

National Rivers Authority
Information Centre
Head Office

Class No

Accession No *AICX/1*

*1993/94 Corporate Plan
and Forward Look to 1996/97*

S U M M A R Y



NRA

National Rivers Authority

“The last three years have been a period of very considerable progress, both within the NRA and for the water environment; I am confident that this will continue. The NRA supervises, regulates and charges people and businesses who have to live in a tough competitive world. It is essential therefore that we are at least as tough, competitive and efficient in running our business as those affected by our decisions.”

Lord Crickhowell, NRA Chairman

The NRA

The National Rivers Authority (NRA) was established in 1989 as the ‘Guardians of the Water Environment’. Through implementation of our statutory duties and powers, we seek real improvements to the water environment. We have responsibilities for water quality, water resources, flood defence, fisheries, conservation, navigation and recreation, and are answerable to Parliament and all our customers. By following this, our fourth plan, we will strive to continue our environmental progress in a businesslike way.



Our Mission

“We will protect and improve the water environment by the effective management of water resources and by substantial reductions in pollution. We will aim to provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea. In discharging our duties we will operate openly and balance the interests of all who benefit from and use rivers, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters. We will be businesslike, efficient and caring towards our employees”.

Management Direction

In support of our overall mission, we have three important themes to follow. They are to:

- protect and improve the water environment by focusing on real improvements;
- balance the interests of the wide variety of people who use the water environment by planning for, and managing, catchments in an integrated way;
- deliver value for money, by rational interpretation of policies and through efficiency programmes.

Efficiency

In the current economic climate the NRA, like other public sector and private organisations, has taken a hard look at its future plans. After detailed examination of areas where we could improve efficiency we have included in our Plan a major programme of management initiatives. These include reorganising and restructuring our Regions to improve the delivery of our services, critically reviewing our IT and other capital expenditure programmes and market testing our activities.

Delivery of this programme will be a major challenge to the NRA, but we are determined to achieve it and achieve further environmental improvements.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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What we will be seeking to achieve

The NRA is aiming to meet a wide variety of environmental improvement targets. Examples of these include:

Water Quality

- Bring about a reduction in the length of worst quality river (Class 4).
- Increase the compliance of bathing waters with the EC Directive to 95% by April 1995.
- Undertake comprehensive aerial surveillance of our coastal waters, four surveys to be carried out in 1993/94.
- Commence the consultation and implementation process for Statutory Water Quality Objectives.
- Identify the need for remedial work at priority contaminated land sites and abandoned mines.

Water Resources

- Alleviate low flows at 12 sites by the end of the Plan period.
- Produce a Water Resources Development strategy for England and Wales to meet demands up to the year 2021.
- Progressively implement our Groundwater Protection policy through the identification of protection zones.
- Develop a policy for River Minimum Flow objectives by 1995.

Flood Defence

- Complete all significant works, as identified in the NRA Sea Defence survey, which protect urban land by 1995.
- Where flood warning schemes exist, to provide warnings of flooding to the police in 90% of cases when flooding occurs and, when catchment characteristics and circumstances allow, to do so at least three hours before the onset of flooding.
- Produce proposals for flood defence surveys to meet local authority and NRA development control requirements.

Fisheries

- Continue to build fisheries improvement structures and undertake river surveys to ensure effective fisheries management.
- Develop a robust fisheries finance strategy to ensure secure income for justified fisheries expenditure.
- Undertake a review of the coarse fish close season byelaws.

Conservation

- Ensure that conservation is fully taken into account when the Authority considers applications for abstraction licences, discharge consents, land drainage and fisheries consents.
- Develop and implement a river conservation classification scheme.

Navigation

- Develop draft policy guidelines on harmonised charges, boat safety standards, signage and byelaws and byelaw procedure.
- Continue to undertake improvement and new structure projects.

Recreation

- Through a programme of management and maintenance, provide access/use without significant interruption, to 90% of NRA controlled recreation sites.

Integrated Services

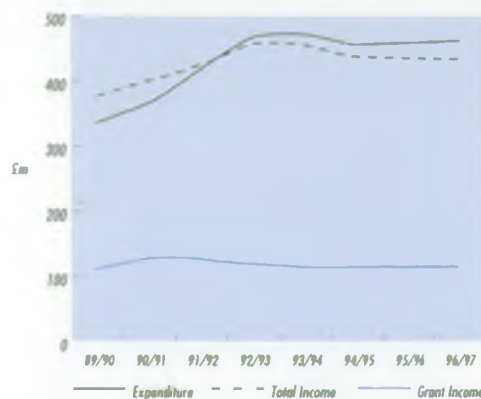
In order to provide more consistent and cost effective delivery of our services, we have reorganised into 26 Areas within 8 Regions. We are also publishing a series of strategies for our main stream activities.

Many of our ancillary and support services are being re-aligned to complement this reorganisation. In particular:

- the development and production of further Catchment Management Plans will draw together all who have an interest in the water environment to focus on local issues;
- we are fully committed to implementing the principles of the Citizen's Charter to improve the quality of our services.

- the establishment and development of specialist National Centres will concentrate expertise and further improve efficiency;
- our comprehensive Research and Development programme will be highly focused on the business needs of our core functions and improvements to the environment;
- our Information Systems strategy will concentrate on the effective delivery of improved national systems;

Income/Expenditure



Note 1: apparent deficits will be funded from the run down of flood defence and water resources balances.

Note 2: levels of grant income are subject to periodic review by Government.

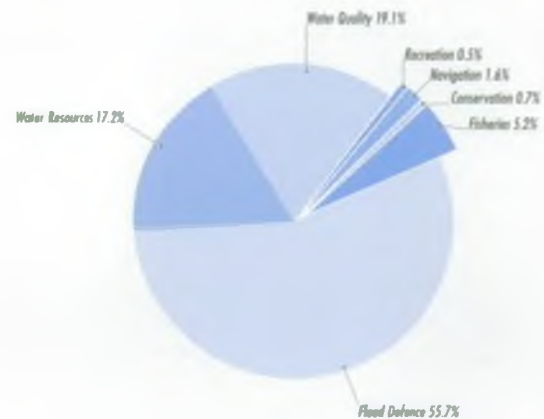
Resources

- We intend to spend nearly £2bn throughout the Plan period, which is significantly less than previously planned.
- Increased efficiency and realistic work plans will allow this major programme of savings to be achieved, without detriment to our previously planned operational performance, output and effectiveness.

For further information please contact:
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- As a result manpower numbers will reduce from previously planned levels, but we aim to achieve this without compulsory redundancies.
- In addition our five year Market Testing programme will review all of our activities and ensure value for money in all that we do.
- Our demand on the public purse will reduce as amounts of Government grant support decline.
- We aim to keep charging increases at, or below, inflation for those activities where we fully recover our costs.
- For activities which remain in part dependent on Government grant, charges will be set after consultation with users and Government.

1993/94 Core Function Expenditure (£461m)



The Future

By implementing this Plan, we can build on our considerable past successes. Subject to the timing of legislation by Government, planning for the proposed Environment Agency will become increasingly important for us. We will continue to liaise with Government, HMIP and the Waste Regulatory Authorities to ensure the new Agency will be the most effective Environment Agency in Europe.

E.P Gallagher, Chief Executive

Further copies of this leaflet and copies of the main document are available from:

NRA Distribution Centre,
 Washington,
 Newcastle upon Tyne X
 NE85 4ET

To report any environmental incident (eg: flooding or pollution) please contact us on the following FREEFONE number: 0800 80 70 60