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English Severn and Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

Meeting date: 9th October 2012

Item no: 11

Paper by: Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management

Subject: National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Report [England]

Recommendations

The Regional Flood and Coastal Committees are asked to note:

1. The progress made in producing the first national FCERM report for England required under the Flood and Water Management Act.
2. The latest draft of the report presented to Committees for information (to be made available after the 21 September).
3. Opportunities to align communications with local committee reports.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires the Environment Agency to report to the Minister. In the absence of formal regulations the style, format, content and frequency of reports has been agreed with Defra and was set out in the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England.
- 1.2 In February 2012, RFCC Chairs committed to producing annual reports that were complementary to the national report in their style and content but with flexibility to meet local needs.

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 We are in the final stages of drafting the report. Comments and initial approvals have been obtained from accountable Executive Managers within FCRM and early comments have been received from Defra.
- 2.2 Environment Agency Regional Programme Managers have been updated on progress and approaches to ensure consistency between key data sets such as properties flooded. Two case studies have been selected from regional reports to illustrate partnership working.

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3.0 Next steps

- 3.1 Formal internal approvals are being sought during early September. Final Defra review will follow for two weeks before the report is signed off by our Chief Executive and Chairman.
- 3.2 We expect the report to be presented to the Minister early October. Following Ministerial approval the report will be published electronically via the Environment Agency website.
- 3.3 Following publication a review of the report will consider opportunities for future enhancements and the processes and data used to inform it.

4.0 Implications for Wales

- 4.1 The reporting duty from the Flood and Water Management Act 2012 also requires reports to be produced for Wales. Separate reports will be produced for Wales. The first report will be produced after March 2014 and will be produced by the Single Body. These reports will be produced every two years.
- 4.2 The Environment Agency has shared information on the approach that has been adopted to produce the first report for England to allow Wales to learn from these experiences.

5.0 Conclusion and recommendations

- 5.1 The Regional Flood and Coastal Committees are asked to note:
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