

CORPORATE PLAN SUMMARY

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NRA

National Rivers Authority

Guardians of
the Water Environment

CORPORATE PLAN SUMMARY

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"The NRA has had notable successes over the past year in such areas as pollution control, in work aimed at resolving low-flow problems and in assessing the current status of our sea defences. However, there remains much work to be done to rectify long-standing problems and to improve the water environment for the use and enjoyment of all.

Some issues, such as tackling badly-polluted rivers and finding solutions to water shortages, may take many years of action by the NRA and others.

In preparing our second Corporate Plan, we have re-examined the inheritance and initial aspirations set out in our first Corporate Plan and re-affirmed and refined most of our original objectives. We have also developed new proposals. We intend to pursue these with vigour.

Lord Crickhowell (Chairman)

Introduction

Established on 1st September 1989, the National Rivers Authority (NRA) came into being as a result of the 1989 Water Act and was created as a non-departmental public body whose main tasks are to protect and improve the water environment in England and Wales and provide protection against flooding from rivers and the sea. The first full year of independent operation was completed on 31st March 1991.

The Authority's Head Office functions are carried out in London and Bristol, and its operational activities in ten Regions based on the former Water Authority areas.

The NRA has now published its second *Corporate Plan*. This sets out the Authority's:

- performance in respect of its first *Corporate Plan*;
- future aims, objectives and targets for each core function and support service;
- planned use of resources;
- projected output and performance.

Mission Statement

The National Rivers Authority will protect and improve the water environment. This will be achieved through effective management of water resources and by substantial reductions in pollution. The Authority aims to provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea. In discharging its duties it will operate openly and balance the interests of all who benefit from and use rivers, ground waters, estuaries and coastal waters. The Authority will be businesslike, efficient and caring towards its employees.

Aims:

- to achieve a continuing improvement in the quality of rivers, estuaries and coastal waters, through the control of water pollution;
- to assess, manage, plan and conserve water resources and to maintain and improve the quality of water for all those who use it;

- to provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea;
- to provide adequate arrangements for flood forecasting and warning;
- to maintain, improve and develop fisheries;
- to develop the amenity and recreation potential of waters and lands under NRA control;
- to conserve and enhance wildlife, landscape and archaeological features associated with water under NRA control;
- to improve and maintain inland waterways and their facilities for use by the public where the NRA is the navigation authority;
- to ensure that dischargers pay the cost of the consequences of their discharges and, as far as possible, to recover the cost of water environment improvements from those who benefit;
- to improve public understanding of the water environment and the NRA's work;
- to improve efficiency in the exercise of the NRA's functions and to provide challenge and opportunity for employees and show concern for their welfare.

Priorities

Water Resources:

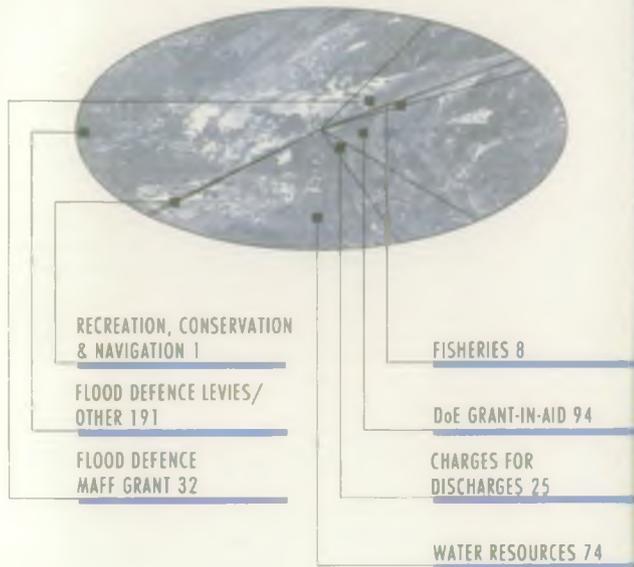
- develop a new water resources charging scheme for implementation in 1993;
- investigate and report on strategic options for the sustainable development of water resources;
- continue to develop and implement solutions to low-flow problems.

Pollution Control:

- publish the results of the 1990 Water Quality Survey;
- advise the Secretary of State on the setting of statutory Water Quality Objectives;
- implement the charging for discharges scheme to transfer costs from Government grant-in-aid to those who discharge.

Sources of Funding

Funding 1991/92 (£m)



Flood Defence:

- publish and take action in relation to the findings of the Sea Defence Survey;
- contribute and respond to the findings of the National Audit Office study on flood defence.

Fisheries:

- complete public consultation on the proposals to restructure angling licences and implement new arrangements from 1992/93 to increase fisheries income;
- complete a public consultation exercise and develop a charging scheme for S28 by April 1992.

Recreation and Conservation:

- continue to promote recreation and conservation, particularly in collaboration with other bodies.

Navigation:

- review the Authority's role in inland navigation;
- develop a navigation policy.

General Operations:

- improve emergency planning and response;
- increase regulatory and enforcement activities.

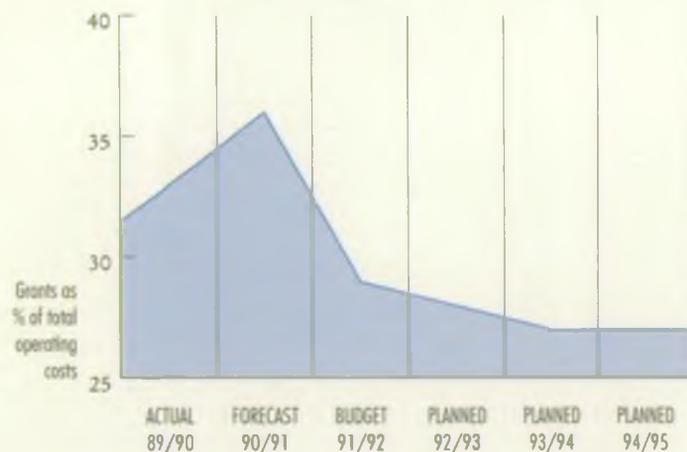


NRA



Expenditure in 1991/92 is planned to increase by some 18% on 1990/91 levels to some £430m. Particular attention will be given to solving low-flow problems, enhancing monitoring programmes for pollution control and fisheries, implementing the flood defence capital programme and improving collaboration with other bodies in recreation and conservation work.

1991/92 will also see the further development of the NRA's corporate and core function strategies. These will set the Authority's agenda to the year 2000 and beyond.



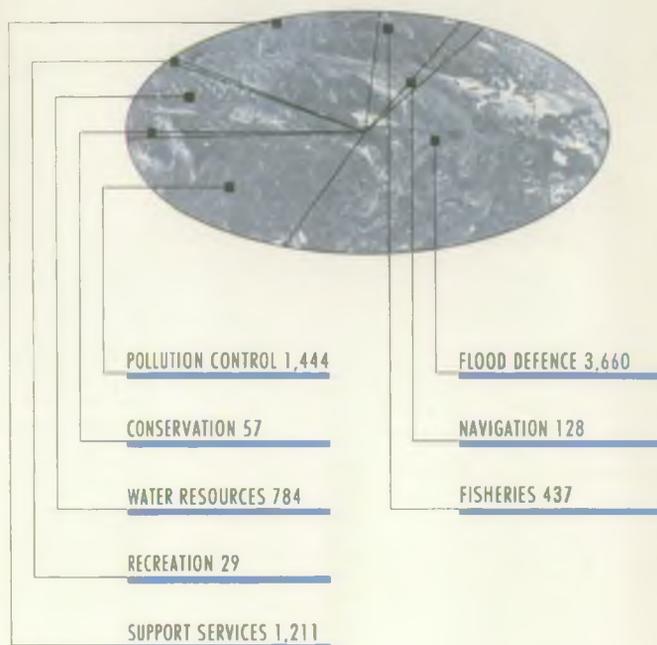
The Authority is determined to recover its costs from those who benefit from its work. The introduction of the charging for discharges scheme will provide some £25m of income in 1991/92. Other initiatives, such as the proposed rationalisation of fisheries licences, will reduce the Authority's dependence on Government grant-in-aid. Accordingly, anticipated total levels of grant received from DoE, MAFF and the Welsh Office represent a progressively smaller proportion of the Authority's total operating costs over the Plan period.

The Prime Minister has recently made proposals for an Environment Agency and the NRA, having reacted positively, will contribute to discussions designed to take this forward.

Staffing

Staffing will increase from 1990/91 levels by some 6% in 1991/92 to 7,750. This will provide the necessary human resource to achieve our targets.

Staffing:
as at 31.3.92: 7,750 FTE



Where to Contact Us:

National Rivers Authority
Rivers House
Waterside Drive
Aztec West
Almondsbury
Bristol BS12 4UD

Tel: (0454) 624 400
Fax: (0454) 624 409

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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