

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress with flood risk management activities across Argyll and Bute including news actions which are in development.
- 1.2 The report details work complete on the Local Flood Risk Management Plans, flood monitoring network, flood risk management WDM system, flood studies and schemes in development, coastal adaptation plans and watercourse inspections.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee endorse this report.

3.0 DETAIL

Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016-2022

- 3.1 Flood studies and recommended options for Oban, Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Clachan, Helensburgh, Dunoon and Kilcreggan were submitted to SEPA in December 2019 for prioritisation.
- 3.2 Initial responses for each study has been provided. The Council will assess SEPAs responses and report back as required to support the prioritisation process.
- 3.3 SEPA and COSLA are currently reviewing the lessons learnt from the Cycle 1 funding, prior to awarding funding for schemes in Cycle 2.

Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028

- 3.4 A significant amount of work has been undertaken in preparation of the next Local Flood Risk Management Plans in collaboration with SEPA.

- 3.5 Draft objectives to be undertaken during Cycle 2 (2022 – 2028) for each target area have been determined. EDI Committee approved the publication of the draft list in June 2021. Public consultation begins on 30th July 2021 for a three month period.
- 3.6 Consultation responses will be reviewed with SEPA in November 2021 with the final draft being prepared in December 2021. The final draft will be presented to the EDI Committee in December for publication approval.
- 3.7 SEPA continue to have issues relating to the December 2020 cyberattack and there is some risk in terms of timescales.

Flood Monitoring Network

- 3.8 A multiyear contract has been awarded to Hydrologic to provide maintenance, telemetry and warning services for the Council's rivers level monitoring network. A provision for the set-up of additional sites has been included with agreed fixed fees. This provision builds on the flood risk systems already in place and will help to maintain and utilise existing infrastructure designed to provide early warning and resilience in weather events.
- 3.9 The multiyear contract allows for improved financial forecasting as annual maintenance costs are known, however breakdown/ failure of equipment has to be managed appropriately.
- 3.10 Email and SMS warnings will continue to be provided to our operations teams to manage an appropriate response. Members should note that as part of the routine work carried out by Roads and Infrastructure our teams carry out inspections and clearance of trash screens, guard and culvert entrances at known areas of potential concern. Inspections and clearance are generally carried out prior to a known weather event, this work is designed to maximise the capacity and capability of various waterways and reduce flood risk.

WDM – Flood Risk Management System

- 3.11 A cloud based WDM flood risk management system is currently being developed. The WDM system is the same system utilised for asset management of the road network, bridge and wall stock, lighting and other associated assets. The WDM Flood Risk Management System will enhance and assist in the recording and management of:
- Flood incident reporting
 - Watercourse inspection
 - Watercourse clearance and repair
 - Flood protection schemes register
 - Providing resilience for flood and weather events

Study/ Scheme Works

- 3.12 **Campbeltown Flood Protection Scheme** – separate update has been provided,

in summary a tender process is being progressed with the tender returns being used to inform the financials in a full business case prior to contract award.

- 3.13 **Rothesay Flood Study and Flood Protection Scheme (FPS) Performance Review** – this study will assess the river and coastal flood risk to Rothesay, while carrying out a review to known issues with the existing FPS. Ground investigation and borehole monitoring will assist in establishing any seepage through the existing flood walls which may be contributing to the frequent flooding on the esplanade.
- 3.14 **Tigh Dearg Road, Kilcreggan** – design and tender preparation is currently underway for the replacement of an existing combined sewer with two separate culverts to alleviate flooding to the upstream drainage network. Consultations with Scottish Water are ongoing.
- 3.15 **Antrim View, Islay** – cooperation/ agreement is being sought from a landowner to reduce flood risk to local properties, adopted road and their own business property. The Council have undertaken Phase one of the works to increase culvert capacity in anticipation of further works being completed by the landowner. Council's Legal department is determining appropriate responsibilities.

Coastal Adaptation Plans/ Shoreline Management Plans

- 3.16 SEPA are currently developing guidance on developing coastal adaptation plans which will be shared with Responsible Authorities (ABC is a responsible Authority).
- 3.17 Initial work scoping has been completed, to further define SEPAs breakdown of the coastline into process units. These units have been ranked either red, amber or green for combined flooding/ erosion risk.
- 3.18 A draft scope / specification for coastal adaptation plans will be developed during Rothesay Flood Study to further investigate the process units into smaller management units.
- 3.19 The management plans will ultimately define actions for each area.
- 3.20 It is increasing likely that coastal adaptation plans will become a statutory requirement for local authorities. As further information emerges from Scottish Government and/or SEPA Members will be updated with any significant development.

Watercourse Inspections

- 3.21 The development of the WDM system will allow for a simplified approach to prioritising watercourses for inspection, clearance and repair works as required under the FRM Act.
- 3.22 Currently watercourse inspection, clearance and repair works are rarely carried out due to available resources and budget restrictions. The use of the WDM

system will help to simplify the process and provide an asset management inventory and record. Officers are also exploring the use of drone surveys to capture watercourse data, this has the potential to simplify the inspection process particularly for sites with challenging access/visibility.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This report provides an update on progress with flood risk management activities across Argyll and Bute including news actions which are in development.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Works are in accordance with the Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016 - 2022 as endorsed by Council and the Council's Flood Risk Management Policy.

Local Authorities have powers under Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 "to manage flood risk and to take forward a flood protection scheme."

- 5.2 Financial – The current capital and revenue budget allocation is supporting the ongoing projects activities.
- 5.3 Legal – Support is requested as required, primarily in relation to riparian ownership responsibilities.
- 5.4 HR – None
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty – None
- 5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – None
- 5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty:
Socio- economic and environmental benefits.
Reduce social disadvantage.
- 5.5.3 Islands: Various flood risk sites on islands.
- 5.6 Risk – SEPA currently have issues with recent cyberattack and there is some risk in terms of times frames.
- 5.7 Customer Service – None

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