

Flood Risk Management – National Prioritisation of Actions

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The paper outlines the process that has been used to formulate the Prioritised list of Actions as worked up with SEPA to address flood risk. These will be considered by the National Prioritisation Group and that the output therefrom will be incorporated in the Flood Management Strategies published by SEPA in December 2015 and the Local Flood Risk Management Plans published by the local authorities in June 2016.
- 1.2 The actions that are in Argyll and Bute are listed in sections 4.7 and 4.8, and include works in Campbeltown and studies in Oban, Tarbert, Helensburgh and Lochgilphead in the first six year cycle 2016 - 2022. It also states that Surface Water Management Plans will be drafted for Oban, Campbeltown, Kilcreggan and Dunoon. Non prioritised actions such as land use planning, inspection and maintenance of watercourses and emergency planning also need to be delivered by the Council as part of its ongoing responsibility under the Act to reduce flood risk. The other prioritisation actions around improving understanding and flood warning will be delivered by SEPA. In cycle 2 further studies are expected for Dunoon, Garelochhead, Campbeltown, Rothesay and Cardross.
- 1.3 Funding arrangements have yet to be announced by the Scottish Government but it is anticipated that the Council will need to part finance the proposals.
- 1.4 **Members are asked to:-**
- Note the report and that the funding arrangements have yet to be announced by the Scottish Government;
 - Approve that the Prioritised List of Actions represents the Council's preferred order for dealing with flood risk, subject to funding being available.

Flood Risk Management – National Prioritisation of Actions

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The paper outlines the process that has been used to formulate the prioritised list of actions as worked up with SEPA to address flood risk. These will be considered by the National Prioritisation Group and that the output therefrom will be incorporated in the Flood Management Strategies published by the Scottish Government in December 2015 and the Local Flood Risk Management Plans published by the local authorities in June 2016. The actions that are in Argyll and Bute are listed in sections 4.7 and 4.8.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:-

- Notes the report and that the funding arrangements have yet to be announced by the Scottish Government;
- Approves that the Prioritised List of Actions represents the Council's preferred order for dealing with flood risk, subject to funding being available.

4.0 DETAILS

- 4.1 The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 introduced a new, more sustainable approach to managing flood risk. It requires all Responsible Authorities to work collaboratively to produce Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans. The first step to delivering these was to focus efforts on the areas most vulnerable to flooding and the National Flood Risk Assessment was carried out by SEPA in 2012.
- 4.2 The National Flood Risk Assessment is a strategic tool. It covered flooding from rivers, groundwater and the sea, as well as flooding caused when surface water cannot enter drainage systems or the river network. The likelihood of flooding was considered alongside the estimated impact on people, the economy and the environment. The result provided a national summary of the causes and consequences from all sources of flooding and the effects of climate change.

- 4.3 Based on the National Flood Risk Assessment, SEPA identified areas where the potential impact justified further assessment and appraisal of possible flood risk management actions. This required the setting of a threshold above which the total impact of floods in a given area was considered nationally significant. These areas are based on catchments and referred to as Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs). In Scotland 243 PVAs have been identified, of which 16 are in Argyll & Bute. The initial objectives for each of the Potentially Vulnerable Areas were reported to the Environment Development and Infrastructure Committee on 14 August 2014.
- 4.4 The setting of objectives and actions within the PVAs has formed the basis of the Flood Risk Management Strategies to be published by SEPA in December 2015. The actions are assigned to 6 year cycles with the first cycle commencing in 2016.
- 4.5 The Flood Risk Management Strategies form the basis on which Argyll & Bute Council led by The Highland Council and Glasgow City Council will develop Local Flood Risk Management Plans (LFRMP). Prioritised actions for inclusion in the LFRMP will be determined by the National Prioritisation Group*. The LFRMPs will then set out in detail which actions will be funded and delivered within each six-year planning cycle. The plans will include other non-prioritised actions such as land use planning, assessment of relevant bodies of water, and emergency planning to form part of the ongoing actions reducing overall flood risk. The Plans are to be published in June 2016.
- 4.6 *The National Prioritisation Group will consist of SEPA, Scottish Government, COSLA, Scottish Water and representation from six Lead Local Authorities (Glasgow City and North Ayrshire from SEPA's West Region, Aberdeenshire and Highland from the North and Scottish Borders and Angus from the East) and will meet to consider all the prioritised lists and the allocation of national funding based on the set of rules to be provided by Scottish Government / COSLA. Their approved list will then go forward as final content for the Flood Risk Management Strategies to be announced by the Minister in December 2015.

4.7 For the Argyll and Bute Council area, the following are included in the national prioritised lists that are going forward to the National Prioritisation Group for its consideration:-

Location	Description	Cycle 1 (2016 – 2022)	Cycle 2 (2022 – 2028)
Campbeltown*	Works for flood protection from river flooding	X	
Oban	Study for flood protection from Black Lynn Burn and coastal sources	X	
Tarbert	Study for flood protection from coastal sources	X	
Helensburgh	Study for flood protection from coastal sources	X	
Lochgilphead	Study for Flood Protection from Badden Burn	X	
Dunoon	Study for flood protection from Milton Burn		X
Garelochhead	Study for flood protection from coastal sources		X
Campbeltown	Study for flood protection from coastal sources		X
Rothesay	Study for flood protection from river and coastal sources		X
Cardross	Study for flood protection from river sources		X

* This project is included as works because SEPA is satisfied that the report into flooding in Campbeltown completed in 2008 had sufficient Benefit/Cost information contained within it.

4.8 Subject to suitable funding being available, the Council would have responsibility for delivery of the above list and also Surface Water Management Plans during Cycle 1 for Oban, Campbeltown, Kilcreggan and Dunoon. Non prioritised actions such as land use planning, inspection and maintenance of watercourses and emergency planning would also be for delivery by the Council in an ongoing basis. The other prioritisation actions around improving understanding and flood warning will be delivered by SEPA.

4.9 Areas that are affected by flooding that were not within a Potentially Vulnerable Area in the run up to Cycle 1 can be reconsidered in the lead up to Cycle 2.

4.10 The characterisation and objectives for each Potentially Vulnerable Area were out to public consultation between December 2014 and 2 June. There were 3 responses for the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District and 8 for the Highland/Argyll district. None of the responses concerned areas within Argyll and Bute.

4.11 The Scottish Government have yet to announce how the studies and works will be financed, however it is expected that local authorities will be required to part fund any expenditure proposed. It is expected that the Scottish Government will announce the funding proposals in August 2015 and the Flood Risk Management Strategy in December 2015. The Councils are required to publish their Local Flood Risk Management Plans in June 2016, timetabling when each of the works/studies in the first six year cycle will be undertaken. It is anticipated that a further report will be provided to outline the funding decisions and their impact on the Council.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The prioritised list of flooding actions has been developed by SEPA and the other Responsible Authorities in accordance with the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and represents a strategic basis for investment.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1	Policy	None
6.2	Financial	None at present – Scottish Government yet to announce funding mechanism and it is expected that the Council will need to at least part fund any proposals. Funding for previous flood scheme works has been 20% from Local Authorities.
6.3	Legal	Meets Requirements of Flood Risk Management Act 2009
6.4	HR	Na
6.5	Equalities	Na
6.6	Risk	Sets out how flood risk within Argyll and Bute Council area sits within the national context
6.7	Customer Services	None

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15 June 2015

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