

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

Date:	Wednesday 1 st February 2006
Time:	9.00 am to 12.30pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building

The Welsh Regional Flood Defence Committee (Composition) Order 2006

Purpose

1. The above Order, when brought in to force, will set the composition of the Regional Flood Defence Committee in Wales at eighteen members. This includes a total of eight members (including the chairman) to be appointed by the Assembly, two members to be appointed by the Environment Agency and a total of eight members to be appointed by or on behalf of local authorities (each of the eight groups of local authorities specified in the Schedule to the Order is to appoint one member). A copy of the draft Order, Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Appraisal are attached for scrutiny.

Background

2. On the 29th June 2004 the Minister for the Environment Planning and Countryside announced that "the flood defence service in Wales would be delivered through a single committee based on the political boundary and funded directly by the Assembly, and that further work on the composition of the committee would be undertaken".

3. This policy is to be put in place in three steps. Firstly, on the 1st April 2005 the Local Flood Defence scheme was revoked, leaving in place a single Regional Flood Defence Committee covering most of Wales and part of England. An Order to amend the boundary of the Committee to align it with the area of Wales was made jointly with the Secretary of State on the 24th September 2005 and is due to come into force on the 1st April 2006. The funding arrangements of the Regional Flood Defence Committee have been amended so that from the 1st April 2005 their works in Wales are funded directly by the Assembly as opposed to levy on the local authorities.

4. This is the third and final piece of legislation required to put in place the streamlined flood defence administrative arrangements announced in June 2004. It is brought forward following a consultation on the proposed arrangements
5. Committee Members agreed (5th October 2005, EPC (2)-11-05) to scrutinise the draft legislation on the Welsh Regional Flood Defence Committee (composition) Order 2006.
6. Further details are included in the attached draft explanatory memorandum and regulatory appraisal.

Financial implications

7. There are no additional financial implications for the Assembly in relation to this Order.

Action for Committee

8. The Committee is invited to scrutinise the proposed regulations and to give its views.

CARWYN JONES AM

Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

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