ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE

DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

8 APRIL 2015

FLOODING IN CAMPBELTOWN – POTENTIAL REMEDIAL WORKS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There has been a longstanding flooding issue in Campbeltown dating back to Victorian times. In recent years telemetry has been provided at known 'bottlenecks'. This equipment enables remote monitoring allowing operational staff to be deployed when required.

Essentially there is insufficient capacity within the culvert water courses running under/through the town to carry surface water during heavy and prolonged rain events.

Studies have been carried out which have suggested solutions ranging from £2.1m - £4.7m at 2008 prices. These solutions provide a low rate of return in terms of investment and are currently not funded.

Naturally Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP) are being developed. Campbeltown will be subject of a SWMP. A number of short-term solutions are being progressed, the details of which are contained in this report.

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides Members with an update on potential initiatives which may reduce the effects of flooding in Campbeltown. It also provides some background in relation to the 2008 Halcrow Report and the Scottish Government's 'Surface Water Management Plans' initiative.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members note this report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In 2008 Halcrow provided a report to the Council outlining some potential solutions to reduce the risk of flooding from the Millknowe and Balegreggan catchments. These consisted of combinations of storage in the upper catchments and increasing flow capacity in the pipework in Dalaruan Street and High Street. To increase the storage in the rural part of the catchment, Halcrow identified that embankments across the line of the burns would need to be constructed to effectively provide a dam in time of heavy rainfall. These options had an estimated capital expenditure project cost ranging between £2.1 and £4.7m at 2008 prices. Annual maintenance costs would be over and above these figures. It is expected that any of these solutions would take several years to take to tender readiness including the various consents required, noting also that landowners may not be immediately ready to agree to their ground being used. There is currently no funding in place to deliver solutions nor to develop a scheme to tender readiness.

3.2 Quite clearly, a permanently engineered solution, which deals with surface water flooding in Campbeltown, is some years away and would require significant funding. As Members are aware, surface water flooding in Campbeltown has generally occurred after over-topping of surface water at Millknowe; on these occasions, water flows onto the A83 public road, then down to the low point at Saddell Street and John Street causing flooding in that area. This report provides an update on initiatives which may alleviate the effects of flooding in and around the Saddell Street / John Street area of the town.

4. DETAIL

4.1 As discussed with Members at the February Area Committee, on the basis that flooding will continue to occur from time to time, options are being considered, which could reduce the effects of flooding in Campbeltown. Options fall into three broad categories:-

- Pumping – Temporary or permanent pipework and pump to remove flood water from the Saddell Street and John Street area to the Esplanade. Pumping should affect water levels at property frontages and reduce the threat of flooding. Pumping solutions are being progressed to establish costs, maintenance and operational implications.

- Vertical Realignment of footway / carriageway – A survey will be carried out in April at Saddell Street and John Street (the low point in the town) to ascertain if a change in kerb levels could divert water away from properties.

- Physical protection of properties – Advice has been provided to property owners regarding possible measures which they could take, on the basis that the installation of physical barriers at properties will provide some protection against flood water.

4.2 The three options listed in 4.1 above will not stop flooding in Campbeltown, but they will provide some additional protection against the effects of flooding.

4.3 At the end of 2015, the Scottish Government will be publishing its draft first 6 year strategy for reducing flood risk. The actions contained in it will be based on a combination flood risk, estimated damages caused by flooding, costs to reduce flood risks (such as capital works) and will be ranked on a nationwide basis. It is anticipated that in the main, the actions for the first six year cycle will centre around schemes that are already 'shovel ready'. At present, the method of funding these has not been confirmed. The Council will be taking forward several Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP) within its area including one for Campbeltown. These will be prepared in conjunction with Scottish Water. SEPA have advised that output from all the SWMPs being undertaken will assist in the preparation of the second 6 year national strategy for reducing flood risk. The implementation phase of it starts in 2022.

4.4 On the basis of information provided in sections 3.1 and 4.3 of this report, a decision has been taken not to arrange for an external review of the Halcrow Report.

4.5 Council staff are continuing to maintain and monitor the existing surface water system to ensure that it is capable of working at its optimum capacity.

4.6 The Scottish Flood Forum has provided support to residents affected by flooding and steps will be taken to ensure that ongoing support is available where required.

4.7 The appendix to this report provides a further update on other flood-related matters in Campbeltown.

5. CONCLUSION

This report provides information on action to be taken to reduce the effects of surface water flooding in Campbeltown.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1	Policy	The Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act empowers the Council, for the purpose of preventing the flooding of land, to maintain any watercourse or ancillary apparatus.
6.2	Financial	Funding for any related works, following investigations mentioned in this report, will have to be identified.
6.3	Legal	None
6.4	HR	None
6.5	Equalities	None
6.6	Risk	The works considered in this report will not reduce the risk of flooding, but will reduce the effects of flooding.
6.7	Customer Services	None

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APPENDIX

Update following-on from February Area Committee

Flooding–related Initiatives

- The Council's in Emergency Planning Team are arranging a meeting in mid-April, with emergency response agencies in the town, to discuss management arrangements during flooding to ensure that these incidents are dealt with as efficiently as possible.

- A site meeting was held with Members to review flooding locations in Campbeltown prior to the February Area Committee. At the meeting, members were provided with plans of water courses, areas being flooded and the direction and route of flood water. The telemetry stations were visited and details of their use and operation provided to members on site.

- The Scottish Flood Forum has been active in Campbeltown; meetings have been held with affected residents, information on flood resilience and the physical protection of properties has been made available to residents.

- The sewerage system has limited capacity. Surface water enters the combined sewerage system through road gullies and, at times of intense rainfall, the sewerage system can become inundated causing further flooding in the centre of the town. Various meetings have been held with Scottish Water in the past and information on pumping in the town has been made readily available by Scottish Water.

- All road gullies around the Saddell Street and John Street areas have been checked out and jetted to ensure that they are running clear.

- To date, the following initiatives have been put in place:-

  a) Telemetry has been installed at culvert entrances – this provides information on rainfall and intake levels.

  b) Text alarms are sent to key staff when water levels hit a pre-set trigger.

  c) Entry grilles are checked regularly and always following a receipt of heavy rainfall.

  d) CCTV surveys and jetting has been carried out on the Milknowe / High Street surface water culvert at regular intervals.

  e) Officers from both 'Roads' and SEPA have met with businesses at Snipefield Industrial Estate to warn against littering from packaging materials due to the threat this causes at culvert grilles.