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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>2 November 2023</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Physical Assets</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>ENV062/23/SJ/EM</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Eddie Montgomery</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 714800</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Flooding Event 7 October 2023</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the actions taken during the flood event on the 7 October 2023.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Committee notes the actions of the Roads and Grounds Services to manage the flooding event and clear debris from the burns and grids across Inverclyde over a five-day period and that the rainfall between 6–7 October exceeded 80mm (as recorded by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency’s (SEPA) rainfall station, Muirshiel RG).
- 2.2 That Committee notes that additional roads and grounds operatives attended to supplement the operatives on standby and to support the response to the event.
- 2.3 That Committee notes that a report will be brought to the January 2024 Committee on resources required to address the development of surface water management plans and undertake coastal change adaptation planning.

**Eddie Montgomery**  
**Head of Physical Assets**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### Flooding Event 7 October 2023

- 3.1 On Friday 6 October the Met Office issued an amber weather warning (Saturday 03.00 – Sunday 06.00) for heavy rain. Meteorological reports were forecasting areas within the amber warning to expect 60-80mm of rain. SEPA's rainfall station, Muirshiel RG, recorded 83.4mm in a 24 hour period.
- 3.2 On the 6 October 2023 the Roads Service acknowledged the amber warning and the predicated amount of rainfall and had operatives attend trash screens on water courses to ensure they were clear of debris.

The following locations were attended throughout the working day:

- Bouverie burn (Bouverie Motors)
  - Carts burn (Auchmountain Glen)
  - Lady burn (East Hamilton Street)
  - Carts burn (Kennedy's Lane)
  - Hole burn (Woodstock Road)
  - Hole burn (Rankin Park)
  - Eastern Line of Falls (Baker Street)
  - Levan burn (Dunvegan Ave)
  - Levan burn (Cloch Road)
  - Surface water pipe (Cloch Road between Lunderston Bay & North Lodge)
  - Surface water pipe (Cloch Road @ North Lodge)
- 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. As an amber warning for heavy rain was issued the Roads Service responded proportionately by ensuring additional operatives were on call from midnight to provide support.

The Roads Service attended various flooding incidents throughout Inverclyde as detailed below:

#### 7 October

00.01-00.30

- Brougham St @ bridge (area checked and leaves cleared)
- Eldon St (area checked and leaves cleared)
- Battery Park (area checked and leaves cleared)
- Shore St (area checked and leaves cleared)

00.30-05.30

- Cloch Rd @ N<sup>o</sup>27 (burn blocked and spilling over garden wall. Wall temporarily supported)
- Cloch Rd @ beach huts (gully covers lifted, flood signs erected)
- Cloch Rd between Lunderston Bay & North Lodge (gully covers lifted, flood signs erected)

04.00-04.30

- Drumfrochar Rd @ Eastern Line of Falls (gully covers lifted, flood signs erected)

07.30-08.00

- Drumfrochar Rd @ Eastern Line of Falls (road closed)

09.00-10.00

- Ardgowan Street @ rear of B&Q (road closed due Devol Burn overflowing)

10.00-12.00

- B788 Kilmacolm Rd (Carts burn @ Auchmountian Glen overflowing, sand bags delivered to Cloch Housing homes)

11.00-23.59

- Various locations attended including A761 Kilmacolm Road (closed @ Lidl due to broken down van as a result of flood water)
- Sandbags issues to Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

## **8 October**

00:01-02.15

- Crescent St (clearing debris from Carts Burn overflowing)

00.01-05.00

- Shore St (opp Karma clearing flood)
- Drumfrochar Rd (remove road closure)
- Cloch Rd (remove flood signs)
- Various locations (manhole covers replaced)
- Glasgow Rd/Robert St (clear flood water)

07.30-08.00

- Upper Ingleston St/Kilmun Rd (road closed due to carriageway damage from flood water)

05.30-10.00

- Various locations (clear trash screens on various watercourses)

10.00-15.00

- Entrance to EE contact centre (clear debris from flood water)
- Cloch Rd @ carpark (clear debris from flood water)
- A761 Kilmacolm Rd @ Lidl (clear debris from flood water)

3.4 During the event, and as also widely reported on social media, the following roads and train services across Inverclyde were affected for a period of time on the 7-8 October:

### Trunk Road

- A8 East Hamilton Street (closed both directions)
- A8 Rue End Street (closed both directions)
- A78 @ IBM (closed both directions)
- A8 Greenock Road (closed in both directions)

### Local roads

- B788 Kilmacolm Rd (closed both directions)
- A761 Kilmacolm Rd @ Lidl (closed in both directions)
- B7054 Drumfrochar Road (closed in both directions)
- A770 Brougham Street (closed in both directions)
- A770 Eldon St @ Battery Park (closed in both directions)

## Train Services

- Glasgow Central to Wemyss Bay (line closed)
- Glasgow Central to Gourock (line closed)

The Roads Service attended the sites above to manage and support clearance of the flooding and to allow the reopening of the local road network as soon as it was safe to do so. It has to be noted that whilst the Council has an obligation to deal with surface water on areas of ground which it is responsible, the responsibility for the sewer system lies with others.

- 3.5 The Civil Contingency Service had attended both Regional and Local Resilience Partnership meetings to discuss the reasoning behind the warning and preparedness across the area. The warning had a low likelihood of high impacts, and it was noted that we may see a high concentration of rain at lower ground. The modelling data was showing higher accumulations moving northwards, however this is always subject to change. SEPA would also update flood warnings as and when they become available, they noted that this would likely be early Saturday morning (8am). MET Office and SEPA would publish any necessary updates on their websites, these will be shared via the usual channels. CRMT noted at a meeting on Friday 6 October at 15:30 that services had been made aware of the weather event through a Corporate Communications update and that Roads Services actions were planned and already underway.
- 3.6 A Corporate Communications update was issued at 4pm on Friday 6 October to advise that an Amber weather warning has been issued by the Met Office regarding a severe and prolonged rain event. The warning covered a large area of the country from the West, including Inverclyde, Central Belt and parts of the North and was in place from 3am Saturday 7 October 2023, until 6am on Sunday 8 October 2023. It was expected that there would be flooding and dangerous driving conditions and that there could also be damage to homes and businesses and potentially danger to life in some areas. Further information was available from the Met Office and The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) who also issued warnings and advised that there will be live flooding updates throughout the weekend on the SEPA website.
- 3.7 At numerous locations across Inverclyde the burns that flooded were inundated with debris, mud, stones, and leaves washed down and reducing the capacity of the inlets causing these areas to flood. Appendix 1 contains a series of images of Devol Burn at Glenburn Street which was the worst affected by debris.
- 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. Mid-morning, the Gryffe burst its banks at Quarriers village.
- 3.9 Proactive and programmed clearing of all trash screens 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 locations are inspected and cleared on a reactive basis by roads operatives if flooding occurs.
- 3.10 The trash screens and burns were continually checked over the next 4 days following the flooding event and the areas and debris cleared and removed. Clearance works were undertaken by an external Contractor due to the volume of debris at Devol burn at Glenburn Street, Carts burn at Auchmountain Glen and Carts burn at Crescent Street. These areas were cleared over 4 days.
- 3.11 There is a designated annual programme for cleaning gullies and the Service also attends high risk areas during flood forecasts. Some locations may require additional reactive cleaning. In extreme events the Roads Service may hire additional larger gully cleaning vehicles to assist.

## 4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Roads and Grounds operatives will continue to clear and monitor the burns as required throughout the year with the existing arrangements to be formalised in a maintenance procedure and consideration of any improved arrangements within the constraints of existing capital and revenue funding resources.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Council and Transport Scotland will continue to discuss all flooding locations across Inverclyde at the quarterly roads infrastructure liaison meetings. The Flood Risk Management quarterly meetings are also on-going with Inverclyde Council, Transport Scotland and Scottish Water to discuss areas of flooding.
- 4.3 The priorities in terms of flood risk management across Inverclyde for the next 5 years will be identified through the development of Surface Water Management Plans. In conjunction with this there is also a need to undertake coastal change adaptation planning to ensure that future works and developments in coastal areas are planned and are adaptive to the uncertainty of future climate change. A report on the necessary resources for this area of activity will be brought to the January 2024 Committee.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		x
Legal/Risk	x	
Human Resources		x
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	x	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		x
Environmental & Sustainability		x
Data Protection		x

### 5.2 Finance

#### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

#### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

### 5.3 Legal/Risk

The Council is a Member Authority of the Clyde and Loch Lomond (CaLL) Local Plan District (LPD). The CaLL LPD is a partnership of ten Local Authorities, with Glasgow City Council (GCC) as lead. GCC published the Local Flood Risk Management Plan (The Plan) in June 2016 which was an important milestone in implementing the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. The Plan translates this legislation into actions and improvements as to how we cope with and manage flood events to reduce the damage and distress caused by flooding.

### 5.4 Human Resources

None.

### 5.5 Strategic

The management of flood risk aligns with the Council Plan and Partnership Plan by making Inverclyde a safe place to work and live.

### 5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

#### (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.

#### (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.

#### (c) 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.
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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.
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**5.7 Environmental/Sustainability**

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.

**5.8 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 report has been prepared in consultation with the Corporate Management Team.

**7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.





April 2017 at Installation– Left shows the top of the automated screen and control cabinet behind.

June 2017 after Installation – Below shows the level of the watercourse bed being below the automated screen.



7 October 2023 – Left shows screen shot of video footage and the top of the automated screen with the complete submergence of the control cabinet behind.



8 October 2023 – Above and left images show the volume of debris that washed down in a 24 hour period (circa 250t of material removed from watercourse).

