

# **THE MORAY COUNCIL**

## **MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

**7 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

### **PRESENT**

Councillors J Russell (Chair), J Divers, J Hogg, P Paul, D Ross, M Shand, J Sharp (substituting for Councillor I Ogilvie), D Stewart and A Wright (Deputy Convener) (Ex-Officio).

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors L Bell, I Ogilvie and G McIntyre (Convener) (Ex Officio).

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

The Acting Chief Executive, the Corporate Director (Environmental Services), the Consultancy Manager, the Project Manager, Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme, Ms S Weir (EC Harris), Ms B Hellett & Ms D Halliday (Royal Haskoning), Mr D Russell, Morrisons, Mr A McEachan, Principal Solicitor (Commercial and Conveyancing) and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

## **1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS**

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillor's Code of Conduct the meeting noted there were no declarations from Group Leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how members will vote on any item on the agenda.

## **2. WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

There were no written questions

## **3. ELGIN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRESS**

During consideration of this item Councillor Paul joined the meeting.

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme. There was appended to the report a copy of the Monitoring Report No 03 covering the period June to the end of July 2011. There was tabled at the meeting a copy of the Elgin Flood Prevention Scheme Target Cost Risk Registers.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note Monitoring Report No 03 for the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme 2007 for June to end of July 2011; and
- (ii) report progress to the Council.

#### **4. ROTHES FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME: PROGRESS**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme. There was appended to the report a copy of the Monitoring Report No 17 covering the period June to the end of July 2011.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note Monitoring Report No 17 for the Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period June to the end of July 2011; and
- (ii) report progress to the Council

#### **5. FORRES (RIVER FINDHORN & PILMUIR) FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRESS**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the progress for Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 24 August 2011; and
- (ii) report progress to the Council.

#### **6. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: FINANCIAL MONITORING SUMMARY**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Sub Committee on the Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes in respect of financial monitoring.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed note:-

- (i) the estimated capital cost of schemes that accords with the approved Financial Plan as far as can be ascertained at this point as shown in Appendix A to this report; and

- (ii) that compensation costs for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Scheme remain a concern at this time and will be decided by the Lands Tribunal for Scotland.

## **7. COMMUNICATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Chief Executive presenting a draft communication and stakeholder engagement plan for the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme and seeking delegated authority to implement it. There were appended to the report a copy of the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan : 2011-2015 and a copy of the Elgin Flood alleviation Scheme Stakeholder Engagement Update.

The meeting noted that at £86 million the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme is the largest project of its kind in Scotland and the biggest single project undertaken by the Moray Council and one of the biggest single projects currently being undertaken by a public body in Scotland. Given the history of flooding in Moray and the resultant human misery, in promoting the scheme the Council has experienced criticism for perceived delays in getting a scheme built and the cost of design and preparation work to date. Engagement with stakeholders has identified that they have a reasonable and legitimate expectation that the Council will ensure that disruption to businesses and residents is minimised by proper notice and that there are regular frequent, up to date and adequate communications with them on the progress of the scheme using the most effective means at the Council's disposal.

Following discussion, during which officers responded to Members questions, the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note that the two documents appended to the report will be combined into one document and amended taking into account the many criticisms expressed at the meeting;
- (ii) grant delegated authority to the Acting Chief Executive and the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) to implement the revised plan in consultation with all elected members in Wards affected by the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme; and
- (iii) that a report on the cost of implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

## **8. QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions asked.