
Report To:	Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee	Date	6 March 2012
Report By:	Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment	Report No	SSC/ENV/IM/11.111
Contact Officer:	Robert Graham	Contact No:	01475 714827
Subject:	Environmental and Commercial Services (Roads) - Capital Programme (2012/13 and 2013/14) - Flooding		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval in relation to a proposed programme of projects in the Flood Action Plan for 2012 – 14, funded from Environmental and Commercial Services (Roads) Capital Budget for 2012/13 - 2013/14 and beyond.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The capital programme budget allocated for flood relief for Environmental and Commercial Services (Roads) is valued at £1,528,000 for 2012 – 2014.
- 2.2 It is proposed to spend this allocation to further the work commenced under the 2011 – 2012 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 Flood Action Plans developed and implemented by Inverclyde Council Environmental and Commercial Services in liaison with the other interested parties over 2010 /11 and 2011/12.
- 2.4 The proposed Flood Action Plan for the period 2012/14 is detailed in Appendix 1. The Plan prioritises the projects and gives their cost estimates.
- 2.5 As a result of the Council's approved budget agreed on 9 February 2011 the capital programme budget also includes an allowance of £1 million for the match funding of other large scale projects beyond 2014, dependent on Government confirmation that funds currently set aside for the Land Fill Tax Penalty Scheme will not be required.
- 2.6 Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment will report back to Committee in due course with details of a scheme for comprehensive flooding alleviation in Inverclyde which will include £1 million match funding from the Council.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Committee approves the proposed capital budget allocation, including potential £1 million for match funding, for the Flood Action Plan for 2012/13 - 2013/14 and beyond.
- 3.2 That Committee remits to the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services to proceed to tender for the new 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 remits to the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, in conjunction with

the Chief Financial Officer and Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development & Performance, to identify the additional appropriate managerial, professional and technical staff necessary to ensure that this programme is delivered.

Ian Moffat
Head of Environmental and Commercial Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Approval is requested for the proposed programme of projects detailed below, in order to facilitate completion during financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14.
- 4.2 The prioritisation and costing of flood relief works originated from Inverclyde Council Consultant's Flood Study (March 2009) and the Flood Action Plans developed and implemented by Inverclyde Council Environmental and Commercial Services in liaison with the other interested parties over 2010 /11 and 2011/12.
- 4.3 The proposed Flood Action Plan for the period 2012 - 2014 is detailed in Appendix 1. The Plan prioritises the projects and gives their cost estimates.
- 4.4 It is also recognised that further detailed modelling of major watercourses and the preparation of a comprehensive flood alleviation scheme for Inverclyde will necessitate the employment of a specialist consultant.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 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.

- 5.2 The areas of flooding that require remediation work as a priority in 2012-14 are:

Culvert extensions Carts Burn and Hole Burn (previously approved by Committee)

Eastern Line of Falls

Overton outfall culvert to Hole Burn

Design and purchase Trash Screens at Lady Alice Park, Carts burn and Bouverie Burn, Rankin Park, Devol Burn

Further detailed modelling of the major watercourses in Inverclyde is necessary to identify and quantify major flooding issues and to help prepare a comprehensive flood alleviation scheme for Inverclyde.

- 5.3 The entire list of studies, designs and works necessary to improve Inverclyde Council's ability to manage flood water effectively could run to millions of pounds and take many years. It is therefore considered prudent to take the opportunity presented by the potential allocation of £1 million (dependent on Government confirmation that funds currently set aside for the Land Fill Tax Penalty Scheme will not be required) to prepare a comprehensive flood alleviation scheme for Inverclyde which will seek match funding from Government and other agencies, thus maximising the funding leverage and ensuring that a fund large enough to tackle the large projects necessary to make a step change in Inverclyde's flood defences can be secured.
- 5.4 Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment will report back to Committee in due course with details of a scheme for comprehensive flooding alleviation in Inverclyde which will include match funding of £1 million from the Council.
- 5.5 The order of scheme priority and costs is detailed in Appendix 1, Flood Action Plan 2012-14. However, while the question of the ownership and responsibility for the Eastern Line of Falls and the Overton outfall culvert to the Hole Burn remains unanswered, these projects may have to remain on-hold until the legal position is clarified. Projects of lower priority have been included as replacements in case of such an eventuality.

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 are 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 SEPA:

The Council will seek the necessary licenses from SEPA under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, which came into force on 31 March 2011, for activities in or adjacent to watercourses.

6.3 Financial:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Proposed spend this report	Virement from	Other comments
	Capital Funding	£528,000	n/a	
		£1,000,000	n/a	Dependent on Government confirmation that funds currently set aside for the Land Fill Tax Penalty Scheme will not be required.
	TOTAL	£1,528,000		

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland will continue to be consulted in respect to projects impinging on land, watercourses, reservoirs and monuments in their care.

7.2 Legal Services have been consulted on this report

Finance Services have been consulted on this report

Property Assets and Facilities Management 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 It is recognised that any flood plan is a dynamic document and must adapt as understanding 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 capital funding will present the opportunity to prioritise and implement flood relief schemes in the Action Plan programme. The potential allocation of uncollected landfill tax will present the opportunity to prepare a comprehensive flood alleviation scheme for Inverclyde. However, it should be borne in mind that the implementation of such flood schemes may not resolve all the flooding issues in Inverclyde so the Flood Plan must continue to develop as our understanding increases and funding is

made available.

<u>APPENDIX 1 Proposed Flood Action Plan 2012 – 2014</u>				
<u>Details of priority projects identified as requiring flood relief works 2012 - 2014</u>				
<u>Order of priority</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Description</u> <i>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</i> <i>Items marked ** have already been approved by Committee</i>	<u>Cost Estimates</u> Priority 1	<u>Cost Estimates</u> Priority 2
1	Culvert extensions**	Build extensions to culverts on the Hole burn and Carts Burn at Woodstock Rd and Auchmountain Glen respectively to facilitate cleaning of trash screens safely	£152,500**	
2	Eastern Line of Falls*	Survey of whole Eastern Line of Falls 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.	£20,000* £235,000*	
3	Overton outfall culvert to Hole Burn*	Extend culvert beyond length of collapsed river channel and gabions caused by large discharge volume of water from Overton reservoir.	£70,000*	
4	Scheme preparation	Engage specialist consultant to prepare a comprehensive flood alleviation scheme for Inverclyde	£50,500	
5	Trash screens	Design and purchase new easy to clean trash screens to make removal of trapped large debris faster and easier and to prevent regular over-topping at; Lady Alice Park, Carts burn, Bouverie Burn, Rankin Park, Devol Burn		£250,000
6	Inverclyde watercourses	Detailed modelling of major watercourses in Inverclyde to identify and quantify flooding issues at; Gotter Water, Quarriers, Mosston Burn, Devol Burn, Lady Burn, Bouverie Burn, Ash Burn		£76,000
			<u>£528,000</u>	<u>£326,000</u>

