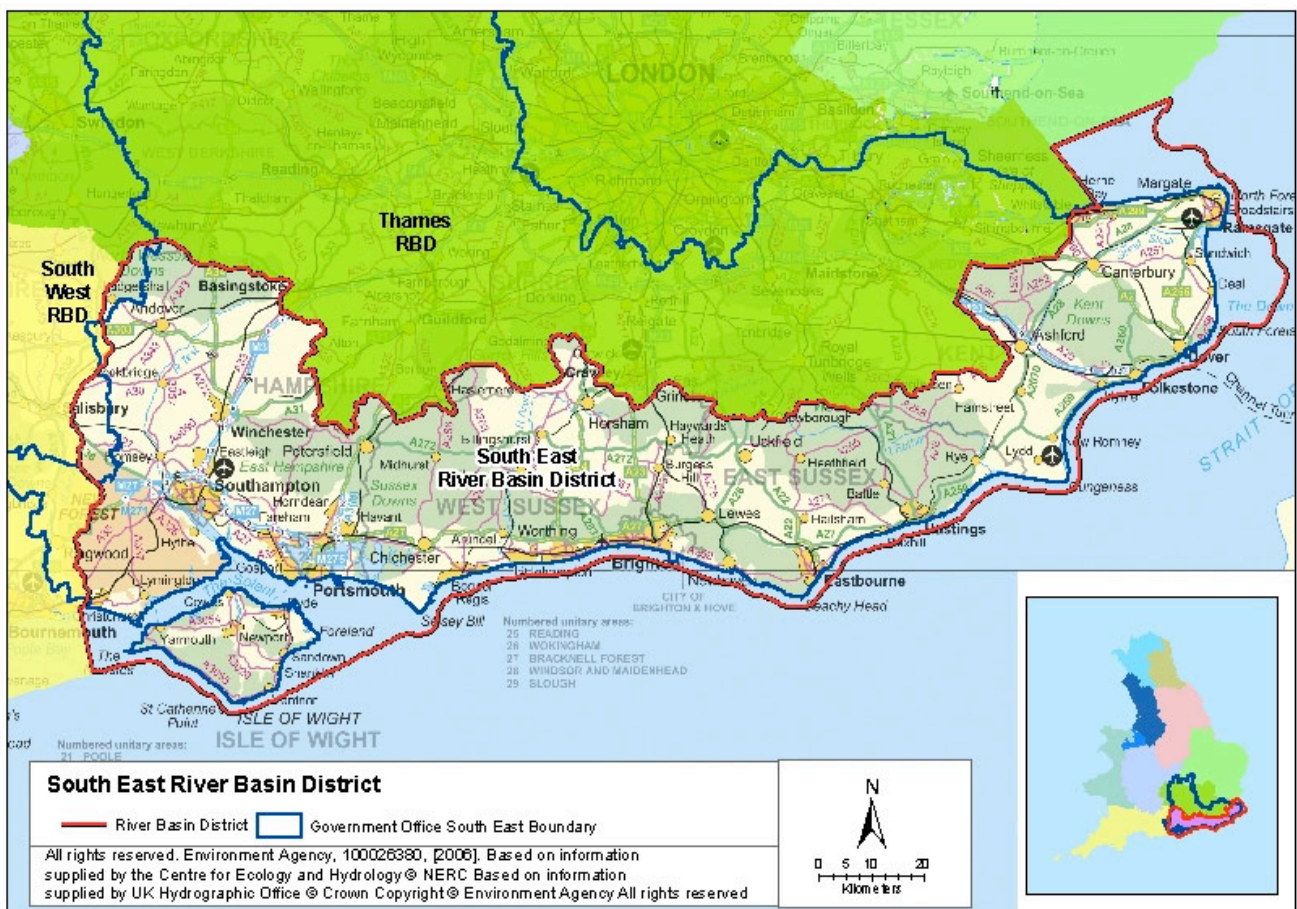
Chapter 1 A programme for river basin planning

What is river basin planning

The Water Framework Directive establishes new and better ways of protecting and improving rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters. Its focus is on River Basin Districts (RBDs). Figure 1 shows the South East and adjacent RBDs.

Further information on the Water Framework Directive is available at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd.

Figure 1 Map of the South East River Basin District



The South East River Basin District covers over 10,000 square kilometres and includes the counties of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, East and West Sussex and eastern Kent. A large proportion of the District is dominated by the rural landscape of the South Downs, but there are major urban centres including Brighton & Hove, Southampton and Portsmouth.

Over 3.1 million people live in the RBD, and the population is forecast to grow by 4.6 percent between 2002 and 2015. Additional growth in housing is planned for the region, for example in Ashford and South Hampshire.

The South East RBD has a rich and varied environment, which supports biodiversity of national and international importance. This includes a wide variety of habitats, which are home to wildlife such as wetland birds, otters, water voles and wild salmon. There are important commercial fisheries, and the estuaries and coastline provide spawning and nursery grounds for seabass, plaice and sole.

The environment is constantly under pressure from competing demands on space and natural resources, as well as from a range of natural forces such as sea-level rise. Water resources are very limited. The current drought, resulting from two successive dry winters, means that groundwater levels are lower than the long-term average across most of the South East. This is a concern, as groundwater provides about 80% of water used for public consumption and is an important source of water for the environment.

The Environment Agency completed work in 2004 that showed that most water bodies in the South East RBD are at risk of failing the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. There are major environmental pressures that may need to be addressed. For example, more than 70 percent of rivers and around 90 percent of coasts and estuaries are at risk from physical alterations that cause habitat damage or loss. This can include land reclamation, shoreline reinforcement, river flood defence or barriers to fish passage such as weirs. Also, more than 50 percent of rivers, just under half of all lakes and more than 80 percent of groundwater in the RBD are at risk from urban and rural diffuse pollution.

Why we want your views

River basin planning encourages the active involvement of everyone with an interest in water. **We would like you to play a part in the planning and management process. We need your help to produce a better water environment.** We aim to make it straightforward for you to contribute.

This document sets out a timetable and programme for developing the River Basin Management Plan in the South East RBD. This is a public consultation and we welcome everyone's views. The document is particularly aimed at those who are likely to be affected by or have an interest in the process for developing the Plan.

We would like you to tell us what you think of our proposed timetable and programme. Please say whether you think it will allow us to develop an effective Plan and enable you to be involved in this process. We will use all the comments we receive to develop our proposals. The timetable and programme will be finalised by September 2007, but we will begin to modify our approach as soon as possible after the consultation ends.

Consultation arrangements

The consultation runs from 22 December 2006 to 22 June 2007. We intend to hold discussions from April 2007 onwards about how we might modify the timetable or programme. Comments received by the end of March 2007 will

be fed into this discussion. We will of course also take account of comments received later within the six-month period.

We will issue a response document by September 2007, summarising the comments we received and indicating how we have modified the timetable or programme as a result.

You can comment in a number of ways:

- send an email to: southeastRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk;
- visit the Environment Agency's website and complete the online consultation at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd;
- complete the tear-off slip at the end of this document and send it to us with any other comments at the following address: Lee Spicer-Howard, Environment Agency, Corporate Affairs, Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, W Sussex BN11 1LD.

This consultation is being run in accordance with the criteria set out in the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation¹. If you have any queries or complaints about the conduct of the consultation, please contact Cath Beaver, Consultation Co-ordinator, Environment Agency, Rio House, Riverside Drive, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4UD.

Chapter 2 The timetable and major milestones in the river basin planning process

Figure 2 shows the stages at which we will produce and consult on documents that contribute to the River Basin Management Plan.

Many decisions about how we can reduce or tackle problems affecting the water environment will be taken nationally. We will provide information and views to feed into decisions taken outside the RBD on policy and funding arrangements, as well as voluntary agreements on measures such as limiting the use of hazardous substances. National decisions will in turn provide the framework for planning in our RBD.

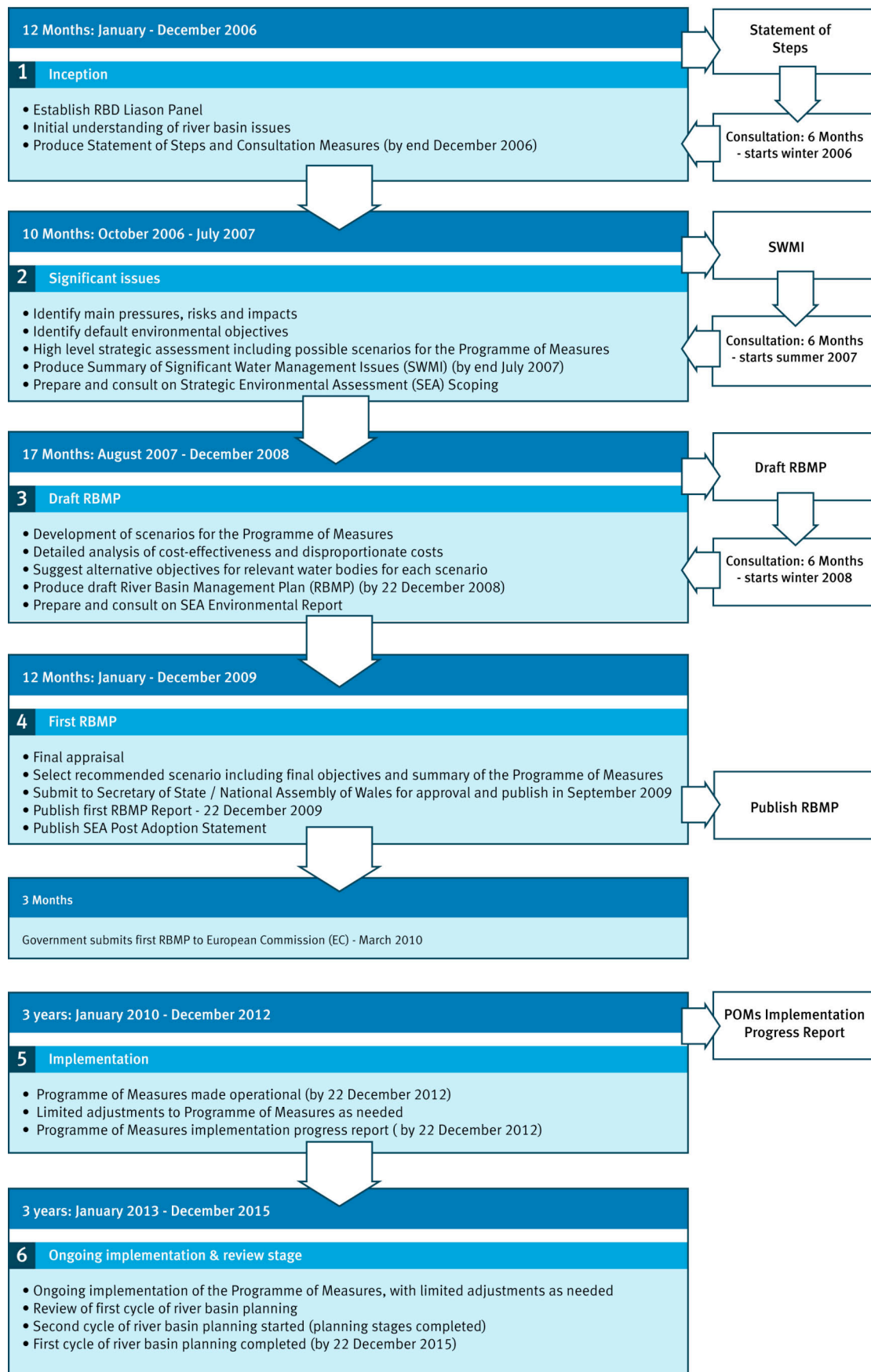
Some of the milestones in the timetable are fixed, such as the three consultations and the date for submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State. We can be more flexible on other elements.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

We will carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the River Basin Management Plan. Regulations for SEA require us to ask statutory consultees for their views on the scope of the assessment. We will consult on the SEA scope as part of the consultation on the Summary of Significant Water Management Issues in 2007.

¹ Cabinet Office, September 2005 www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/code

Figure 2 The river basin planning process and timetable



- We will also carry out a public consultation on the SEA environmental report. This will be carried out as part of the consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plan in 2008.

Consultation question 1

Does the proposed timetable allow the right amount of time for the different stages and tasks? If not, what would you change? (Please note that the Water Framework Directive sets some river basin planning milestones that cannot be moved.)

A consultation form is provided at the back of this document.

Chapter 3 Access to information and opportunities for public consultation during the planning process

Access to information

We have a duty to ensure that stakeholders and the public have access to the information they need to understand, comment on and get actively involved in the development of the River Basin Management Plan. We will:

- post on our website all RBD planning documents (see Figure 2) and our response to comments received as part of consultations - we will provide electronic or hard copies of these papers on request;
- publicise through a range of channels as appropriate (e.g. stakeholder networks, printed publications, our website) opportunities for stakeholder input to the planning process;
- make translations of consultation documents and other key information available on request;
- make available the meeting reports of the Liaison Panel. We will post these on our website and provide electronic or hard copies on request.

Public consultation

As the Competent Authority, the Environment Agency is required to hold formal consultations at three points in the river basin planning process:

- River Basin Planning: Working Together (Statement of steps and consultation measures for preparing the River Basin Management Plan) – by 22 December 2006;
- Summary of Significant Water Management Issues – by 22 December 2007 (though we are proposing to consult by summer 2007);
- Draft River Basin Management Plan – by 22 December 2008.

We intend to use these consultations to raise awareness of the challenges facing our water environment and the ways in which we and others will tackle them. We will:

- post the consultation document on the Environment Agency’s website, with links to it from the websites of Panel member organisations;
- make copies available in public libraries and free of charge from our Head Office in Bristol and our principal office in the RBD: Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, W Sussex BN11 1LD;
- publish notices announcing the publication of *Working Together* in the London Gazette and in local newspapers in the RBD;
- invite statutory consultees and the public to comment on the document;
- provide facilities for both electronic and paper-based responses to the consultations;
- meet with main stakeholders to receive feedback and discuss options;
- consider holding a stakeholder workshop in 2007 for interested people in the River Basin District;
- engage and consult directly with MPs and MEPs within the RBD.

Consultation question 2

a) To what extent are the access to information and consultation arrangements described here sufficient to meet your needs? Score 1 to 4, where 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

b) What additional or alternative arrangements do you think should be put in place?

Chapter 4 The main organisations whose activities and interests are likely to be affected by the River Basin Management Plan

Many organisations across the RBD have an interest in the water environment. We are keen to involve everyone, but recognise that we all have different roles and interests and will want to participate in different ways.

To help us understand this, we have asked organisations and groups to provide us with information for a stakeholder database. A full list of the organisations included in our stakeholder database can be sent on request.

The organisations listed in Table 1 are either statutory consultees who we are legally required to consult, or those considered to have a significant contribution to make at the RBD level. We will seek to actively these organisations throughout the river basin planning process.

Table 1 Main public, private and voluntary sector organisations whose activities and interests are likely to be affected by the River Basin Management Plan

NAME OF ORGANISATION OR SECTOR	STATUTORY CONSULTEE	SEA STATUTORY CONSULTEE	RELEVANT WORKING GROUPS	RELEVANT PARTNERSHIPS	RELEVANT PLANS
Secretary of State	✓				
Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat)	✓				
Government Office for South East			✓		✓
Regional Environmental Protection Advisory Committee			✓		
Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee			✓		
Regional Flood Defence Committee			✓		
Nature conservation authorities	✓		✓	✓	
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee	✓		✓	✓	
- Natural England	✓	✓		✓	✓
All local authorities	✓		✓	✓	✓
All local planning authorities	✓			✓	✓
All National Park authorities	✓		✓	✓	✓
All harbour authorities	✓		✓		✓
All navigation authorities (Marine Coastguard Agency)	✓			✓	✓
All water companies and water & sewage companies	✓		✓	✓	✓
All local sea fisheries committees	✓		✓		
South East Regional Assembly			✓	✓	✓
South East Regional Development Agency			✓	✓	✓
English Heritage		✓			
Businesses that rely on the water environment	✓		✓	✓	✓
Health Protection Agency				✓	✓
Business and Industry			✓	✓	✓
Ports and Harbours			✓	✓	✓
Water Customers			✓		✓
Environment Agency			✓	✓	✓
Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations			✓	✓	✓
Freshwater Fisheries & Riparian Owners			✓	✓	
Recreation			✓	✓	
Farming			✓	✓	✓

Consultation question 3

Which organisations should be added to the table of public, private and voluntary sector organisations? Please tell us why they should be included.

Chapter 5 Membership and role of the South East River Basin District Liaison Panel

Decisions taken by Government and by national and regional organisations about public policies, resource allocation and voluntary actions will set the context for river basin planning. Many of these decisions will be taken as part of processes occurring at the same time as the development of the River Basin Management Plan (e.g. water company planning in the context of the Periodic Review).

We will therefore ensure that information about the RBD and the views of stakeholders are fed into decision-making at higher levels. We will also communicate decisions taken regionally and nationally so that these can be taken into account in developing the Plan.

Important planning decisions will be taken at the RBD level. The South East River Basin District Liaison Panel (Table 2) is a core strategic driver of river basin planning and is made up of representatives of major stakeholder sectors. In April 2006 the Environment Agency invited nominations from organisations wishing to represent their sector on the Liaison Panel².

Table 2 Composition of South East River Basin District Liaison Panel

SECTOR	NAME OF MEMBER	ORGANISATION
Business and Industry	Duncan Wardrop	LaFarge Aggregates Ltd (Quarry Products Association)
Environment Agency	Howard Davidson	Environment Agency
Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)	Ian Hepburn	Wildlife Trusts in the South East
Farming	John Archer	National Farmers Union
Freshwater Fisheries and Riparian owners	Jim Glasspool	Test and Itchen Association
Local Authorities (County & District)	Leigh Herington	Kent County Council
Local Authorities (Unitary)	Rob Crighton	Southampton City Council
Marine Fisheries	Tim Dapling	Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee
Natural England	Alan Law	Natural England
Ports	Sue Simmonite	Associated British Ports
Recreation	Paul Rayner	Royal Yachting Association
Regional Assemblies	Martin Tugwell	SEERA
Regional Development Agency	Keren Jones	SEEDA
Water Companies	Les Dawson	Southern Water
Water – Consumer	Richard Sturt	Consumer Council for Water

² The Terms of Reference for the Liaison Panel can be found at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/444217/444663/955573/1458449/1458462/?version=1&lang=e>

The Liaison Panel's role is to discuss and influence the development of the Management Plan and assist with its implementation. Members are also expected to help promote broader stakeholder involvement.

The Liaison Panel is a body of co-deliverers able to take the action required at the RBD level to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. This includes enabling and encouraging action by others. They contribute their own knowledge and understanding; they share and communicate information and help to channel inputs from others in their sector.

Chapter 6 Working with other plans and processes

For the River Basin Management Plan to bring changes to the water environment, we need to understand how it relates to other plans and strategies such as the South East Plan (see Box 1). Other plans could create or add to pressures on the water environment, or could help us achieve the Management Plan's objectives. We need to identify the best ways of influencing these plans effectively.

Box 1 An example of how regional spatial planning can deliver river basin planning objectives

A good or improving water environment can be a stimulus for investment and regeneration, and improve human health and quality of life. Development can contribute to an improved water environment, but can also have an adverse impact.

English Regional Planning Bodies can help deliver Water Framework Directive objectives by adopting policies that contribute to or support measures that need to be put in place to achieve 'good status'.

The draft South East Plan (RSS9) is currently being reviewed. The South East England Regional Assembly, Environment Agency and water companies are working in partnership to review existing water policies and adopt a more integrated approach to water management issues.

For example, work is underway to identify the scale and distribution of proposed development such as new housing, and assess this against the need for water use efficiency, and for the development of new water supply infrastructure. Further joint working is being done on the existing capacity to treat sewage. The exercise is looking at where additional discharges of treated effluent have potential to impact on the receiving river or stream, and on designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Further information can be found at: www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan or via the South East England Regional Assembly Tel. 01483 555200.

We have reviewed planning processes in the RBD and identified the plans and strategies listed in Appendix 1. We will liaise closely with the organisations leading on these plans to ensure that:

- they contribute to achieving the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan;
- the River Basin Management Plan reflects and as far as possible supports their objectives.

Some planning processes will start or be revised after 2010, when the Management Plan will already be in place. We will communicate the Plan to others and influence them so that their processes include the measures needed to achieve its objectives.

Consultation question 4

Have we missed any plans and strategies relevant to river basin planning from the list in Appendix 1? Please list them.

Chapter 7 How people can contribute to river basin planning and management

We have identified relevant groups and networks associated with the planning activities introduced in Chapter 6. These offer opportunities for stakeholders to share perspectives and in some cases to agree actions relevant to the water environment. Examples include the South East Forum for Sustainability, South East Water Resources Forum and the Sussex Environment Partnership. Box 2 gives an example of one such network.

Box 2 Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies – relevant networks for river basin planning

The Environment Agency prepares Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) in consultation with local people. They provide a consistent approach to the management of water resources at the catchment scale, whilst recognising the reasonable needs of water users and the environment. They provide a framework for management of time-limited licences, and involve the public in managing the water resources in their area.

A stakeholder group of around 8-10 key individuals is set up for each CAMS. The group helps to refine and endorse a Strategy that takes the needs and views of the stakeholders into account.

Stakeholders include people and organisations interested in water abstraction, including the NFU, water companies, businesses, fisheries, wildlife trusts, South Downs Conservation Board and district councils.

Further information can be found at www.environment.agency.gov.uk/cams.

We assessed existing groups and networks in the RBD to see whether we could build links with them, and whether there were any missing channels of

communication that are needed for river basin planning. We used the following four criteria in this assessment:

- geographical area covered;
- sectors involved;
- scale of engagement (from small specialist groups to broad public involvement);
- issue focus (the number of water management issues dealt with).

One gap that was identified early on was the lack of an over-arching body at River Basin District level. No existing committees or groups were available to play this role, so we set up the RBD Liaison Panel.

The assessment suggested four approaches we could use to involve stakeholders. Box 3 summarises these options. Table 3 summarises our assessment of the options against our four criteria. The full list of existing channels and networks is provided in Appendix 2.

Box 3 Summary of options for involving stakeholders in river basin planning

Option 1 Working through existing Environment Agency engagement processes

This option focuses effort on established Environment Agency engagement mechanisms. These include the two regional advisory committees and the Regional Flood Defence Committee, as well as Area Environment Groups and groups involved in the development of Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies and Flood Management Plans.

Advantages of this approach include the fact that the Environment Agency already has mechanisms in place to work with these groups, and that the individuals involved are already familiar with a range of issues affecting the water environment.

Some disadvantages of this approach are that many of the existing groups are focussed on a single issue or a limited range of issues, and that taken together they do not cover the full range of WFD issues. Focussing effort on current Environment Agency engagement processes is also unlikely to broaden the range of views significantly.

Option 2 Working through existing stakeholder-led forums and engagement processes

This option focuses effort on using existing engagement processes led by other organisations. These include the South East Forum for Sustainability, the South East Rural Partnership and the Solent Forum. This option provides the Environment Agency with an opportunity to broaden engagement on issues affecting the water environment.

These engagement processes often have a broader agenda and can provide new perspectives and the opportunity to secure new solutions.

On the other hand, the groups involved may be less used to dealing with issues affecting the water environment, or in some cases have such a broad

agenda that river basin planning issues may not be dealt with effectively.

Option 3 Working through a combination of existing Environment Agency and stakeholder led forums and engagement processes

This option focuses effort on using a combination of the existing Environment Agency and stakeholder led engagement processes outlined above.

Because the two approaches are complementary, we will be better able to plug any gaps that could occur if we were to focus our efforts on either Environment Agency or stakeholder led forums and engagement processes alone.

Option 4 Creating new forums

This option involves setting up new channels for engagement to support river basin planning. Tailor-made processes could ensure that stakeholder input is timely and appropriate. Our River Basin District Liaison Panel is an important new forum for co-deliverers to discuss and influence the development of the River Basin Management Plan, and assist with its implementation. No existing committees or groups were available to play this role.

The disadvantages of creating additional channels for engagement are the potential overlap with other engagement processes and that both the Environment Agency and stakeholders will have to invest additional resources.

Our preferred option is Option 3. It gives us a means of engaging people widely across sectors and across the RBD, including a number of groups who can provide input into discussions on specific water management issues.

However we will consider supplementing this approach where we think this could be valuable. There may be a need to set up 'task and finish' groups for specific jobs – for example to provide recommendations on appropriate actions to address particular water management issues. Also, the Liaison Panel will explore the feasibility of establishing a South East RBD Stakeholder Forum, as a development of the stakeholder workshop held in March 2006.

An RBD-wide Stakeholder Forum would enable a large number of people and organisations to input into the development of the Summary of Significant Water Management Issues report, for example. The Forum could meet on an annual basis, or where required during key consultations.

We will explore a range of methods of engagement, as detailed in Chapter 8.

Consultation question 5

- a) To what extent do you agree that our preferred options for using organisations and networks is an effective approach to involving people in river basin planning? Score 1 to 4, where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = agree, 4 = strongly agree.
- b) What other approaches to involving people can you suggest?

Table 3 Summary table of options for organising stakeholder engagement in river basin planning

OPTION	GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE	SECTOR COVERAGE	STAKE-HOLDER COVERAGE	ISSUE FOCUS
1	<p>Mainly groups working on local (catchment) scale plans such as Catchment Abstraction and Catchment Flood Management.</p> <p>A smaller number of groups at part-River Basin District (RBD) and RBD scales, such as Area Environment Groups, and statutory Advisory Committees.</p>	<p>Groups looking at local scale plans tend to focus on the most relevant sectors. Groups with a larger geographic remit tend to represent a wider range of sectors.</p> <p>Some relevant sectors may be missing, e.g. ports</p>	<p>Mainly groups of interested parties, with some specialist input. Technical input tends to be provided by the Environment Agency.</p>	<p>Most groups work on single issue plans such as abstraction, or flood risk management. Some groups and Committees have a broader agenda.</p> <p>Marine, coastal and urban development issues are less well represented.</p>
2	<p>There are many relevant larger groups, but few that relate directly to water management. The South East Forum for Sustainability and the South East Water Resources Forum are examples of groups that relate to water issues across the RBD.</p>	<p>The range of sectors involved tends to be broader. There are local scale groups that represent the full range of sectors.</p>	<p>Most groups are made up of interested parties and/or specialists. Few involve the 'general public' directly.</p>	<p>Most groups in this category deal with single issues. However, there are some groups that deal with a wide range of issues. Further groups do not deal directly with water management, but have related aims.</p>
3	<p>Combining Options 1 and 2 provides coverage from the local scale, up to part-River Basin District and full RBD scales.</p>	<p>Most relevant sectors are represented.</p>	<p>Groups made up of interested parties and specialists are the norm. The general public may lack direct representation.</p>	<p>Allows a mixture of groups working on a range of issues as well as groups with a narrower or single issue focus.</p>
4	<p>A river basin planning stakeholder forum for the RBD will be considered.</p>	<p>A stakeholder forum for the RBD would cover the relevant sectors.</p>	<p>Possible route for engaging the general public.</p>	<p>All issues would be able to be covered.</p>

Chapter 8 The main methods we will use for engagement

Different stages in the planning process offer different opportunities and priorities for participation. Our proposals for how we will engage as we move through the process are set out in Table 4. This table is not intended to provide a detailed design of the participation process but to give an idea of how you will be able to obtain information and make your input.

Some elements of the plan will be shaped largely by decisions taken outside the River Basin District. However we will still need input from stakeholders on the implications of these decisions for the RBD.

Many of the steps that we will need to take to improve the water environment may affect groups and communities who tend not to be involved in traditional consultation processes. We will make information accessible to them, for example by providing translations on request and through local media, and we will draw on positive examples of this kind of engagement.

Additional methods may be set up where feasible. They may include the use of surveys and market research to gather opinion on the public acceptability of the actions (or 'programme of measures') outlined in the draft River Basin Management Plan. During spring 2007 the Environment Agency will explore the need for an online discussion forum as a potential electronic method of engagement. The online forum would enable stakeholders to discuss relevant river basin planning issues, and feed views in to consultations. This is separate from potential meetings of a South East RBD Stakeholder Forum.

Consultation question 6

To what extent do you think the participation methods described in Table 4 will achieve adequate stakeholder involvement in river basin planning?

Score 1 to 4 where 1 = inadequate (stakeholder involvement), 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

Table 4 Main methods for engagement in the River Basin District during the planning process

DATE	ACTIVITY	WHO WILL BE INVOLVED	METHOD					
			PUBLICATION	EVENT	ELECTRONIC METHOD	MEETING	SURVEY	GROUP
Winter 2006	Agree main pressures on the water environment and risks of not meeting objectives	Liaison Panel			X	X		
		Statutory Committees*				X		
		Area Environment Groups**				X		
		Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) and Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) Groups			X			
Spring 2007	Identify default objectives Suggest approaches to address risks Contribute to preliminary cost and benefit analysis SEA scoping	Liaison Panel			X	X		
		Statutory Committees*				X		
		Area Environment Groups**				X		
		CAMS Groups & CFMP Groups			X			
Summer 2007	Consultation on Significant Water Management Issues and scope of SEA	All stakeholders and the public (South East RBD Stakeholder Forum meeting***)	X	X	X	X		X
		'Task and finish' groups				X		X
Spring 2008	Assess costs and benefits	Liaison Panel			X	X		
		Statutory Committees*				X		
		Area Environment Groups**			X			
		CAMS Groups & CFMP Groups			X			

DATE	ACTIVITY	WHO WILL BE INVOLVED	METHOD					
			PUBLICATION	EVENT	ELECTRONIC METHOD	MEETING	SURVEY	GROUP
		'Task and finish' groups				X		X
Spring 2008	Assess environmental effects of measures (SEA)	Liaison Panel				X		
		Statutory Committees*				X		
		Area Environment Groups**			X			
		CAMS Groups & CFMP Groups			X			
		Local Strategic Partnerships			X	X		
		AONB Units/ Partnerships			X			
		'Task and finish' groups				X		X
Summer 2008	Develop detailed options for addressing risks	Liaison Panel				X		
		Statutory Committees*				X		
		'Task and finish' groups				X		X
Dec 2008	Consult on draft River Basin Management Plan and Environmental Report	All stakeholders and the public (South East RBD Stakeholder Forum meeting***)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Summer 2009	Agree preferred option	Liaison Panel			X	X		
		Statutory Committees*				X		
December 2009	Publish Final River Basin Management Plan	All stakeholders and the public	X	X				

* In each Environment Agency region there are three Statutory Committees: Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC), Regional Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (REPAC) and Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (RFERAC).

** Area Environment Groups are non-statutory bodies established by the Environment Agency to seek views on environmental matters that affect local communities. Membership is formed of representatives from local authorities, water companies and independent organisations.

*** We said in Chapter 7 that we will explore the value and feasibility of setting up a South East River Basin District Forum.

Chapter 9 How we will deal with significant differences over the River Basin Management Plan

We will seek to promote agreements with other organisations about the content of the River Basin Management Plan we submit to the Secretary of State for approval.

If we are unable to resolve a disagreement with another public body about the content of the River Basin Management Plan, we will highlight the matter to the Secretary of State as soon as possible. We will not wait until the River Basin Management Plan is submitted for approval (or for any other Water Framework Directive deadline).

The information about any dispute submitted to the Secretary of State will be made available on our website.

In the case of disagreements between stakeholders, the Liaison Panel will assist and guide the resolution of conflict.

CONSULTATION FORM

You can use this form to provide your comments on our proposals. Just print or tear out this page, fill it in and return it to the address at the end. Alternatively, you can give us your comments online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd

Consultation question 1

Page 7

Does the proposed timetable allow the right amount of time for the different stages and tasks? (Please note that the Water Framework Directive sets some river basin planning milestones that cannot be moved.)

Yes No

If no, what would you change?

Consultation question 2

Page 8

a) To what extent are the access to information and consultation arrangements described here sufficient to meet your needs?

Score Score 1 to 4, where 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

b) What additional or alternative arrangements do you think should be put in place?

Consultation question 3

Page 9

Which organisations should be added to the table of public, private and voluntary sector organisations? Please tell us why they should be included.

Consultation question 4

Page 12

Have we missed any plans and strategies relevant to river basin planning from the list in Appendix 1? Please list them here.

Consultation question 5

Page 14

- a) To what extent do you agree that our preferred option for using organisations and networks is an effective approach to involving people in river basin planning?

Score Score 1 to 4, where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree
3 = agree, 4 = strongly agree.

- b) What other approaches to involving people can you suggest?

Consultation question 6

Page 16

To what extent do you think the participation methods described in Table 4 will achieve adequate stakeholder involvement in river basin planning?

Score Score 1 to 4 where 1 = inadequate (stakeholder involvement),
2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

Further comments

Personal information section (optional):

Name	<input type="text"/>
Job title	<input type="text"/>
Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
E-mail	<input type="text"/>

Would you like to receive further information about river basin management?

Yes No

How would you prefer us to communicate with you? (*default is email*)

Post Email

Data Protection Notice: The information you provide will be used by the Environment Agency to produce the first South East River Basin Management Plan in 2009³. We may need to use your personal information to contact you during this consultation period in the way you indicate in order to clarify comments. We may make your information available to members of the South East River Basin Liaison Panel, or our agents/representatives to do these things on our behalf.

If you do not want us to contact you please tick this box.

Send to: Lee Spicer-Howard, Environment Agency, Corporate Affairs,
Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, W Sussex BN11 1LD.
Email: southeastRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk

³ Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 we are required to disclose information that we hold on request, subject to the exemptions/ exceptions and the 'public interest test' set out in the legislation.

**Would you like to find out more about us,
or about your environment?**

Then call us on

08708 506 506 (Mon-Fri 8-6)

email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

or visit our website

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

incident hotline 0800 80 70 60 (24hrs)

floodline 0845 988 1188