

**REPORT TO: AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON 16
DECEMBER 2009**

SUBJECT: FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (EXCLUDING MAJOR SCHEMES)

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the performance of Flood Risk Management (Excluding Major Schemes).
- 1.2 The report is submitted to the Committee in terms of Section D (23) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the functions of the Council under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 as amended by the Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee note the performance of Flood Risk Management (Excluding Major Schemes).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Capital Plan before 2009/10 included a number of minor flood alleviation schemes. The schemes were included in the Capital Plan with the understanding that 80% of funding would be met by the Scottish Government.
- 3.2 The Council was allocated additional funds within the block grant in accordance with the Single Outcome Agreement because of its programme of major schemes. These minor schemes would not be grant funded and the work would be 100% funded by the Council.
- 3.3 A programme of minor schemes was not carried forward into the Capital Plan for 2009/10.
- 3.4 The Special Meeting of Moray Council held on 12 February 2009 (para 3 (iii) of the Minute refers) approved the Capital Plan for 2009/10.

Brief Introduction

- 3.5 The Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan states that flood alleviation is a priority for the Council.
- 3.6 In September and November 2009 there was flooding of many areas of Moray, which prompted a review of flood risk management with respect to minor capital schemes.

The Objective of the Strategy

- 3.7 The strategy aims to deliver minor schemes to reduce flood risk to a number of communities.

Timescales that apply

- 3.8 The details of the proposals and timescales are attached at **Appendix 1**.

Achievements within the expected timescales

- 3.9 The timescales are in the future.

Evidence to support the impact of the achieving or progressing the project / area of work / strategy

- 3.10 For each scheme the number of properties affected and economic benefit will be determined.
- 3.11 This is future work. Completed schemes have saved homes and businesses in Rafford, Lhanbryde and Forres.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

- (i) Promoting flood alleviation schemes is Local Priority 7 in the Single Outcome Agreement. This is relevant to National Outcome 12 – “We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations”.
- (ii) The Corporate Development Plan 2004 – 2007 states that providing effective flood alleviation schemes is a priority, and the Community Plan reiterates this. The Departmental Service Improvement Plan sets out targets for the schemes.

(b) Policy and Legal

The proposals form part of the Council's statutory duty in regard to Best Value, value for money and probity.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Schemes that could be delivered in financial year 2010/ 2011

The following schemes could be designed and constructed following budget approval using in-house engineering capacity.

Description	Current Estimate
Fife Keith Flood Alleviation Scheme	40,000
Newmill – upgrade to drainage infrastructure	50,000
Drybridge Flood Alleviation Scheme	50,000
Portessie, Moray View Court	30,000
Arradoul Flood Alleviation Scheme	50,000
TOTAL	£ 220,000

Schemes requiring further investigation

The remaining schemes will require further investigation to establish the Councils responsibility in relation to funding option appraisal, benefits, design and funding required.

Description	Current Estimate
Keith, Isla Bank Mills Flood Alleviation Scheme	300,000
Garmouth Flood Alleviation Scheme	600,000
Buckie Flood Alleviation Scheme	400,000
Newmill Land Drainage Flood Alleviation Scheme	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£ 2,800,000

At this early stage, risk is high to most of the schemes because of insufficient information. Uncertainty surrounds economic justification.

The ability of existing staff resources to absorb the additional work will depend on overall workload and skills required.

A review of flood risk management staffing resources will be carried out when more detailed information is available on the Council's duties under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

There are no property implications.

(d) Consultations

The Chief Financial Officer and Alasdair McEachan, Principal Solicitor (Commercial and Conveyancing) were consulted and the comments received have been included in the report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Flood alleviation schemes in Moray have shown benefits by saving homes and businesses from flooding in recent months. Furthermore, there is an improvement in quality of life for those affected by or living in constant fear of flooding.**

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Background Papers:
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