

Appendix 1 – Update to Local Planning Authorities on RFRA and Survey on Flood Risk Issues

Our Reference: RSS9

Your Reference:

6 July 2007

Dear Colleague

Regional Flood Risk Appraisal Update

You will be aware that the Assembly and the Environment Agency have assembled information to inform the development of a Regional Flood Risk Appraisal (RFRA). The work has focussed on developing a region wide assessment of the relative impact of fluvial and tidal flood risk within each of the local planning authorities in the North West (see Section 1).

The intention is to complete the RFRA before the publication of proposed changes to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which is expected in Autumn 2007. We will need to liaise with United Utilities and local authorities to ensure that relevant information is collated on the issues set out in Section 2 of this letter. To this end, we are asking for your help in responding to the short set of questions accompanying this letter.

Section 1 – Work to Date

Two pieces of work have been produced:

- A flood risk ranking based on current fluvial and tidal flood risk together with the strategic planning considerations in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy using the housing provision distribution for 2003 –2021 (submitted as a supporting document to the EIP by the Environment Agency as SDL/EA/02).
- Mapping that shows the relationship between flood risk zones 2 and 3, and the broad locations for regionally significant economic development set out in Table 8.1 of draft RSS – the map was submitted as Briefing Paper 4 to the Examination in Public.

Section 2 – Further Work

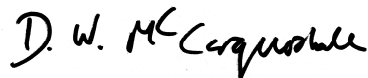
The intention over the next few weeks is to draw together information on the following aspects of flood risk identified in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25).

- An iteration of the work produced thus far to take into account any recommendations contained in the Panel Report of the Examination in Public into the draft RSS.
- Examination of the remaining sources of flooding (sewer, surface water, groundwater and infrastructure failure) to consider what aspects should be incorporated into a regional analysis.
- Consideration of the potential impacts of climate change based on work contained in the Catchment Flood Management Plans being produced by the Agency.
- An overview of the policy framework for sustainable flood risk management contained in the draft RSS.
- A brief overview of the work underway or proposed for Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) to be undertaken by local planning authorities.

The attached questions will help fill in the gaps on some of the matters noted above in Section 2. I would be extremely grateful if you could return the completed questionnaire to me by **Friday 27 July**.

Should you have any queries regarding the questions or any aspects of the RFRA, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Duncan McCorquodale
Regional Spatial Strategy Manager

Regional Flood Risk Appraisal Questions for Local Planning Authorities

A. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

1. How significant do you consider flood risk to be as a factor in strategic planning in your district? **(Please tick one box on the scale below)**

Very Significant

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 Not Significant at all

2. What stage have you reached with the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in your Local Authority? **(Please tick one box)**

Completed (signed off by the Environment Agency)		Please go to Q.3
Completed (yet to be signed off by the Environment Agency)		
Currently undertaking a SFRA		
Planning to undertake a SFRA		Please go to Q.4

3. Where a SFRA has been undertaken or is currently being produced, has the SFRA included a Level 2 scope? (Defined in the PPS25 draft companion guide at paragraph 2.36 and PPS25 paragraph E6 where it is termed “increased scope”).

Yes No

4. Where a SFRA is planned, do you anticipate the SFRA including a Level 2 scope? (Defined in the PPS25 draft companion guide at paragraph 2.36 and PPS25 paragraph E6 where it is termed “increased scope”).

Yes No

5. Please add any general comments you wish to make.

B. Surface Water Flooding

1. Have you experienced any flood incidents in your local authority area associated with surface water drainage systems maintained by the local authority?

Yes No

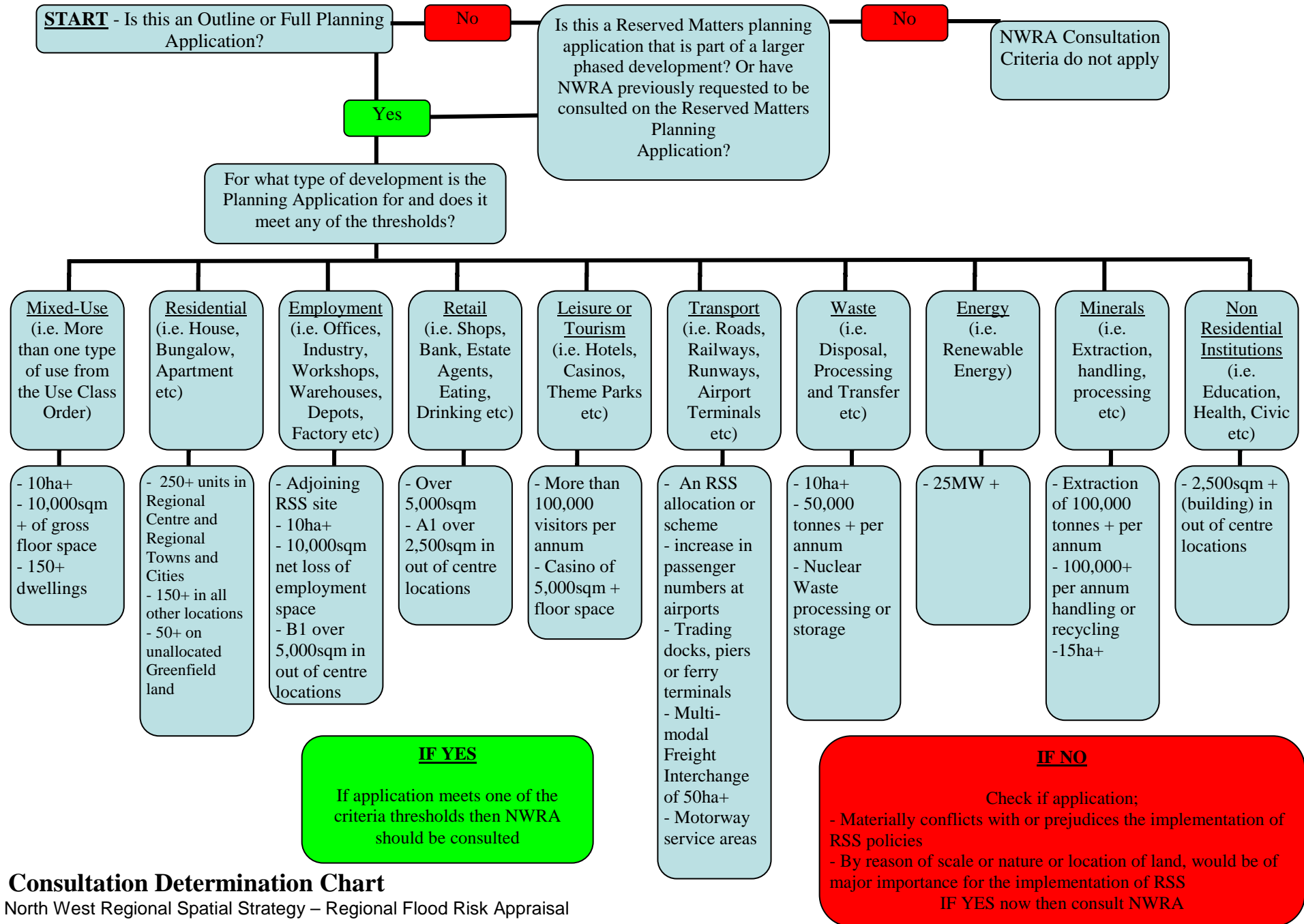
2. Do you consider any of the surface water flooding incidents to be of a regional significance (see categories below)?

Please tick each box that applies to the surface water flood incidents

Impact on a strategic regional site (as shown in Annex E of the Regional Economic Strategy 2006 – see attached extract map)	
Impact on strategic development* classified as “more vulnerable” or “highly vulnerable” in Table D.2 in PPS25 located in Flood Zone 3a	
Impact on strategic development* classified as “less vulnerable”, “more vulnerable” or “highly vulnerable” in Table D.2 in PPS25 located in Flood Zone 3b	

*A number of categories of strategic development have been classified by the Assembly in its role as a statutory consultee on regionally significant planning applications. The attached table (Consultation Determination Chart) sets out a guide for the type and size of development that is considered to be strategically significant.

3. Please add any general comments you wish to make.



Consultation Determination Chart

North West Regional Spatial Strategy – Regional Flood Risk Appraisal