

**AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
23 MARCH 2001**

European Commission's Water Framework Directive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To advise the Committee of the recent invitation by the Scottish Executive Environment Protection Unit to participate in research that has been commissioned to assist in meeting the requirement of the EC Water Framework Directive.

BACKGROUND

- 2 In December 2000 the European Commission's Water Framework Directive came into force. This is a major piece of European legislation calling for co-ordinated action across the board to protect the water environment. It will introduce requirements to set quality objectives for all fresh, coastal and ground waters, and for programmes of measures to control pollution and other impacts upon the aquatic environment, on the basis of a river basin management planning system. It is likely to require both new Scottish legislation and changes to existing legislation.

WATER FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

- 3 Although the Directive does not come into force until 2009, the enabling legislation is programmed for 2003. In order to advise the Scottish Executive on the processes to be established in setting up this directive the Babbie Group have been appointed to prepare a shadow river basin district management plan for the West of Scotland. One of the key areas for the directive to address is the relationship to the structure/local plan process. In the first instance, therefore, all structure plan managers' in the West of Scotland have been invited to sit on an advisory group supporting the Babbie Group and the Scottish Executive, along with other key agencies.
- 4 Given the recent establishment of the Ayrshire Strategic Flood Appraisal Group, which this new Directive will provide a key input, the involvement of the structure plan manager provides both a continuity for the process and a vehicle for the wider dissemination of information. In addition, feedback will be provided to the Joint Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

- 5 The Committee as asked to approve the involvement of the Structure Plan Manager on the advisory group into River Basin District Management Planning for the EC Water Framework Directive.

Ian Johnson
Manager
Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan & Transportation Committee

Person to Contact: Ian Johnson – 01292 673767