

Report To: Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee Date 3 May 2011

**Report By: Corporate Director Regeneration and
Environment**

**Report No
SSC/ECS/IM/11.83**

Contact Officer: David Greenslade

Contact No: 01475 714817

Subject: Inverclyde Flood Action Plan 2011 – 2012 (- 2013)

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval in relation to a proposed programme of projects funded from Environmental and Commercial Services Earmarked Revenue Reserves to be addressed in the Flood Action Plan for 2011 – 12 and the 2012 – 13 proposed Flood Action Plan, to alleviate flooding in Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The earmarked revenue reserves budget allocated for flood relief is valued at £500,000 for 2011 – 2012.

2.2 It is proposed to spend this allocation to further the work commenced under the 2010 – 2011 Flood Action Plan.

2.3 The prioritisation and costing of flood relief works originated from Inverclyde Council Consultant's Flood Study (March 2009) and the initial Flood Action Plan that was developed and implemented by Inverclyde Council's Environmental and Commercial Services in liaison with the other interested parties over 2010 – 2011

2.4 The proposed Flood Action Plan for the periods 2011 - 2012 and 2012 – 2013 is detailed in Appendix 1. The Plan prioritises the projects and gives their cost estimates.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Committee approve the proposed Flood Action Plan for 2011 – 2012 and the proposals for 2012 – 2013;

3.2 That it be remitted to the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services to proceed to tender for the projects listed in Appendix 1, and to grant approval to the acceptance of such tenders in terms of the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders Relating to Contracts;

3.3 That the Committee approve the proposal that the Council carries out any emergency repairs/cleaning to the Eastern Line of Falls to relieve flooding from this system that may arise during the course of 2011 -2013, with a view to later recovering the cost if it is proved that the ownership/responsibility for the Line lies with a third party; and

3.4 It be noted that Officers will pursue negotiations with Scottish Water to regulate the discharge volumes from their reservoirs where these have a bearing on flooding in urban areas downstream.

**Ian Moffat
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 2011 – 2012.

It is proposed to spend this budget equally over the course of two consecutive years. Appendix 1 gives the works to be undertaken in 2011 – 2012 in order of priority. If the legal question regarding its ownership has been resolved, then the Eastern Line of Falls will be addressed in 2012 – 2013 if it is demonstrated that the Council has this responsibility.

- 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. This represented an allocation of £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. Details of this block grant were reported to CMT on 4 February 2010 by the Corporate Director Environment and Community Protection.

- 4.3 The areas of flooding that require remediation work as a priority in 2011 - 2012 are:

Eastern Line of Falls,

Hole Burn at Woodstock Road,

Carts Burn at Auchmountain Glen.

Further detailed modelling of all major watercourses in Inverclyde is also necessary to identify and quantify other flooding issues.

- 4.4 It is also recognised that further detailed modelling of the major watercourses may necessitate the employment of a specialist consultant.

5.0 FLOOD ACTION PLAN PROGRESS TO DATE AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 Inverclyde is one of the first councils in Scotland to create a Flood Action Working Group and to implement a Flood Action Plan.

The 2010 – 2011 Flood Action Plan identified a series of flood relief schemes to be undertaken. The bulk of these works is now substantially complete and following minor funding amendments as reported to Committee on 18 January 2011 the current position is :

Eastern Line of Falls: emergency cleaning and repair works - complete

West Station area: detailed site investigation is complete and a new discharge system has been installed

Hill Reservoirs: new attenuation system has been installed

Lady Burn: diverting the course of the Craigie Burn was proved to be unnecessary following Transport Scotland's improved maintenance regime to their existing system at Lady Burn Bridge, this resolved the flooding problem on the A8 trunk road with no recurrence to date

Cumberland Road: remedial work to existing drainage system has been carried out

A770 battery park: drainage realignment has been designed and the work will be carried out this spring

Greenock Cut: stop planks have been refurbished

South Street/Newton Street: drainage feasibility study at culvert entrance is not now considered necessary

South Street/Newton Street culvert entrance: alterations to the headwall are not considered necessary at this stage

A8 Trunk Road flood diversion routing: the route signage has been designed, Inverclyde Council is organising the poles and the Transport Scotland is organising the signs plates

- 5.2 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 Eastern Line of Falls. Therefore it is proposed that the Council continues negotiations with Scottish Water to enter into an agreement regarding controlling the volumes of discharged water from Scottish Water's reservoirs at Whinhill and Overton B to attenuate peak flows in the Hole Burn and the Carts Burn.
- 5.3 The development at Rankin Park by Property Services and Facilities Management will be designed not to exacerbate flooding in this area.
- 5.4 The recommendations made in the 2010 – 2011 Flood Action Plan that a flow monitoring regime and further study work covering all 11 major watercourses in Inverclyde, together with further detailed modelling of the Hole Burn and the Carts Burn should be now implemented in conjunction with the proposed flood relief works as there is only limited information on previous floods. It is envisaged that this work would be carried out under the new allocation of £150,000 per year noted in 4.2 above.
- 5.5 The order of scheme priority and costs is seen as:-
- 2011 – 2012
 Eastern Line of Falls: emergency cleaning and repair works
 Hole Burn at Woodstock Road Culvert: extend the inlet upstream to reduce the risk of blockage/flood
 Carts Burn at Auchmountain Glen: install a new freestanding grill to trap large debris upstream of the existing culvert, together with culvert inlet improvements
 Inverclyde watercourses: detailed modelling of all major watercourses in Inverclyde to identify and quantify flooding issues that require to be addressed
- 2012 – 2013
 Eastern Line of Falls: Survey of the whole Line and extensive permanent remediation work
 These schemes are detailed in Appendix 1, Flood Action Plan.
- 5.6 It is anticipated that emergency repair work may require to be carried out to the Eastern Line of Falls in 2011 - 2012 to relieve flooding from this system as a matter of urgency. This would be carried out with a view to later recovering the Council's costs if it is proved that the ownership/responsibility for the Line lies with an outside party.
- 5.7 Flood relief work should be undertaken within the available funding in the order of priorities set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.8 The Flood Risk Management Working Group which incorporates the Infrastructure and Traffic Sub-Groups is continuing with its programme of meetings and liaison with other interested stakeholders to identify and to jointly progress flood relief measures.
- 5.11 It is proposed that Inverclyde 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 (the Long Dam) as these discharge volumes can have critical impacts on flooding from the Carts Burn, the Hole Burn and the Eastern Line of Falls.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 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 on 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 Revenue Reserves	£500,000	n/a	
	Flood risk management	Dependent on Scottish Government spending review of allocation in block grant	n/a	

6.3 Other, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland:

Liaison with SNH and HS has been maintained in respect of the flood attenuation scheme impinging on the Greenock Cut's and its associated reservoirs.

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

9.1 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 further funding has presented the opportunity to prioritise and implement more 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. The original Consultant's study (2009) identified a considerable number of further flooding investigations to be carried out at an estimated design cost of £115,000. Over and above this £1,700,000 worth of flood relief works have also been identified as required.

APPENDIX 1 Proposed Flood Action Plan 2011 – 2012 and 2012 - 2013

Details of priority projects identified as requiring flood relief works 2011 - 2012

<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, Drumfrocher Road and Peat Road.</p> <p>Emergency repairs/cleaning</p>	£5,000		
2	Hole Burn at Woodstock Road Culvert	Extend inlet upstream to reduce the risk of blockage/flood	£100,000		
3	Carts Burn at Auchmountain Glen	Install new free standing grill to trap large debris upstream of existing culvert inlet, together with culvert inlet improvements	£90,000		
4	Inverclyde watercourses	Detailed modelling of all major watercourses in Inverclyde to identify and quantify flooding issues, including the installation of flow monitoring equipment and prediction by both physical and mathematical techniques to predict and attenuate future flood events.	£50,000		

1	Eastern Line of Falls	<p><u>Details of priority projects identified as requiring flood relief works 2012 - 2013</u></p> <p>* Survey of whole Eastern Line of Falls</p> <p>* 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 Drumfrocher Road which presently discharges on to the public road.</p> <p>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</p>		<p>£20,000</p> <p>£235,000</p>	
---	-----------------------	--	--	--------------------------------	--