

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: UPDATE REPORT ON MEASURES TO MANAGE FLOOD RISK
Meeting: ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Date: 16 MARCH 2010
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall the previous report to this Committee on 19 January 2010, which described of the challenges of implementing the new Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. This report seeks to update members on the measures currently being progressed to manage flood risk within the Falkirk Council area.

2 STUDIES OF FLOOD RISK

- 2.1 Under their Term Consultancy agreement, Halcrow have been asked to undertake modelling of flood events from the Forth Estuary in the Grangemouth Area. This project will allow Falkirk Council to make an informed assessment of the properties at risk of flooding. This will give a far clearer picture than the SEPA flood maps, which are only indicative and do not take account of existing flood defences. The first stage of this process will be to produce a statement of risk for the town. This is due for completion in May 2010, and will be one step in the process of working towards providing a flood protection scheme for the town.
- 2.2 Halcrow are also investigating the effectiveness of a proposed Flood Protection Scheme for the Chapel Burn, Larbert, following the final surface water drainage design of the Hospital which has changed the natural drainage of the Chapel Burn catchment. Previous studies have identified an area of possible attenuation on the new Forth Valley Acute Hospital site. This report should also be finalised in May and will assess the cost-benefit element of progressing the scheme to implementation.

3 SUMMARY OF WORKS

- 3.1 **The Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme.** Work is due to restart in April to complete the third and final phase of the scheme, this final stage, costing £1.8m will concentrate on the harbour area. With an overall cost of £5.3m the completion of the scheme in September 2010 will see the town given consistent and increased protection from the threat of coastal flooding, from Corbiehall in the west to Grangepans in the east.

- 3.2 **Anchor (Avon) Burn, Dunipace.** Works to increase the protection from flooding were completed in 2008. This was enhanced in 2010 by the creation of a swale to carry floodwater away from the area in the event of the scheme being breached during an extreme event.
- 3.3 **Westquarter Burn, Langton Road, Westquarter.** Significant erosion of the banking of the burn took place late in 2009. Works to stabilise the banking will be scheduled for the summer of 2010, when flow conditions allow. At present the situation is being monitored and safety fencing has been erected.
- 3.4 **Checkbar,** Falkirk Council is liaising with BEAR Scotland Ltd with regard to addressing flooding issues at checkbar (A883/M876 slip). Initial CCTV investigations have now taken place, however, the findings have not yet been passed to Falkirk Council.
- 3.5 Falkirk Council is currently working with both Network Rail and British Waterways with regard to abandoning a culvert under the Union Canal at Bantaskine. Emergency works took place in November 2009 to redirect this watercourse to the canal due to fears that erosion under the canal could lead to a failure. Design Solutions for a permanent solution are currently being considered.
- 3.6 Through the revenue budget allocation, numerous smaller, although no less important works have been completed. Fallen Trees posing a threat to flow have been removed from the River Carron, WestQuarter and Polmont Burns. Drainage improvements have been made to alleviate flooding in Southfield Drive, Slamannan. Clearance works of overgrown ditches has taken place and culverts cleared to increase capacity and remove blockages. CCTV investigations have been commissioned to gain a greater understanding of problems, to allow solutions to be developed.
- 3.7 Maintenance and inspection regimes of screens are scheduled and watercourse assessments are ongoing. This allows staff to identify problems early and take appropriate action.

4 Flood Risk Management Act (Scotland) 2009

- 4.1 Staff within the Roads and Development Unit continue to work towards implementing the 2009 Act. Through active involvement with SEPA, The Scottish Government and the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland, flooding working group, it is envisaged that Falkirk Council will take a proactive role in progressing Flood Risk Management within the Forth Area. SEPA as the competent authority for flooding will be rolling out a series of consultations to progress the formulation of guidance, and the setting of Local Flood Risk Management Plan boundaries. They plan to start this process within the next few months.
- 4.2 The development of the flood risk maps to inform the district plans will be the mechanism for assessing and prioritising risk to many of our other commitments, such as South Alloa and Blackness.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to;

- 5.1 note the measures currently being pursued by Falkirk Council to address flood risk within the Falkirk area.**

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Director of Development Services

Date: 8th March 2010

Contact Officer: Sharon Smith, Flood Prevention Officer, ext 1029

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1) Environment and Community Safety Report dated 19th January 2010.