

Slowing the Flow at Pickering Project

Programme Board Meeting, 13 July 2009

Paper 09/03

Proposed Governance Arrangements

Purpose

1. To seek agreement from the Board to a proposed framework for decision-making and partnership working.

Background

2. The Slowing the Flow at Pickering Project is a multi-faceted project, involves a large number of organisations working in partnership, and has a strong level of public interest. As such, it is important that there is a clear and transparent process for decision-making so that everyone involved understands where they fit and how they can influence the development and delivery of the project.
3. Attached at Annex 1 is a Governance Structure that outlines the way in which it is proposed to manage the project.

Governance Structure

4. The **Programme Board** has been established to enable the key partner organisations involved in delivering and funding the programme of works to meet regularly and address any fundamental issues. In brief, its intended purpose is to establish a mechanism through which to:
 - secure high-level commitment from the key partner organisations involved;
 - provide senior managerial support for officers responsible for delivering actions on the ground;
 - discuss, resolve and decide on key issues that arise during the life of the project.In short, the Board will provide overall direction for the Project and is there to ensure that the Project is a success. It is proposed to hold meetings at approximately six-monthly intervals.
5. **Forest Research** is the lead organisation for the development and delivery of the project, and has the following key roles:
 - accountable body for Defra funding, including submission of progress and final reports to Defra in compliance with Defra contract conditions;
 - employing organisation for the Programme Manager post;
 - co-ordinator of the modelling and scientific monitoring of land management measures that are implemented;
6. The **Programme Manager** has two vital roles:
 - providing local co-ordination across all aspects of the project and across all organisations involved;
 - acting as the 'public face' of the project and providing a single point of contact through which the public can learn about and influence the development of the project.

7. The **Programme Delivery Group** will be made up of organisations who either:
 - own or manage land directly impacted by the proposed measures;
 - provide funding to support land management change;
 - perform a statutory or regulatory role with regard to land management.
8. The role of the Programme Delivery Group will be to:
 - identify and evaluate options for land management change;
 - through the Programme Manager, recommend options to the Board;
 - help secure funding for agreed projects and then ensure projects are delivered on the ground.
9. The above functions and roles will involve a large number of organisations and a flexible approach will be needed if the Delivery Group is to operate effectively. It is proposed therefore that the Delivery Group will operate at two levels:
 - the core membership will be composed primarily of the key funding and regulatory bodies, supported by scientific expertise from Forest Research and Durham University. It will meet on at least a monthly basis to ensure rapid progress is made in developing options and securing funding/regulatory approval when decisions are made on which measures are to be taken forward;
 - the wider membership, which will include representatives from the Community Advisory Group, will meet quarterly to consider the identified options and help secure funding. It is anticipated that individual members will also meet on a more frequent basis with the Programme Manager to discuss and agree details of specific measures that will impact on their interests.
10. The **Community Advisory Group** is the mechanism through which the local community can become pro-actively engaged. Community involvement in guiding and shaping the project will be vitally important to its overall success. Paper 09/04 outlines how it is proposed to develop this aspect of the project.
11. It is important to stress that there is one issue that needs to be understood and communicated effectively from the outset. Namely, **the Slowing the Flow at Pickering Project will NOT prevent flooding in Pickering but it is hoped that the planned measures will collectively act to significantly reduce future flood risk, in addition to delivering a range of other benefits.** This is one of three national projects that is seeking to bring together all the lessons that have been learned in the past about how land use and land management practices can affect the way catchments react to flood events. It is about demonstrating how land management change can help to reduce flood risk.
12. This is going to be a difficult message to get across. It is imperative that the Programme Board itself understands this issue and that Members help to promote this cautionary message within their own organisations and to the wider public through their own communication channels.

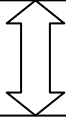
Actions

13. The Programme Boards is requested to approve the proposed governance arrangements for the Slowing the Flow at Pickering project.

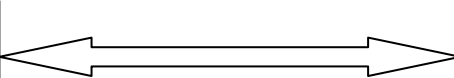
Vince Carter
Forestry Commission

SLOWING THE FLOW AT PICKERING - Project Governance Structure

PROGRAMME BOARD
FC, EA, NE, RFDC, Durham Uni, NYMNP, Ryedale DC, NYCC Pickering Town Council, Sinnington Parish Council



FOREST RESEARCH
Dr. Tom Nisbet - line manager & accountable body functions

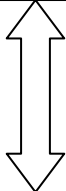
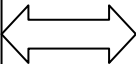
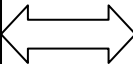


DEFRA
Contract, Reports & Funding

PROGRAMME DELIVERY GROUP
Core Membership: FC, EA, NE, Durham Uni, NYMNP, Ryedale DC
Wider Membership: NYCC, RFDC, Duchy of Lancaster, NYM Railway, MoD, Community Advisory Group representative(s) plus other landowning/managing organisations as necessary

PROGRAMME MANAGER

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP
Local groups, general public. Meetings, newsletters, website.



Strand 2 - Bundled Storage Option
EA led, with input from FR/FC, NE, Durham Uni, NYMNP, & other interested parties

Strand 1 - Pickering Beck Catchment
FC led, with input from all parties represented on both the Programme Delivery Group and Community Advisory Group - co-ordinated through the Programme Manager

Strand 3 - Sinnington/River Seven Project
FC led, with input from FR, Sinnington PC, Durham Uni, EA & NE