

REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 21 JANUARY 2010

SUBJECT: MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES

BY: HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Group of the status of flood alleviation schemes for Elgin and the River Findhorn, and to identify any opportunities for involvement by the Group in the implementation of those flood alleviation schemes.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Group is asked to note the status of the flood schemes, and to identify any matters which they might wish to have considered in any future opportunities to supplement the implementation of the schemes.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme has been agreed by The Moray Council, has been the subject of a Flood Order Inquiry, and the Council has recommended planning permission with a number of planning conditions for the Scheme. Any new proposals, which the Group might wish to have considered might require amendments to the Scheme, and could also affect implementation programmes and costs. Accordingly it would not be desirable to compromise or inhibit the current proposals, but there may be scope to consider supplementary works in addition to those already planned. Any suggestions from the Group would have to be compatible with the overall principles of the Scheme, and the detailed design which is essential to the successful implementation of the Flood Scheme for Elgin.
- 3.2 Whilst the Scheme for the Findhorn has not been finalised and formally approved, it has been progressed to a stage whereby it focuses on essential design and cost factors. At this stage there would not be scope for changes, but the Group could consider what, if any, supplementary features could be considered in addition to the essential implementation of the Scheme.
- 3.3 The opportunities for the Group to make suggestions for and have relevant matters included in the details of flood alleviation schemes will depend on the compatibility with the general principles of schemes, budgets and other constraints already agreed by the Council. It is likely that any suggestions by the Group for additional elements to either Scheme will involve adding to the current designs, after or at implementation, and finding additional budgets as the finance for both Schemes has to be allocated to the essential flood alleviation and prevention measures.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) COMMUNITY PLAN, THEME PLANS, PARTNER PLANS

The Flood Alleviation Schemes for Elgin and Findhorn have been agreed in detail or principle by The Moray Council, there may be scope for

involvement by the Group in considering suggestions which are supplementary to the currently agreed proposals of those Schemes.

(b) POLICY AND LEGAL

Any suggestions or involvement by the Group would require to be compatible with the planning permissions and conditions already approved or proposed, and with the overall consents and legal obligations associated with each Scheme.

(c) RESOURCES

If any suggestions or involvement by the Group are taken forward as supplements to the Schemes, this may involve staff resources of Moray Flood Alleviation and other staff being allocated to pursue those suggestions. The suggestions by the Group may also have financial implications for the details of the Schemes, and this would have to be considered as additional to the budget for each Scheme, as it is unlikely that the current budgets could be re-allocated from essential design matters .

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Opportunities may exist for the Group to have an involvement in and make suggestions for supplementary proposals which could be added to implementation of the Flood Alleviation Schemes for Elgin and Findhorn. Any comments of suggestions from the Group would have to be compatible with the details and proposals already approved, and be acceptable in terms of meeting the objectives, timescales and financial obligations of the Council, and this is likely to require additional budgets and staff input.**

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Background Papers:

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