

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 19 JANUARY 2016

MONTROSE BEACH STUDY – UPDATE

1. Current Position

- 1.1 Further to the reporting in Agenda Item No 4 - Report No 460/14 - Schedule 2 - Item 1.6, the Head of Technical and Property Services has continued to implement the findings of the Phase 2 Report titled, "Management of Erosion at Montrose" and the proposals for Phase 3 of the project.
- 1.2 This information note provides an update on key aspects of the Phase 3 activities.

2. Sediment Tracing

- 2.1 The sediment tracing study identified has commenced to determine how effective any near-shore recharge operations would be, i.e. direct deposition of sediment material close to the beach frontage. Montrose Port Authority and stakeholder engagement activities have also continued as detailed below.
- 2.2 The dune management using sand fencing has been reinstated following storm damage over the 2014/2015 winter period. Following its success in accumulating a fresh toe to the dunes and providing some protection from the above winter storm, the reinstated sections of fencing have been repositioned to allow further continuation of this sand accumulation (or accretion), ahead of any future storms.
- 2.3 The latest formal Stakeholder Group meeting was held on 30 April 2015. In addition, Angus Council have been in regular communication with both Montrose Port Authority and Marine Scotland, most notably for the preparation of the Port's license for their maintenance dredging. Due to the proposed sediment tracing study Marine Scotland has requested a review of the current Port dredging licence following completion of the study to ensure the current licence permissions are still the best possible environmental option.
- 2.4 A trial near-shore discharge of sedimentary material dredged from the South Esk channel commenced in April 2015. This included sediment tracing to investigate the movement of the dredged material (sand) for a six-month period. Angus Council, in partnership with Montrose Port Authority, dredged an agreed quantity of sediment from the Port's navigation channel for use in the study. This sediment was deposited at targeted near-shore locations identified by Angus Council and their specialist consultant Partrac Ltd, who have then been recording and analysing the findings. The tracing aims to identify the quantity, direction and rate of longshore transport of the deposited sediment.
- 2.5 Initial analysis of the results from over the spring and summer months of 2015 has identified movement of the sediment tracers from the dumping location onto the lower mid-foreshore area. However, there has been a lack of significant wave and tidal action over this period. In order for a fully representative conclusion from the study, the sampling and monitoring period has therefore been extended to provide a full calendar year of results, and most critically coverage of the winter storm period where wave energy is at its highest. The cost of extending the study will be contained within the available Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs

budget for these measures. Marine Scotland and the Crown Estate have both approved the extension to the study.

3. Other Measures

3.1 Beach scraping works, for which Angus Council have a three year licence, have been postponed temporarily due to the identification of sediment tracers on the beach to reduce any interference in the study's findings.

3.2 Beach fencing has also been re-established as noted above.

3.3 Officers continue to work with Montrose Golf Links Committee in the development of the golf course realignment. Officers have attended a number of committee meetings to discuss the proposals and also meetings with the golf club members to discuss the proposals and ongoing erosion problems and the impact for the course.

4. Conclusion

1.1 A report on the findings of the completed sediment tracing study along with an update on other measures and meetings with stakeholders will be presented to a future committee.

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