

REGULATORY APPRAISAL

LAND DRAINAGE, WALES

THE WELSH REGIONAL FLOOD DEFENCE COMMITTEE (COMPOSITION) ORDER 2006

Background

1. The Welsh Regional Flood Defence Committee is a statutory committee of the Environment Agency with responsibilities for the delivery of the flood risk management activities in Wales. The composition of the committee is currently set by the Regional Flood Defence Committee (Welsh Region) Order 1996. There are twenty one members, with eleven appointed by groupings of local authorities, two by the Environment Agency and eight by the Minister.
2. The North-West, Severn-Trent and Welsh Regional Flood Defence Committee (Boundary Alteration) Order 2005, which comes into force on 1 April 2006, amends the boundary of the committee to align it with the area of Wales. It will reduce the composition from 21 to 17 members as a result of the removal of two English local authority members and two members appointed by the minister.
3. The existing composition, set under sections 15 and 16(7) of the Environment Act 1995, ensured that the local authorities had a majority of members on the committee and could therefore control the amount of levy raised. As the new streamlined funding arrangements have been put in place and the committee is required to undertake a more strategic role there are no financial reasons to maintain the local authority majority.
4. A more balanced committee is therefore proposed, so that the views of all members will have an equal weight on the funding and expenditure plans of the committee. This Order to set the composition of the committee is the final piece of legislation associated with the streamlining of the flood defence administrative arrangements in Wales.

Purpose and intended effect of the measure

5. The purpose of the proposed Order is to set the composition of the Welsh Regional Flood Defence Committee to eighteen with eight members including the chair appointed by the Minister, eight appointed by local authorities and two by the Environment Agency.
6. The local authority members being appointed from eight groups of local authorities as set out in the table below

<i>Group</i>	<i>Constituent Councils</i>
1	Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham
2	Anglesey, Conwy and Gwynedd

3	Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire
4	Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff
5	Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend
6	Powys, Monmouthshire and Torfaen
7	Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Newport
8	Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff

Risk assessment

7. This Order is not being made to address a particular risk or hazard. It is intended to lead to improved arrangements for the administration of flood defence in Wales.
8. If the Order is not made the composition of the RFDC will revert to that set by default when the Order amending the boundary of the committee comes into force. This will provide a majority of local authority members on the committee which has been discounted in the analysis of options set out below.

Options

Option 1: Do Nothing

9. This option would see the retention of the local authority majority on the committee, which given that the funding is being provided directly by the National Assembly for Wales would not reflect the accountability.

Option 2: Make legislation to establish a committee comprised entirely of Ministerial Appointments

10. A committee comprised solely of ministerial appointments was not thought to be appropriate. This arrangement would be seen as excluding local authority representatives from the committee and isolating them from flood defence decisions and responsibilities. Local authorities are seen as important in the delivery of flood risk management services to the public, particularly with emergency response and support.

Option 3: Make the legislation to create a balanced committee

11. This Order will establish a balanced committee which, with an equal number of local authority and independent Ministerial appointments, is thought more likely to act in a strategic manner. The expertise that exists outside local government and which can be accessed by ministerial appointments is important. The local authority members would bring their experience of local government management and affairs to the committee and would be included within the flood risk management service. A committee comprising an equal number of members appointed by local authorities and the Minister would also better reflect the accountability for provision of funding

Benefits

12. The benefits of making this Order are:

- to clarify accountability for the service;
- to provide an ability to plan expenditure on a whole Wales basis, thus prioritising resources to those areas of greatest need;
- to bring in fresh thinking to the committee , which will have to operate in a strategic manner and not become involved with detail; and
- a new composition will signal the new approach to flood risk management that is being promoted in Wales.

Costs

13. From 1 April 2005 new streamlined administrative arrangements have been put into effect. These include the creation of a single committee through the revocation of the local flood defence committees and the funding of the committee by grant in aid directly from the Welsh Assembly Government.

14. The Environment Agency has also been instructed through its remit letter that it is not expected to raise money from the local authorities by levy.

15. The grant in aid amounts to approximately £24m and is set annually by the Assembly. The precept (Approx £500k) on Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) is set annually following consultation between Officials of the Environment Agency and the IDBs, but may be the subject of appeal to the Minister if deemed unreasonable by the Board of the IDBs. The RFDC also currently receives funds for some schemes via European grants

16. These funding arrangements will not change as a result of this Order. Therefore there are no additional financial implications for the National Assembly for Wales or the local authorities as a result of amending the composition of the RFDC or from any of the arrangements arising from the enactment of this Order.

17. There are no cost impacts on businesses, or external bodies arising from the making of this Order.

Competition Assessment

18. There are no issues in relation to competition.

Consultation

With Stakeholders

19. The proposed arrangements for the flood defence administration in Wales were the subject of extensive consultation between 22 September 2003 and 5 December 2003. A report on this consultation exercise and the decisions reached were announced at the plenary meeting on the 29 June 2004.

20. Concerns have been expressed through the consultation process that the Environment Agency may continue to exercise its powers in relation to the

levy on local authorities. This is currently being controlled by the Welsh Assembly Government through the Environment Agency's remit letter, which sets out the Assembly's expectation of the Agency in this matter. If the Environment Agency ignores the remit letter the National Assembly for Wales has the power to direct the Agency in this matter or may set in motion other actions to mitigate its impact on local authorities.

21. Furthermore, a detailed consultation was undertaken between 17 August and 21 October 2005. The consultation was issued to: all local authorities in Wales; the Welsh Local Government Association; the Environment Agency and other interested parties such as representatives of business, the internal drainage boards and conservation and professional bodies. In total 196 organisations, authorities and individuals were directly consulted.
22. The list of consultees used in both consultations is attached at Annex A to the Regulatory Appraisal.
23. The consultation set out proposal for a committee of fourteen with six members appointed by the Minister, six appointed by groups of local authorities, and two appointed by the Environment Agency. It sought comments on the size and composition of the committee and the method of appointment so that any practical issues could be identified prior to implementation.
24. A majority (70%) of those who responded to the consultation favoured increasing the committee size to: provide a better geographical coverage; improve access to local knowledge and to democratically elect members. There were however only 26% of the responses that suggested an alternative size for the committee, and of these 60% were in favour of a committee of eighteen.
25. Twenty five percent (25%) of the responses suggested that local authorities should have a majority of members on a committee that had powers to set a levy on local authorities in Wales. However, the majority (50%) of those who expressed a view supported the balanced committee with no local authority majority. A report on this consultation exercise was published on the National Assembly for Wales Internet site in December 2005, and is attached at Annex B to the Regulatory Appraisal.
26. After considering the responses the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside decided that a committee comprising eighteen would be appropriate with eight members appointed by groups of local authorities, two by the Environment Agency and eight by the Minister.
27. The groups of local authorities were also amended to reflect the comments received, and the increase in the numbers of members. The groups were therefore based on the existing arrangements and to satisfy comments received about catchments and authorities with similar interests. The groups are set out in the Order and local authority members will be

appointed to the committee from each of the groups in accordance with Schedule 5 to the Environment Act 1995.

With Subject Committee

28. The proposed Order was notified to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee, via the list of forthcoming legislation on 5 October 2005 (EPC(2)11-05 (p. 7) Annex 2, item No.62) and were identified for detailed scrutiny. The Committee will scrutinise the Order at its meeting on 1 February 2006. (Sentence to be amended following the meeting)

Significant Costs

29. There are no issues in relation to significant costs

Review

30. The Order is part of a programme of works associated with the streamlining of the flood defence arrangements in Wales. A review of these arrangements will be undertaken by Officials of Welsh Assembly Government three years after their implementation to determine their effectiveness.

Summary

31. Under the new arrangement the Environment Agency's Regional Flood Defence Committee in Wales will be a single tier committee whose area coincides with the area of Wales and whose composition reflects its role as a strategic forward thinking committee with clear accountabilities and links to local government.

32. The committee will be clearly accountable for the delivery of National Assembly for Wales' policy for flood risk management in Wales.

Annex A

LIST OF CONSULTEES in the 2003 consultation flood defence arrangements in Wales

Local Authorities - Chief Executives
Assembly Members
Members of Parliament
Welsh Local Government Association
Local Government Association
Welsh Flood Defence Committees
English Flood Defence Committees
ADA - The Secretary
Internal Drainage Boards
Association of National Park Authorities
Wales Association of Community & Town Councils
National Association of Local Councils
Commission for Racial Equality Wales Office
All Wales Ethnic Minority Association
Equal Opportunities Commission
Wales Women National Coalition
Wales Disability Rights Commission
Stonewall Cymru
Voluntary Sector Assembly Centre
Engineering Employers Association
CBI. Wales
Federation of Small Businesses
South Wales Chamber of Commerce & Industry
North Wales Chamber of Commerce
Wales TUC Cymru
Chartered Institute for Environmental Health
RICS Wales
Chartered Institution of Water & Environment Management
British Waterways
Welsh Development Agency
Institute of Directors
Groundwork Wales
House Builders Association
South East Wales Economic Forum
South West Wales Economic Forum
Mid Wales Partnership
North Wales Economic Forum
Welsh Development Agency
Environment Agency Wales
Countryside Council for Wales
North Wales Pollution Group
County Land & Business Association
Farmers Union of Wales
NFU Cymru
ADAS
Friends of the Earth Cymru
RSPB

Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
Health Promotion Wales
ICE Wales
Wales Coastal Groups
ABI – Association of British Insurers
Association of Larger Local Councils
North Wales Town Councils Association

List of Consultees in the 2005 consultation on the composition of the committee

Local Authorities - Chief Executives
Assembly Members
Members of Parliament
Welsh Local Government Association
Local Government Association
Welsh Flood Defence Committees
English Flood Defence Committees
ADA - The Secretary
Internal Drainage Boards
Association of National Park Authorities
Wales Association of Community & Town Councils
National Association of Local Councils
Commission for Racial Equality Wales Office
All Wales Ethnic Minority Association
Equal Opportunities Commission
Wales Women National Coalition
Wales Disability Rights Commission
Stonewall Cymru
Voluntary Sector Assembly Centre
Engineering Employers Association
CBI. Wales
Federation of Small Businesses
South Wales Chamber of Commerce & Industry
North Wales Chamber of Commerce
Wales TUC Cymru
Chartered Institute for Environmental Health
RICS Wales
Chartered Institution of Water & Environment Management
British Waterways
Welsh Development Agency
Institute of Directors
Groundwork Wales
House Builders Association
South East Wales Economic Forum
South West Wales Economic Forum
Mid Wales Partnership
North Wales Economic Forum
Welsh Development Agency
Environment Agency Wales

Countryside Council for Wales
North Wales Pollution Group
County Land & Business Association
Farmers Union of Wales
NFU Cymru
ADAS
Friends of the Earth Cymru
RSPB
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
Health Promotion Wales
ICE Wales
Wales Coastal Groups
ABI – Association of British Insurers
Association of Larger Local Councils
North Wales Town Councils Association

Annex A

A Report on the Responses to the Consultation on the Composition of Flood Risk Management Wales

Summary

This report summarises the responses to a consultation on the composition of Flood Risk Management Wales (the Regional Flood Defence Committee (Wales)) issued by the Welsh Assembly Government on the 17th August 2005.

The majority of responses to the consultation indicate that the proposed size of the committee (14 Members) is too small with a range of suggested sizes from 17 to 20. The concept of a balanced committee was accepted by 50% of those who responded, with 25% indicating a preference for a local authority majority.

No comments or issues were raised about the proposed method of appointment whereby appointments are made by local authorities, the Environment Agency and by the Minister although the Internal Drainage Board's responses indicated that they should have a member on the committee.

The proposed groupings of local authorities was thought to need adjustment particularly the linkage of Powys to the existing Northern group of Flintshire , Wrexham, and Conwy. Suggestions made included catchment basis and the arrangements within the Wales spatial plan, or regional partnerships.

There was broad agreement to the required skills and competencies of members which included flood risk management, land use , environmental and fisheries expertise.

Introduction

In September 2003 the Welsh Assembly Government issued a consultation document on "The Flood Defence Arrangements in Wales-The Future". After considering the responses to this consultation Carwyn Jones the Minister for Environment Planning and Countryside on the 29th June 2004 announced his policy of a single flood defence committee covering the whole of Wales, fully funded by the Assembly. He also announced that he had asked officials to undertake further work on the composition of the Committee.

Taking into account the responses¹ to the consultation in 2003 and the intended role of the committee an option was identified for a committee of 14 members. The Assembly Minister would appoint 6 of the members, 2 would be appointed by the Environment Agency and 6 by local authorities. Before finalising the proposals the Minister agreed to consult on the composition, the method of appointment, and in particular the groupings of local authority

¹ <http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fe/master.asp?n1=797&n2=776&n3=837>

members of the Committee. This second consultation was issued on the 17th August 2005.

Extent of consultation and response

The consultation document was issued widely to include all local authorities in Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), the Environment Agency and other interested parties such as representatives of business, the Internal Drainage Boards and conservation and professional bodies. In total some 196 organisations, authorities and individuals were directly consulted.

Twenty responses were received (10.2% response rate), of those 19 provided some comment, and one acknowledged receipt of the documents, but has not made any further response. Seven individual responses (35% of the responses) were received from local authorities. The WLGA responded on behalf of local authorities generally. Responses were also received from the Environment Agency, the current Regional Flood Defence Committee, the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA), internal drainage boards, and business and professional bodies. A full list of those who responded is attached at appendix 1.

Views and comments were requested on the approach and proposals to ensure any practical issues were identified and in particular on the groupings of local authorities. The responses have been reviewed and generally fall into three headings, comments on the size of the committee, the groupings of local authorities and the skills or experience /background required of its members. A summary of the individual responses made is attached at appendix 2. Copies of the individual responses may be viewed by appointment at the Welsh Assembly Government Offices Cathays Park Cardiff contact Geoff. Bayliss Tel 02920823148

Committee size

The proposal in the consultation paper was for a committee of 14 members.

Of the twenty organisations/bodies or authorities who responded, two responses (10%) responded positively supporting the proposals for a committee of 14 members. Three (15%) responses did not make any comment on the size of the committee. One (5%) commented that at 14 FRMW would be the smallest committee in England and Wales. The remaining fourteen (70%) responses were clear that an increase in numbers was required to improve the geographical coverage, local knowledge or democratic accountability, and thereby accommodate either more local authority representatives, or a member representing IDB interests. Five (26%) of the responses made positive suggestions to increase the size of the committee from 14 to 17, 18 or 20.

The WLGA, Flintshire, Ceredigion Pembrokeshire and Bridgend local authorities argued that because the RFDC had the power to set a levy the

local authority members should be in a majority on the committee in line with the legislation that applies in England. Flintshire argued for an increase in membership from 14 to at least 17, and Ceredigion's response stated that at least 12 LA members should be on the committee. Neither the WLGA nor Pembrokeshire indicated a preferred size of committee.

The responses from the Environment Agency, the current RFDC and the Farmers Union of Wales (FUW) all supported increasing the committee to 18 arguing that this would provide the best balance between local accountability, knowledge and input.

The Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) and the two Internal Drainage Board (IDB) responses focussed on the IDB membership of the committee arguing that they were disenfranchised by the arrangement which allowed the RFDC to set a levy on them without any representation on the Committee. Powysland IDB stated that a committee of 14 would be inadequate and potentially dangerous and that 20 members would better cater for the diverse range of interests in catchments across Wales.

CIWEM suggested a change to the groupings of local authorities, which would increase their numbers from 6 to 7. Although not stated in their response this would either result in a change in composition or an increase in numbers on the committee from 14 to 15 or 16 dependent upon whether the number of appointments made by the Assembly Minister were increased or not.

Comments on the composition and method of appointment

The consultation invited comment on a composition and method of appointment of six ministerial, 2 Environment Agency and six local authority appointments.

The comments on the proposed composition have been classified as, seeking IDB representation, seeking a local authority majority, passing no comment or being content with a balanced committee

The IDB view as represented by ADA, Powysland and Caldicot and Wentlooge IDB (15%) was that the composition should allow either a designated IDB representative or a specific ministerial appointment allocated to this group. The IDBs being subjected to a levy and not having any representation on the Committee were disenfranchised.

Twenty five percent of the total responses which included the WLGA and 4 out of the 7 local authorities argued for a majority of local authority members. This argument was promoted on the basis that the powers for the committee to raise a levy on the constituent local authorities still remained. An increase in local authority members was also seen to improve and strengthen local input and accountability. A committee composition of 6 ministerial appointments 2 Environment Agency and 9 local authority being proposed by Flintshire County Council, although the response from Ceredigion CC identified a need for 12 local authority representatives.

Two responses did not comment on the composition.

Fifty percent of responses indicated contentment with a balanced committee, this included three local authorities, the Environment Agency, its RFDC and the FUW. One of these local authorities indicated that an increase in numbers was necessary to accommodate a change in the groupings and hence better local authority representation.

There were few comments about the method of appointment. The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) commented about the need to stagger appointments to ensure continuity of experience.

Comments on Groupings of Local Authorities

Three (15%) out of the 20 who responded indicated that they supported the proposed groupings of local authorities. Twelve (60%) indicated that the groupings should be amended either to reduce the numbers of local authorities in the groupings or to base the groupings on catchments. The remaining 25% made no comment on this matter. Most responses indicated that there had to be some joint representation and working together by the local authorities. Powysland IDB expressed the view that the linking of Powys with Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire would create a unit that was too big for one person, a view supported by Flintshire.

In their response Ceredigion CC expressed the view that including Swansea in the West Wales group of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion was bizarre, linking an industrial with rural areas. Alternative proposals put forward for the local authority groups tended to result in an increase in the number of members on the committee.

The Vale of Glamorgan suggested that two appointments could be selected by the WLGA and the remaining four from the regional groupings of local authorities. The WLGA suggested, as did Ceredigion, that there were other groupings for example those in Regional partnerships or the Wales spatial plan.

The EA, the RFDC and FUW recommended that groupings based on catchments would be appropriate.

Knowledge Skills and Background of FRMW members

Eight of the responses made some reference or inference about knowledge skills and experience of members. Most recognised the importance of knowledge of land use climate change and biodiversity, others the importance of conservation and fisheries matters. The Internal Drainage Boards highlighted that knowledge of farming, flood risk management and forestry was important.

The CIWEM and the ICE responses both indicated that appreciation of the professional technical aspects of flood risk management was important.

GB-November 2005

**Regional Flood defence Committee composition Consultation
Schedule of responses received**

Response number	Name of person/organisation making response	Date Received
1	Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels IDB	5 th Sept 05
2	The County Council and City of Cardiff	13 th Sept 05
3	Torfaen County Borough	13 th Sept 05
4	Countryside Council for Wales	Sept 05
5	Association of British Insurers	9 th Sept 05
6	Powysland Internal Drainage Board	17 th Oct. 05
7	Association of Drainage Authorities	20 th Oct 05
8	Farmers Union of Wales	20 th Oct 05
9	Environment Agency Regional Flood Defence Committee	20 th Oct 05
10	Flintshire County Council	20 th Oct 05
11	Welsh Local Government Association	20 th Oct 05
12	Ceredigion County Council	21 st Oct 05
13	Rhondda Cynon Taff	24 th Oct 05
14	Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management	20 th Oct 05
15	Vale Of Glamorgan	21 st Oct 05
16	Carmartheshire Fishermans Federation	21 st Oct 05
17	Environment Agency	24 th Oct 05
18	ICE Wales	26 th Oct 05
19	Pembrokeshire County Council	31 st Oct 05
20	Bridgend County Borough	3 rd Nov 05

**Consultation on the composition of the Flood Risk Management Wales.
Summary Schedule of responses**

Appendix 2

Name of organisation responding	Date of resp.	Comments on size of committee and composition	Comments on groupings of local authorities	Skills or background of Members	General comments
1) The Caldicot and Wentlooge Internal Drainage Board.	1 st Sept 05	There should be appropriate representation of Internal drainage boards on the committee			Will support the views and response of David Noble the ADA Chief Executive
2) The County Council and City of Cardiff	13 th Sept 05				Acknowledged receipt of Consultation
3) Torfaen County Borough	13 th Sept 05		Torfaen fully supports the approach and the groupings of Local authorities. Questions how the groupings will select the Area representatives to ensure consistent and equitable approach across Wales		
4) Countryside Council for Wales	Sept 2005	Welcomes the balance between LA and Ministerial appointments.	Agrees with geographical spread proposed for LA representation	The committee should have at least 2 members with experience and awareness of	Welcomes the vision for the committee and approach to flood risk management as opposed to flood defence.

**Consultation on the composition of the Flood Risk Management Wales.
Summary Schedule of responses**

Appendix 2

				environmental sustainability (Land Use, climate Change , biodiversity etc)	The committee should be formally notified that it is expected to contribute to the sustainable use of land and water resources and the achievement of Assembly targets
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**Consultation on the composition of the Flood Risk Management Wales.
Summary Schedule of responses**

Name of organisation responding	Date of resp.	Comments on size of committee and composition	Comments on groupings of local authorities	Skills or background of Members	General comments
5) Association of British Insurers	9 th Sept 05			Keen that there is private sector representation on the Committee	Broad approach seems sensible

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Summary Schedule of responses**

Name of organisation responding	Date of resp.	Comments on size of committee and composition	Comments on groupings of local authorities	Skills or background of Members	General comments
6) Powysland Internal Drainage Board	13 th Oct 05	<p>Committee of 14 to represent all of the different interests over the diverse catchments across Wales is considered inadequate and dangerous.</p> <p>Increase membership from 14 to 20 to cater for diverse range of interests</p>	<p>Groupings of local authority members should be based on catchments. But this may result in an increase in size of committee</p> <p>The Grouping that includes Powys is geographically too big and diverse for one person.</p>	<p>Members should have knowledge of flood risk management, forestry, farming and environmental issues.</p> <p>An IDB representative would provide knowledge of Flood risk management and Representatives from the three farming Unions would provide a background in Welsh rural Issues</p>	<p>Welcomes the executive status of the committee.</p> <p>Because LA s are not providing funding it is considered that LA members will only have a passing interest in the matters discussed by the committee</p>
7) Association of Drainage Authorities	18 th Oct 05	<p>The IDBs contribute financially to the RFDC but do not have a recognised place on the committee. Compared. to LAs who make no contribution yet have 6 seats.</p> <p>IDB representation will reflect both the interests</p>		<p>Knowledge of flood risk, should be included</p>	<p>ADA welcomes the reiterationof the executive status of the committee and that it should be robust and active in protecting the interests of the people of Wales and ensuring value for money.</p> <p>The Association believes that a single committee for Wales</p>

**Consultation on the composition of the Flood Risk Management Wales.
Summary Schedule of responses**

	<p>of the people in IDD's and with appropriate appointments the benefits of wider Knowledge and interest in flood risk management</p> <p>Recommends increasing the size of the committee to accommodate the IDB rep within a larger LA number or provide representation through a designated ministerial appointment</p>			<p>could not within its membership retain local democratic input and accountability</p>
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Summary Schedule of responses**

Name of organisation responding	Date Of resp.	Comments on size of committee and composition	Comments on groupings of local authorities	Skills or background of Members	General comments
8) Farmers Union of Wales	18 th Oct 05	<p>FUW supports the response from the existing RFDC, that the committee should comprise 18 members,</p> <p>Increasing the numbers would increase Local engagement and Knowledge; it would also allow Welsh Assembly appointees to be drawn from diverse catchments around Wales.</p>	<p>LA groupings based on population not supported. The focus would tend to be on the urban areas rather than areas such as rural Powys, which has big rivers draining through its area.</p>		<p>Concerned that decision already made to have 14 members and that the consultation process is an empty gesture at inclusivity.</p> <p>Recognised that a national committee cannot have the local knowledge or practical information to deal effectively with individual flooding problems.</p> <p>Endorses the need for strong local input to the work of the RFDC and the need for LAs to play a big role.</p> <p>The committee should meet at locations across Wales.</p>

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Summary Schedule of responses**

9) Regional Flood Defence Committee	19 th Oct 05	To improve the potential for local input increase LA membership to 8 and the Assembly appointments to 8 which with the Environment Agency appointments will provide a committee of 18.	Base the groupings as close to catchment base as possible	<p>Supports a diverse and experienced membership to take strategic decisions and an environmentally sustainable approach to land use and flood risk management.</p> <p>Skills in Flood risk management, land-use management and knowledge of fisheries and environmental matters are important. When making environmental and sustainable decisions</p>	<p>The committee supports the vision of a robust and active committee leading the delivery of flood risk management across Wales</p> <p>Amend the name of the committee from Flood Risk Management Wales to "Flood Risk Management Committee Wales " which provides for a clearer focus, purpose and understanding of the role of the new body.</p> <p>The committee seeks additional funding wherever possible e.g. European funding</p>
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**Consultation on the composition of the Flood Risk Management Wales.
Summary Schedule of responses**

Name of organisation responding	Date Of resp.	Comments on size of committee and composition	Comments on groupings of local authorities	Skills or background of Members	General comments
10) Flintshire County council	19 th Oct 2005	<p>Would like to see the LA majority on the Committee retained, as per Defra model in England.</p> <p>Concerned about the change in the law which will enable the Welsh Assembly Government to create a committee where the local authority membership is no longer a majority whilst the RFDC still retains levy raising powers.</p> <p>Recommends a minimum of 17 members so as to allow greater flexibility to achieve Welsh Assembly Government's own objectives.</p> <p>Suggests committee</p>	<p>The linking of Powys to Wrexham etc is seen as arbitrary. It is difficult to envisage a member being able to respond effectively and to represent Flintshire's interests and vice-versa.</p> <p>Suggested that the groupings reflect a desire for a small committee rather than a representative structure.</p> <p>Suggested groupings as per existing RFDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Denbighshire, Wrexham, Flintshire ▪ Anglesey , Conwy , Gwynedd ▪ Ceredigion, Carmarthen, Pembrokeshire ▪ The Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend 		

**Consultation on the composition of the Flood Risk Management Wales.
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		comprising 6 Welsh Assembly Government appointees, 2 EA and 9 from local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff ▪ Newport Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly ▪ Powys, Torfaen, Monmouthshire ▪ Swansea, Neath Port Talbot ▪ Cardiff 		
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**Consultation on the composition of the Flood Risk Management Wales.
Summary Schedule of responses**

Name of organisation responding	Date of resp.	Comments on size of committee and composition	Comments on groupings of local authorities	Skills or background of Members	General comments
11) Welsh Local Government Association		<p>WLGA have always maintained that there should be a majority of local authority members on the Committee because:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the retention of levy rising powers b) the lack of consultation when the powers were changed c) Local elected members are directly accountable to the public and are in a position to provide local knowledge <p>With 14 members the RFDC would be the smallest Committee in England and Wales. With two less LA members than the smallest committee in</p>	<p>Did not think that putting Powys with a North Wales group was a good idea. Suggests that other options such as a mid Wales partnership needs to be considered.</p> <p>Consulted members who agreed that joint working was required. Happy to co-operate in further work on the groupings</p>		<p>Concerned about retained levy raising powers of the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Powers were taken by the Welsh Assembly Government in the Water Act 2003 to enable them to set the composition and method of appointment of the Committee. These powers were taken without prior consultation with stakeholders and the LAs</p> <p>WLGA has discussed with their members and there is support for LAs to work together and they agree that not everyone can have a place on the committee.</p>

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		England. Concerns expressed that a committee with only six LA members would not provide the geographical spread or reflect the importance that LAs play in the delivery of the Service			
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Name of organisation responding	Date Of resp	Comments on size of committee and composition	Comments on groupings of local authorities	Skills or background of Members	General comments
12) Ceredigion County Council	20th Oct 05	<p>Feels that the numbers of LA representatives is unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Should double the numbers of LA representatives to 12 thus enabling a local authority majority.</p>	<p>Democratic local input is being lost.</p> <p>Welsh Assembly Government should reconsider the validity of the groupings.</p> <p>The inclusion of industrialised Swansea with the rural west Wales is regarded as bizarre</p> <p>The groupings of local authorities are at variance with those suggested in the spatial plan.</p>		<p>The council has made formal representations to the Assembly about the diminution of the LA role of elected members which is considered to be a retrograde step</p>

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Summary Schedule of responses**

Name of organisation responding	Date of resp.	Comments on size of committee and composition	Comments on groupings of local authorities	Skills or background of Members	General comments
13) Rhondda Cynon Taff	20 th Oct 05	Suggested increase in numbers from 14 to 16 to accommodate changes in groupings	Suggested that where groupings of local authorities result in a population of greater than 20% of the nation's population that there is a case to have two local authority representatives. E.g. combining Bridgend with Rhondda C/T and the Vale of Glamorgan with Neath Port Talbot.		Recognised that not practical for all local authorities to have a seat on the committee

**Consultation on the composition of the Flood Risk Management Wales.
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14) The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management.	19 th Oct 2005		<p>Suggested a grouping of LA members based on flooding characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham. ▪ Anglesey Conwy Gwynedd ▪ Ceredigion, Carmarthen, Pembrokeshire , Powys ▪ Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, ▪ Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent. ▪ Cardiff, vale of Glamorgan ▪ Newport Monmouthshire, Torfaen. 	<p>The committee should have representatives from the key institutions.</p> <p>Would like to see professional skills and awareness with the elected members.</p>	<p>Felt that the proposals were balanced and well rounded for the needs of Wales</p> <p>To ensure a rolling turnover members should serve initially for a period of 2, 3 or 4 years.</p> <p>Need to take into account the 4-year timescale for elected representatives.</p>

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15) Vale of Glamorgan	21 st Oct 2005	Support for the all Wales Committee, and the composition is accepted	<p>Suggested different arrangements for LA members.</p> <p>Two places are appointed by the WLGA and the remaining 4 from Unitary authorities.</p> <p>The WLGA representatives would be better placed to co-ordinate the views from all local authorities and would provide a degree of continuity.</p> <p>The four local unitary authority appointments would represent the four regional committees.</p>		

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16) Carmarthenshire Fishermans Federation	21 st Oct 05		Concerned about basing the groupings on population rather than geography. Suggested that catchments are important and that one person could serve Glamorgan, Gwent and Monmouth.	Members should have a knowledge and experience of river management with a widespread and deep understanding of fisheries	Welcomed the proposals and appreciated the need to limit membership by LAs.

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17) Environment Agency (Wales)	21 st Oct 05	Agreed with the RFDC about the need to maintain a strong local input, and recommends a committee of 18 members	Expressed concern about the size of Powys and encourages membership allocation based on a catchment boundary basis	Supports the need for experienced and diverse membership able to make strategic and environmentally sustainable approach to land use and flood risk management. This should include fisheries and conservation knowledge	

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(18) ICE Wales	26 th Oct 05			FRMW should have a strong technical content	
(19) Pembrokeshire County Council	31 st Oct 05	Disappointed to see a dilution of Local Authority membership from that which exists at present. Committee composition should be NAW 6, Environment Agency 2 and Local authorities 9 total 17	Existing groupings should be retained Representatives should be rotated annually		Because of retention of levy raising powers by the committee the Welsh Assembly Government should, if the LAs no longer have a majority on the committee, revoke the levy raising power of the committee.
(20) Bridgend County Borough Council	3 rd Nov 05	Disappointed with the low numbers of local authority members			

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