

I refer to the agenda for the special meeting of the **Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee** to be held on **Wednesday 19 May 2010 at 4 pm** and attach report as undernoted which was not available on the day of issue

ELAINE PATERSON  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

### **Undernote**

2. **Inverclyde Flood Action Plan Progress Report**  
Report by Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment

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

**Report To: Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee**      **Date 19 May 2010**

**Report By: Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment**      **Report No ECP/ENV/AB 10.47**

**Contact Officer: David Greenslade**      **Contact No: 01475 714817**

**Subject: Inverclyde Flood Action Plan Progress Report**

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek authority for the proposed Flood Action Plan and to enter into agreements with outside parties to alleviate flooding in Inverclyde.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Committee approved Report No. ECP/ENV/AB09.17 remitted to the then Corporate Director of Environment and Community Protection to establish and chair a Flood Risk Management Working Group to address the collective responsibility of flood risk management within Inverclyde, and bring forward an Action Plan addressing timescales and resourcing matters.
- 2.2 The Flood Risk Management Working Group is now established and has met on three occasions to date. The Group has set up two sub-groups to report on infrastructure and traffic issues. The Group includes representatives from SEPA, Scottish Water, Network Rail, Transport Scotland, Amey Highways, Strathclyde Police, Historic Scotland, Ardgowan Estates and Grontmij Consultants. British Rail Residuary Board was also invited to join the Group. The Group and its sub-groups are working together with the other interested parties to identify and progress flood relief schemes.
- 2.3 The prioritisation and costing of flood relief works have developed from the original Inverclyde Council Consultant's Flood Study ( March 2009) in the light of further research that has been carried out by Environmental and Commercial Services (Roads), and in liaison with the other interested parties. Funding for flood relief schemes has also been allocated. The revised scheme priorities and their attendant cost estimates are set out hereinafter.
- 2.4 Proposals for agreements with Scottish Water to alleviate flooding are also put forward for approval.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Committee approves the proposed Flood Action Plan.
- 3.2 That Committee approves the proposal that the Council establishes land ownership within the Eastern Line of Falls area as a matter of urgency with a view to carrying out the necessary repairs and recovering costs where ownership/responsibility for the Line lies with a third party.
- 3.3 That Committee agrees that works be progressed to the West Station area and 5 Reservoirs above The Cut as outlined in Appendix1 at an estimated cost of £425,000.

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- 3.4 That Committee remits it to the Policy & Resources Committee for approval that any sums allocated to the Council in 2010/11 to meet its obligations in respect of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 be allocated to Environmental & Commercial Services for the purpose of progressing preparatory work/investigations relating to the Flood Action Plan.
- 3.3 That Committee approves the proposal that the Council opens negotiations with Scottish Water to enter into an agreement regarding the volumes of discharged water from Scottish Water's reservoirs at Whinhill and Overton B.

**Alan G. Barnes**  
**Head of Environmental and Commercial Services**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A budget of £500,000 under earmarked revenue reserves has been approved for flood relief work as part of the February 2010 budget decisions.
- 4.2 The Scottish Government proposes to allocate a block grant to take account of the duties now incumbent on local authorities in the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. It is estimated that the Council will receive £60,000 in 2010/11 and £150,000 annually from 2012 onward (spending review dependent). These sums are intended to be used for start up costs relating to the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, and for addressing the new duties imposed by the Act respectively. Confirmation of the sums and any conditions are awaited from the Government.
- 4.3 The excessive rainfall on 19 November 2009 confirmed that the areas of flooding that require remediation work as a priority are: Eastern Line of Falls, West Station and its environs, A8 Trunk Road at Lady Burn, Cumberland Road and A770/Battery Park. Environmental and Commercial Services are currently addressing these issues
- 4.4 The Inverclyde Council Consultant's Flood Study (March 2009), recommended that, amongst other measures, the flood risks in Inverclyde could be reduced by implementing improvements to management of the five Council owned reservoirs that feed into the Greenock Cut.

The Cut, together with its associated reservoirs and channels, is classified as a historic monument. Preliminary discussions have therefore been held with Historic Scotland to obtain their approval to effect the necessary alterations to the monument. The Council took over responsibility for the maintenance of The Cut and the associated reservoirs in 2007 from Scottish Water on receipt of a one off "dowry".

## 5.0 PROPOSED FLOOD ACTION PLAN

- 5.1 An attenuation system is currently being developed for each of these five reservoirs. This proposal is seen as significant as it could reduce the peak flows in the Hole Burn, the Carts Burn, the Spango Burn and the Eastern Line of Falls. The cost estimate for the five number reservoirs is £50,000 each. Attenuation of the water course flows from the five Council owned reservoirs that feed into the Cut will have consequent effects on the prioritisation of the capital and revenue schemes previously identified in the Inverclyde Council Consultant's Flood Plan (March 2009). It is now therefore considered that only the undernoted schemes identified in the Consultant's Flood Plan should be addressed at this stage, and the other schemes put forward on the Consultant's Flood Plan should be re-assessed following construction of the proposed reservoir flood attenuation measures.

### Hole Burn

Refurbish stop planks in the Greenock Cut	£40,000
Drainage feasibility study at South St/Newton St culvert entrance	£10,000
Alter headwall at South St/Newton St culvert entrance	£30,000
Further detailed modelling of Hole Burn	£25,000

### Carts Burn

Further detailed modelling of Carts Burn	£25,000
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The above are included in Appendix 1.

- 5.2 It should be noted that, similar to the five Council owned reservoirs that feed into the Cut, the volumes of water discharged from Scottish Water's reservoirs at Whinhill and Overton B can have a direct bearing on flooding from Carts Burn, the Hole Burn and the



6.1 Legal: Legal Services will be required to give advice on the proposal to undertake work on the Eastern Line of Falls with a view to later cost recovery if ownership/responsibility of the Line is found to lie with an outside party.

Legal Services will be required to give advice any agreement to be drawn up with Scottish Water regarding the discharge volumes from their reservoirs.

6.2 Financial:

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Proposed spend this report	Virement from	Other comments
Earmarked Reserves	Flooding Repairs	£425,000	n/a	Remaining balance of £80,000 to be retained for any legal costs and an emergency repair contingency.
Environmental & Commercial Services	Flood Risk Management Act	£60,000	n/a	One off budget subject to P&R Committee approval.

6.3 Other:

Scottish Natural Heritage: Liaison with SNH will be required if the scheme impinging on the Greenock Cut's associated reservoirs is to be progressed.

## 7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Legal Services have been consulted on this report

Finance Services have been consulted on this report

## 8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 This report has no impact on the Council's Equality Agenda

## 9.0 CONCLUSION

The Flood Risk Management Working Group is making steady progress in its remit to alleviate flooding in conjunction with other interested stakeholders. It is recognised that any flood plan is a dynamic document and must adapt as knowledge of the mechanisms of flooding increases, and geographic and climatic changes occur. Hence there is a need for regular updates and reports.

The allocation of additional funding has presented the opportunity to prioritise and implement some flood relief schemes. However, it should be borne in mind that the implementation of flood schemes within the limitations of the current budget will not resolve all the flooding issues in Inverclyde, and the Flood Plan must continue to develop as funding is made available and flood relief schemes are completed.

**APPENDIX 1 Proposed Flood Action Plan Spending Proposals**

**Details of priority projects identified as requiring flood relief works**

<u>Order of priority</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cost Estimates</u> Inverclyde responsibility	<u>Cost Estimates</u> Responsibility to be determined	<u>Cost Estimates</u> Provisional depending on further information
1	Eastern Line of Falls	<p>The Eastern line of Falls drains sections of the Greenock Cut and its associated reservoirs. The condition of the Line is poor, and extensive repairs and continuous maintenance are required to reinstate the Line into an effective drainage conduit through Greenock.</p> <p>However, the ownership and responsibility for the Line is in dispute between the Council and Scottish Water. This question is proving difficult to resolve. In the meantime, it is proposed that the Council carries out minimal necessary repairs with a view to recovering its costs later; if it is determined that responsibility lies with Scottish Water or a third party. This is seen as a matter of urgency because the Line overtops in conditions of only moderately heavy rain causing flooding to adjacent flats, Drumfrochar Road and Peat Road.</p>			
1		Emergency repairs/cleaning	£5,000		
2a		* Survey of whole Eastern Line of Falls		£20,000	
2b		* Extensive permanent remediation work to the whole Line if the Line is proved to be Council's responsibility, including repair to the breach in the Line at Wellington Park adjacent to Drumfrochar Road which presently discharges on to the public road.		£250,000	
2c		* Annual maintenance to the Line		£30,000	
		Items marked * are provisional as they are subject to establishment of ownership of the Eastern Line of Falls depending if it can be proved if a third party is responsible for maintenance of all or part of the Line			
1	West Station	The drainage from Bow Road and the Cemetery has been identified as a major contributor to the flooding at West Station. A detailed investigation of the existing drainage system is to be commissioned which may show that only minor remedial and cleaning work is required.	£20,000		
1a		If the investigation reveals that a new discharge pipe into the Hole Burn is required this			£150,000

		<p>pipe will require to be taken under the A78 Trunk Road to outfall. The cost estimate is therefore provisional, depending on the findings of the investigation. The possibility of match funding from Transport Scotland will be pursued by Environmental and Commercial Services.</p>			
1	Reservoirs	Installation of a new attenuation system into each of the five Council owned reservoirs that feed into the Greenock Cut. Five number reservoirs at £50,000 each	£250,000		
1	A8 Trunk Road at Lady Burn	Feasibility and outline design are in progress to reduce the flow in the Lady Burn by diverting the course of the Craigie Burn, which is a tributary of the Lady Burn, into the Carts Burn. However, quantification of the benefit of this proposal in terms of flooding on the A8 remains to be demonstrated, and further detailed analysis of the bridge structure on the A8 should first be carried out by Transport Scotland. The cost estimate is therefore provisional, depending on whether Transport Scotland can improve the capacity of the trunk road bridge carrying the Lady Burn under the A8 to an acceptable volume. The possibility of match funding from Transport Scotland will be pursued by Environmental and Commercial Services			£300,000
1	Cumberland Road	Investigations are underway to determine the necessary remedial work to the existing drainage system in this area. Design and cost estimates will be produced on receipt of further requested information into the existing drainage in this area.	TBA		
1	A770/Battery Park.	Drainage realignment is required in the park to improve the adjacent road drainage from the A770 and prevent flooding of the road.	£50,000		
2	Refurbish Stop Planks to Cut	Refurbishment and renewal of stop planks in the Greenock Cut and its associated channels is required to exercise more control over its volumes of discharge. 4 no. at £10,000	£40,000		
3a	South St/Newton St	Drainage feasibility study to consider the possibility of the Hole Burn flooding at the entrance to the culverted section of the burn at South Street/Newton Street.			
3b		Alter the headwall at South Street/Newton Street culvert entrance The cost estimate is provisional depending on the findings of the above feasibility study.		£10,000	
1	Hole Burn	Detailed modelling of the Hole Burn	£25,000		£30,000
1	Carts Burn	Detailed modelling of the Carts Burn	£25,000		