

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2017

MONTROSE BEACH STUDY - UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF TECHNICAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report updates the Committee on progress of implementation of measures to manage beach erosion at Montrose.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the update on progress of implementation of measures to manage beach erosion at Montrose; and
- (ii) approves the proposals for future continuation of the implementation of measures to manage beach erosion at Montrose by the Head of Technical and Property Services, as funding allocations allow.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are prosperous and fair;
- Our communities are safe and strong;
- Our communities are sustainable; and
- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Reference is made to Agenda Item No. 12 – Report 399/16 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 15 November 2016; along with Agenda Item No 4 - Report No 15/16 - Schedule 6 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 19 January 2016; Agenda Item No 4 - Report No 460/14 - Schedule 2 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 18 November 2014; and Report No 139/13 and Report 687/11 of the Infrastructure Services Committees of 5 March 2013 and 11 October 2011 respectively.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Montrose Beach Management Plan

4.1.1 The measures proposed are intended to slow down the rate of erosion in the dune system by promoting an increase in the height of the upper beach to reduce the susceptibility of the dune toe to wave attack without detrimentally impeding long-shore sediment transport.

4.1.2 A series of potential measures to manage the erosion within the bay were highlighted and progress made to date on these as reported previously to committee (reference Report 399/16; Report No 460/14 - Schedule 2; Report No 139/13 and Report 687/11).

4.1.3 The measures can be summarised (reference paragraph 4.3 of Report 687/11) as:

- Bathymetric Surveys & Programme of Beach Profile Monitoring

- A - Sediment Management
- B - One Off Direct Shoreface Recharge
- C - Beach Control Structures
- D - Dune Management

4.1.4 Subject to the findings of further studies – see below, the above Montrose Beach Management Plan remains current.

4.1.5 In the meantime, early involvement of a specialist consultant Partrac commenced in June 2017. This is to support Angus Council in the identification of the locations, to identify the quantity, direction and rate of longshore transport of the deposited sediment, and to record and analyse the findings.

4.2 Flood Protection Study for Montrose

4.2.1 The Flood Protection Study for Montrose is an action for the council under the Local Flood Risk Management Plan (reference Report 87/16). These studies will seek to identify what flood protection schemes/works (which include coastal protection) are identified for prioritisation for Scottish Government funding in the second six-year flood risk management planning cycle from 2022. The Flood Protection Study for Montrose will therefore give consideration to the actions required to manage and reduce flood risk and manage coastal protection.

4.2.2 The Flood Protection Study for Montrose was awarded to consultant, Aecom, on 31 July 2017. The contract is due for completion by June 2019 in advance of the submission of the outputs from the study for prioritisation of actions for the 2022-28 flood risk management plan cycle by SEPA by December 2019.

4.2.3 The cost of the study represents a £110,000 commitment from Angus Council from funding received from Scottish Government for the delivery of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan actions between 2016 and 2022.

4.3 Montrose Port Authority Study

4.3.1 Montrose Port Authority (MPA) commissioned a separate study by consultant, ABMmer to review the available existing coastal information for the Port navigation and surrounding coastline. The study makes suggestions for the ongoing management of the shoreline and navigation channel.

4.3.2 Principally, the opportunity to use maintenance dredge material arising as beach nourishment within Montrose Bay is accepted as having benefits to beach erosion. Further investigation and modelling of the sediment transport to 'optimise the location of any future beneficial disposal with respect to benefit the Montrose Golf Links Limited (MGLL) and minimise the risk of adverse effects on the dredge commitment of the Port of Montrose'.

4.3.3 It is understood that Board approval by MPA of the above as a commitment for the Port to be involved in a beach replenishment programme in principle is being sought.

4.4 Sediment Management Study

4.4.1 As previously reported (see Report 399/16) and detailed above in section 4.1.5, early involvement of a specialist consultant Partrac commenced in June 2017. The Sediment Management Study will be used to inform proposals for a beach replenishment programme and development of actions in the Flood Protection Study for Montrose.

4.5 National Coastal Change Assessment

4.5.1 The National Coastal Change Assessment (NCAA) was published by Scottish Government on 4 August 2017. The findings of the NCAA are fully aligned with the numerous studies that informed the Montrose Beach Management Plan. It is understood that the next stages of the NCAA will seek to inform policy making in relation to coastal erosion.

4.5.2 In recent months, before and in particular after the NCAA was published, there has been much correspondence with Scottish Ministers and interest from local MSPs and MP on the

coastal erosion at Montrose. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham MSP visited Montrose Beach on 15 August 2017. The potential benefits of a beach nourishment programme were discussed during the visit.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that as part of the Flood Protection Study for Montrose (see paragraph 4.2 above) and Sediment Management Study (see paragraph 4.4 above), early consideration be given to the development of detailed options for a beach nourishment programme.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the Montrose Beach Study Stakeholder Group, which includes MPA, GSK Glaxosmithkline Plc), Marine Scotland, SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage), and MGLL continue to be used as a sounding panel and means to share information on the coastal processes; ongoing and future studies; and the future continuation of the implementation of measures in Montrose Beach Management Plan.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the exploration of all funding options be continued to support the implementation of Montrose Beach Management Plan measures, including additional support from Scottish Government, the council through its budget setting process, from the Stakeholder Group members and also from the wider community.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As previously reported (see Report 399/16), up until 2016/17 the council's budgetary commitment to the Montrose Beach Study since 2011/12 amounted to £386,000 with a further commitment of £140,000 having been made in the delivery of works, resulting from damage from Storm Frank over the winter 2016/17.
- 6.2 A contribution of £50,000 to the delivery of the beach management plan measures, as detailed in this report, has been received from the Montrose Common Good Fund for 2017/18.
- 6.2 The costs for the Flood Protection Study for Montrose are contained within the £192,000 annual allocation within the Technical and Property Services budget for delivery of actions from the approved Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Tay Estuary and Tay Local Plan District (reference Report No 314/16).

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Risks
- 7.1.1 This report identifies a series of proposed measures that form and inform the Montrose Beach Management Plan and seek to provide protection to a number of council assets along the Montrose Beach frontage.
- 7.1.2 The report identifies allocated funding for implementation of only some of these measures. For the proposed measures where funding is being explored, and subject to approval to be sought and confirmed, there will be ongoing coastal protection risks to beach users and council assets. These ongoing coastal protection risks will be monitored and reviewed by officers. Further reports to committee will be submitted as required in due course.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report 399/16, Communities Committee of 15 November 2016
- Report No 314/16, Policy & resources Committee of 30 August 2016
- Report 87/16, Communities Committee of 1 March 2016
- Report No 15/16 - Schedule 6, Communities Committee of 19 January 2016
- Report No 460/14 - Schedule 2, Communities Committee of 18 November 2014
- Report No 139/13, Infrastructure Services Committees of 5 March 2013

- Report 687/11, Infrastructure Services Committees of 11 October 2011.

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