
Report To:	Environment and Regeneration Committee	Date:	12 January 2023
Report By:	Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration	Report No:	ERC/RT/GMcF/22.64 1
Contact Officer:	Gail MacFarlane	Contact No:	01475 714800
Subject:	Flooding Event 30 December 2022		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 This report is to inform Committee of the actions taken during the flood event on the 30 December 2022.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee notes the actions of the Roads Service to manage the flooding event and clear debris from the burns and grids across Inverclyde over a four-day period and that the rainfall over a 3 hour period on the early morning of the 30 December 2022 exceeded the expected weather forecast.
- 2.2 Committee notes that the Civil Contingences Service has an Officer on call 24hrs a day and the Duty Officer on call that day coordinated a multi-agency stakeholder liaison meeting.
- 2.3 Committee notes that additional roads operatives attended to supplement the operatives on standby and to support the response to the event.

Gail MacFarlane
Shared Head of Service – Roads and Environmental Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 On Thursday 29 December there was a low likelihood of medium impact flooding and meteorological reports were forecasting 30mm of rain in a 24hr period, however, the actual rainfall recorded was 51mm in the 24hr period, with 30mm of rain falling within a 4hr period between 3am and 7am.
- 3.2 On the morning of the 30 December 2022 the Roads Service received requests regarding flooding and on arriving at the Roads Depot it was noted that there was already extensive flooding within the depot and surrounding areas.
- 3.3 During out of hours and holidays there are 2 roads operatives available for non-winter gritting duties for responses to accidents, emergency potholes, road closures and minor flooding events. On arriving at the depot, and given the extent of the flooding, the Service called on additional operatives to provide additional assistance.

The Service attended flooding incidents at the A761 and the Bouverie Burn and started cleaning the grids and grills. The same activity was carried out on the Devol Burn at Glenburn Street however due to the size of debris being washed down a mechanical a hi-ab was called on to remove the debris, once cleared the area was swept clean by Grounds staff. At Auchmountain Glen on the Cartsburn, the rain had scoured tonnes of debris, stones and mud onto the screen and this covered half of the opening, the remainder of the screen was blocked with leaves. The overflow was cleaned which allowed the road to clear. The Cartsburn at Upper Cartsburn Street and at Crescent Street over topped however the newly installed overflow at Crescent Street worked and prevented the road being flooded. Brougham Street at the old railway flooded due to blocked gullies and a capacity issue, this was cleared once the rain had subsided.

- 3.4 The communications during the event highlighted the following roads across Inverclyde were closed for a period of time on the 30 December 2022;
 - A78 – IBM road from Burns Road to Bankfoot Roundabout, Inverkip
 - A78 at Flaterton Road.
 - A8 East Hamilton Street. Greenock between Pottery Street and Sinclair Street.
 - Kilmacolm Road at The Strone.
 - Dougiliehill Road, Port Glasgow
 - Bakers Brae, Greenock
 - Eldon Street at Battery Park, Gourock

The Roads Service attended the sites above to support clearance of the flooding. Following reopening of the council road network the Service supported Transport Scotland / Amey to clear flood water. The majority of the roads were reopened by 4pm.

- 3.5 The Civil Contingencies Officer on call liaised with Council Officers to arrange a meeting with all parties. CCS chaired the multi-agency meeting with Police Scotland, Transport Scotland and other stake holders, and gave an update from Inverclyde Council confirming the actions undertaken. Consideration was given as to whether the resilience group needed to be stood up, however, another assessment was undertaken by the CRMT Chair early afternoon and given the weather and the actions already underway there was no need for CRMT to be stood up.
- 3.6 A corporate communications update was issued to the Elected Members and the workforce with additional social media updates.

3.7 At numerous other locations across Inverclyde the burns that flooded were inundated with debris, mud and stones and leaves washed down and this reduced the capacity and caused these areas to flood within a 4 hour window.



Auchmountain Glen Before

After over half the screen blocked in 4 hours

3.8 The Eastern Line of Falls at Drumfrochar Road burst its banks upstream of the section at Wellington Park. The overflow ran down Bakers Brae and ponded on A8 at the Fire Station. Inverclyde Roads team assisted Amey to re-open the A8 by clearing blocked gullies.

3.9 Proactive and programmed clearing of all grids and grills is undertaken throughout the year. Additional cleaning is carried out during working hours if a forecasted rainfall figure of over 30mm is predicted. Out of normal operational working hours these burns are inspected and cleared on a reactive basis by roads operatives if flooding occurs.

The grids and burns were continually checked over the next 4 days following the flooding event and the areas and debris cleared and removed.

3.10 There is a designated annual gully cleaning route programme for cleaning gullies and the Service also attend high risk areas during flood forecasts. Some locations may require additional reactive cleaning.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 Inverclyde Council and Transport Scotland will continue to discuss all flooding locations across Inverclyde at the quarterly liaison meeting, with remedial works undertaken where possible.

4.2 Roads and grounds operatives will continue to clear and monitor the burns as required throughout the year.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	X		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty		X	

Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X	
Environmental & Sustainability		X	
Data Protection		X	

5.2 Finance

None.

5.3 Legal/Risk

None.

5.4 Human Resources

None.

5.5 Strategic

This project accords with the Corporate Management Plan, by making Inverclyde a better place to stay and live.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

5.7 Children and Young People

Has a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

5.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Roads and Grounds Services have been consulted on this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.