

SEPA Statement on progress with the flood risk management strategies.

Public consultation on the strategies will commence in December 2020 probably just before Christmas though I don't have a firm date yet. The consultation will be in 2 phases. The first phase will be in December 2020 and the second phase commences in March 2021. The consultation will run through until June 2021 – a minimum 3 months after the start of phase 2.

The first phase will contain high level information only. This will include a background to what the strategies are, a regional overview of flood risk, a very brief summary of each of the Potentially Vulnerable Areas that have been identified in the National Flood Risk Assessment in 2018 and, a list of communities where we intend to provide more detailed information on in Phase 2. Ballater is one of the communities that we will provide more detailed information on in Phase 2. We don't anticipate receiving any detailed feedback from communities [during phase 1](#).

In Phase 2 we will focus on each of the communities identified in phase 1. We will include information on what is at risk, some comments on flood history and a summary of what's been done since December 2015. We will then go on to describe the proposed next stages for flood risk management for each community as far as we have developed them. This information will have been developed in conjunction with partners including the local authority. We will seek comments / suggestions / alternative ideas on that information from individuals, communities and from wider interest groups.

Where we have proposals for potential flood protection schemes from local authorities or other organisations such as Scottish Water, we will summarise those proposals for the respective communities. We are unlikely to be able to provide much indication as to where these flood protection schemes sit nationally as we are aware that further information for schemes already submitted and additional (new) flood protection schemes will be submitted by local authorities and other organisations such as Scottish Water during the consultation period. Prioritisation will not be completed therefore until after the consultation closes and the additional information provided has been incorporated for use in the final published strategies in December 2021.

Decisions as to what flood protection schemes will be invited to be taken forward to the next stage and when, will be taken by Scottish Government and COSLA. We don't have any more information on that at this point in time.

In the meantime, we will continue to work with local authorities and others to finalise the content of phase 1 and 2 of the public consultation and look forward to receiving responses from Ballater in due course

Steve McFarland
Flood Risk Planning Manager (North)
SEPA Aberdeen

16 September 2020