

I refer to the agenda for the meeting of the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee to be held on Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 3 pm and attach report as undernoted which was not available on the day of issue.

ELAINE PATERSON
Head of Legal and Administration

Undernote:

- 11.(a) **Inverclyde Flood Plan**
Report by Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection

Enquiries to - **Sharon Lang** - Tel 01475 712112

Report To:	Safe & Sustainable Communities Committee	Date:	12 January 2010
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection	Report No:	ECP/DIR10/020
Contact Officer:	Neil Graham	Contact No:	2709
Subject:	Inverclyde Flood Plan		

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To advise Members on progress with the development of a Flood Action Plan to deal with the issues highlighted in the report to this Committee on 1 September 2009.

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 This Committee, at its meeting on 1 September 2009, remitted the Corporate Director, Environment and Community Protection to establish and chair a Flood Action Plan Working Group.
- 2.2 That Working Group (with members from Strathclyde Police; Transport Scotland; Scottish Water; SEPA; Scottish Natural Heritage; Network Rail; Ardgowan Estates; Historic Scotland; Amey Ltd and relevant Council Services) has met on 2 occasions and is working towards the development of a fully costed Flood Action Plan.
- 2.3 That Group established 2 Sub Groups on Infrastructure issues and on Traffic issues to carry out detailed work on the Flood Action Plan.
- 2.4 The report summarises the work of the main Group and the 2 Sub Groups to date and advises that a further report with detailed estimates and costs for any works required will be submitted to this Committee at its meeting on 4 May 2010.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the progress to date on the development of a Flood Action Plan and to note that a fully costed Plan will be submitted to this Committee at its meeting on 4 May 2010.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The Council appointed its Term Call Off Consultant, Grontmij, to prepare a Local Flood Plan for Inverclyde taking into account the likely changes in the approach to flood risk management in Scotland resulting from the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (FRM(S)A).
- 4.2 The results of the Grontmij study were reported to the Safe and Sustainable Communities Committee of the Council on 1 September 2009.
- 4.3 To build on the work done by Grontmij, the Committee remitted the Corporate Director, Environment and Community Protection to establish a multi-agency Working Group to translate the study into an Action Plan to deal with both the short and long term risks/issues caused by flooding.
- 4.4 The multi-agency Working Group met for the first time on 30 September 2009 and established 2 Sub Groups to work on details in relation to Infrastructure issues and Traffic issues.

5.0 Progress

- 5.1 The multi-agency Working Group met on 16 December 2009 to review progress on Infrastructure and Traffic issues. At that meeting the representative of SEPA reported that they would be writing to all 32 Councils to ask them to have a Flood Action Plan in place by 2016. He complimented Inverclyde Council on establishing the multi-agency Group and said that we would be one of the first Councils in Scotland to have a Flood Action Plan in place if we achieve our target of May 2010. He also said that this would stand us in good stead when we approach the Scottish Government for any financial or other help.
- 5.2 Infrastructure Issues Sub Group:-
 - (a) The Infrastructure Sub Group is chaired by David Greenslade (Roads Services) and has membership from SEPA; Scottish Water and Ardgowan Estates. The Sub Group has met twice on 21 October and again on 10 December 2009.
 - (b) A main focus of the Sub Group has been the report by Grontmij Consultants; the new Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 2009 and its implications for all the Partners; and attention to a number of ongoing issues related to the various flooding hot-spots in the area. (See Appendix 1 for a full report on the work of the Infrastructure Sub Group).
- 5.3 Traffic Sub Group:-
 - (a) The Traffic Sub Group is chaired by Paul McPherson, a local Traffic Officer in Strathclyde Police, with membership from Transport Scotland; Amey Ltd; and Inverclyde Council's Roads Services. A member of staff from the joint Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) will attend future meetings of the Sub Group given the "emergency" nature of the work involved.
 - (b) The Traffic Sub Group has met twice and has concentrated its efforts on finding solutions to the perennial problem of flooding on the main trunk roads, the A8 and the A78. This has required a review of the Emergency Standard Diversion Routes (ESDRs) and this is in progress. They are also looking at the cleaning regime for gullies and culverts in the area and at possible engineering solutions to the regular flooding problem on the A8 outside the Roads Depot (East Hamilton Street).
 - (c) A copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the Group is attached at Appendix 2 (minutes of the second meeting, held on 15 December 2009, were not available at the time of writing this report).

6.0 Proposal

- 6.1 The multi-agency Working Group and the 2 Sub Groups will continue to meet during the early part of 2010.
- 6.2 It is proposed that detailed proposals and costs continue to be developed during this period.
- 6.3 It is proposed that a full Flood Action Plan with detailed proposals, costs, timelines and responsibilities be presented to this Committee at its meeting on 4 May 2010.

7.0 Consultation

- 7.1 This report has no immediate impact on other Services of the Council.

8.0 Equality Policy

- 8.1 This report has no impact on the Council's Equality Policy.

**Report on the Progress of the Flood Action Plan Working Group –
Infrastructure Sub Group.**

17 December 2009

The Infrastructure Sub Group was established at the inaugural meeting of the Flood Action Plan Working Group on 30 September 2009. This Sub Group has subsequently met twice, 21 October 2009 and 10 December 2009.

21 October 2009 Infrastructure Sub Group meeting Present:-

Nick Gair – SEPA

Graeme Morris – Scottish Water (SW)

David Greenslade - Inverclyde Council Environmental Services (Roads)

Gordon Leitch - Inverclyde Council Environmental Services (Roads)

Apologies – Ardgowan Estates

The meeting discussed the problem of silt building up in the pond in Lady Alice Park. It noted that the volume of water retained in Whinhill Reservoir (owned and maintained by SW) can have a direct bearing on the flow in the Carts Burn. IC advised that Historic Scotland was mapping its assets in respect of the Cut and its associated reservoirs.

IC forwarded a copy of its Cove Road Flood Prevention Feasibility Study to SEPA for information.

SEPA undertook to advise on the operational methods of similar groups in the Dalmarnock area of Glasgow.

Ownership of the Eastern Line of Falls was discussed.

General discussions were held on the New Flood Act, SUDS, flood attenuation, Sewers for Scotland, Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR), Section 7 Agreements and SEPA's function in coalescing flood related information from all interested parties.

10 December 2009 Infrastructure Sub Group meeting.

Present:-

Nick Gair – SEPA

Graeme Morris – Scottish Water (SW)

Gordon Leitch - Inverclyde Council Environmental Services (Roads)

Apologies – Ardgowan Estates, D Greenslade

The meeting discussed proposed boundaries for the Local Plan required under the New Flood Act, the future of Clyde Catchment Flood Liaison and Advice Group, information requirements for the Proposed SEPA Local Flood Plan, and CAR Licences for Reservoirs.

Responsibility for assets was discussed including the Eastern Line of Falls together with transfer of information IC – SW – SEPA.

Also discussed were emergency flood warning procedures at Cove Road, responses from SEPA's recent flooding public awareness event in Greenock, and actions taken following the flooding on 14 November 2009.

Actions directly following the flooding event on 14 November 2009.

Investigation to the drainage in the area of Cumberland Road, Auchmead Road and the New Inverclyde Academy are in progress. Gullies have been cleaned and a camera survey has been commissioned.

Similarly investigations and gully cleaning has been carried out to the flood areas at Battery Park and Westmorland Road. The outfall pipeline remains to be checked at Battery Park, and a new larger collector pipe is to be installed at Westmorland Road.

Gully outfalls from low spots on A770 Cloch Road are also being checked.

A considerable number of minor flood incidents have also been addressed.

IC is meeting with Transport Scotland this month to consider solutions to the flooding that develops on the A8 Trunk Road at the Lady Burn.

Actions since the inauguration of the Infrastructure Sub Group

IC and SW's Legal Departments are liaising to determine ownership and responsibility for the Eastern Line of falls as this is seen as pivotal in respect of a considerable number of flood susceptible areas in Greenock.

Emergency repairs have been carried out to sections of the Eastern Line of Falls. IC and SW working in conjunction are able divert water from the Cut and the Overton B Reservoir to alleviate silt build up in Lady Alice Pond and also control water outflows from the Cut, Overton B and Whinhill Reservoirs.

IC is continuing with work to the hill reservoirs associated with the Cut. Reservoirs 1 and 2 remain drained, but Reservoirs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 have had their valves inspected and some repairs carried out. These mechanisms are now working although considerable work is still required to ensure they can operate efficiently.

Works are programmed to reinstate the Reservoir Link Channel for January 2010.

SW has put replacement of the collapsed gabions at the head of the Hole Burn and repairs to the outlet system from Overton B Reservoir on its capital programme.

A new outlet grill has been commissioned for Kennedy's Lane Culvert as recommended in the Grontmij Report.

A new inlet grill, by-pass connector pipe and improved access road have been commissioned at Woodstock Road (Hole Burn).

New revetments to the Hole Burn through Rankine Park have been commissioned.

Gullies to Bow Road and the adjacent cemetery have been cleaned. It is recognised that there is a lot of leaf detritus arising from the cemetery. IC is considering improvements to the drainage system to limit gully blockages in this area. Flood water from this area contributes to flooding on the A78 and the West Station area. IC is meeting with Transport Scotland later this month to consider measures to address this problem.

In summary

IC, SW, SEPA and Transport Scotland (TS) are working in conjunction to address flooding issues.

IC and SW are determining ownership and responsibility for the Eastern Line of Falls.

IC and SW are actively working together in respect of water control from the hill reservoirs and the Cut.

IC is carrying out both maintenance and capital improvements to the existing drainage systems in various locations.

IC and TS are liaising to seek solutions to the Lady Burn and West Station flood problems.

All parties are liaising with SEPA to progress the requirements of the new Flood Act

Inverclyde Council
Flood Action Plan Working Group
Traffic Sub Group

Friday 6th November 2009
Conference Room Greenock Police Office

Present

PC Paul MacPherson	Strathclyde Police Traffic Management
Robert Graham	Inverclyde Council Environmental Services Manager
Ruairidh Campbell	Transport Scotland Area Manager South
Brendan Corish	Amey Network Liaison Officer
Paul Lynch	Amey Network Area Engineer

Apologies

Brendan O'Sullivan	Amey (represented by Paul Lynch)
PC Ian Kinning	Strathclyde Police Strategic Routes Liaison Officer

Welcome

PM opened the meeting and gave an review of the prior meeting of the main group and the scope of the Traffic Sub Group. He explained his intention not to fully minute the meeting but to produce brief notes with a list of actions.

RG opened the discussion and explained the need for existing Emergency Standard Diversion Routes to be reviewed, particularly for closures of East Hamilton Street.

Action

BC to liaise with RG to arrange meeting specifically to discuss current ESDR arrangements and any possible improvements. Meeting to include Amey ESDR officer.

General discussion took place with regard to the initial response to a flooding incident involving closures/diversions with police involvement. PM suggested that generally within Strathclyde Police, many officers would be unaware of the arrangements made under the ESDRs. BC informed the group that Amey have officers who are able to brief Police personnel with regard to the services they can provide. PM suggested that such an input would be of benefit to Area Control Room supervisors, in the first instance, and may assist in a 'joined up' and efficient Police deployment to an incident.

Action

PM to liaise with BC and make further enquiry regarding the possibility of presentation to ACR supervisors.

RG highlighted the scale of the flooding problem in the area and the large scale disruption caused during an incident. He stressed that there was a public expectation that a solution would be found to the problem.

General discussion took place regarding possible solutions to the flooding of East Hamilton Street, should any infrastructure improvements not alleviate the problem at that location. Engineering solutions, including raising the level of the carriageway, were discussed. It was agreed that this could be discussed further if improvements to the infrastructure proved unsuccessful.

RG discussed various points along the trunk route prone to flooding and suggested that routine maintenance of drainage systems would be of benefit.

Action

PL to look at any areas where routine maintenance could be improved in this regard.

PM asked whether the group thought any other agencies should be brought in at this stage. It was agreed that those present were sufficient at this time, however RG pointed out that a Civil Contingencies Group had been set up to service East/West Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Council areas.

Action

RG to identify the appropriate representative of that group to attend the next meeting.

PM thanked those present for their attendance and requested a further meeting of the group prior to the date of the main group's meeting on December 16th.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 15th December 2009. Inverclyde Roads Dept, East Hamilton Street, Greenock.