AGENDA ITEM NO 11

REPORT NO 411/22

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 06 DECEMBER 2022
MONTROSE COASTAL EROSION – PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY APPROVAL REQUEST

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on Montrose Coastal Erosion and seeks procurement authority to progress an Environmental Assessment and Options Appraisal as the maximum value exceeds the Chief Officer's procurement delegated authority limits contained in Section 16.8.1 of the Financial Regulations.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

(i) note the award of Nature Restoration Fund funding of £0.35m along with the terms and conditions of this funding as set out in the award letter attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

(ii) authorise procurement of a consultant to complete an Environmental and Options Appraisal based on the concept design to rebuild the damaged dunes using Scotland Excel Framework.

(iii) note that any works recommended by officers taking consideration of the consultants Environment and Options Appraisal will be subject to a further committee report for approval.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN

Angus Council Community Plan

Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

Council Plan

Priority 1: Economy – We want Angus to be a 'go-to' area for businesses
Priority 3: Place – We want our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The dunes at Montrose Bay adjacent to Montrose Golf Course have suffered erosion, the rate of which has accelerated over recent years. Studies by Angus Council and Dynamic Coast have highlighted that dune repair work is urgently required to maintain the dune cordon and reduce the risk of a breach, which would open up flood corridors through the dunes. Studies have shown that if no action is taken, this could happen as soon as 2025 in lower risk areas that are part of Montrose Links Dune ridge. The long-term purpose of the project is to reshape and rebuild the dunes at Montrose Bay that have suffered from extensive erosion and to provide long term beach nourishment.

3.2 Early involvement of a specialist consultant, Partrac, commenced in 2017. This was to support Angus Council in the identification of the locations; identify the quantity, direction and rate of longshore transport of the deposited sediment; and to record and analyse the findings.

3.3 JBA Consulting were appointed in June 2020 to develop management options to reduce erosion to the Montrose dune system. They completed a concept design for the dune build up in 2021,

which proposed reinstating the dunes and nourishing the beach. The concept design has been shared with stakeholders and a range of options for sourcing of the material required for dune build up has been explored.

3.4 The Scottish Government's Dynamic Coast project was developed with the aim of providing a strategic evidence base on the extent of coastal erosion in Scotland. This included improving the evidence on coastal change; improving the awareness of coastal change; and supporting decision-makers to ensure Scotland's coast and assets can adapt to our future climate. Dynamic Coast worked with Nature Scot and Angus Council, to produce the Dynamic Coast: Adaption and Resilience Options for Montrose Bay report, published in 2021. The report investigated the coastal change, flooding and options for managing the erosion. https://www.dynamiccoast.com/files/dc2/_DC2_WS4_Montrose_FINAL.pdf.

3.5 Methods recommended to manage the erosion within the bay using natural flood management techniques were outlined in the Dynamic Coast report. This, along with the JBA report, is the basis on which a solution is being proposed.

3.5.1 The methods recommended can be summarised as:

- Dune and beach recharge – sand material to be imported back in to the bay to replenish the depleted dunes and beach levels
- Long-term dune and beach nourishment – continuing to import sand to nourish the dunes and the beach
- Sediment management – employing methods to retain the beach and dune sand and protect it against further losses.

3.6 **Montrose Port Authority**

3.6.1 As a statutory harbour authority of a Trust Port, Montrose Port Authority (MPA) undertakes regular maintenance dredging of the navigation channels and berths to maintain safe navigable depths. Dredged material has been deposited at the licensed sea deposit site Lunan Bay (Montrose FO 010) using a split hopper barge for over 30 years. A new deposit site within Montrose Bay has been proposed by MPA and trial deposits are taking place at the site with associated monitoring

3.6.2 Angus Council have been in discussion with MPA regarding the possibility of using port dredged material for the works noted in 3.5.1, subject to an assessment of the material's physical and chemical suitability, and obtaining necessary consents from Marine Scotland and The Crown Estate Scotland. This would require an engineering solution to transport material on to the beach, which could be achieved from pumping material direct from a specialist dredger, or via a floating or land-based pipeline. In addition, MPA is considering a capital dredge to deepen the navigation channel, which could provide a source of material suitable for dune and beach replenishment. This project, however, is currently on hold whilst technical investigations are ongoing to determine its viability.

3.7 **Nature Restoration Fund**

3.7.1 An application was made to the Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) in June 2022 to seek funding to support the initial stages of the project. The NRF is funded by Scottish Government in association with Nature Scot and is available for a variety of projects that encourage the restoration of wildlife and habitats on land and sea and address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. The competitive funding element was available in the summer of 2022 and an application was made on behalf of this project for Angus Council.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 On 28 June 2022 Angus Council received confirmation it had been awarded £0.35m from the Nature Restoration Fund. This funding relates to the environmental and options study and dune replenishment works and requires the works to be started in financial year 2022/23. The terms and conditions of this funding are set out for noting in the award letter attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4.2 To progress the works it is proposed to engage a specialist consultant to carry out an environmental appraisal and options study relating to the site for the dune repair works and the

options for sites of material sources. This will include a full appraisal and cost estimate covering each of the options in 5.2 below. A Consultant with suitable environmental appraisal experience is required to complete this part of the works.

4.3 Consultation and engagement with a variety of stakeholders is ongoing. Stakeholders include Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Marine Scotland, Nature Scot, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), MPA and Montrose Golf Links Ltd.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 To address long term erosion at Montrose a two-phase approach is proposed.

- Phase 1 – import sand to build up and reprofile the dunes, refilling in the most vulnerable areas. This phase is necessary to reduce further depletion of the dunes and the risk of flooding.
- Phase 2 – further build up to the dunes and nourishment to the beach. This is a long-term approach to raise the beach profile providing enhanced protection to the dunes.

5.2 A source for sand material needs to be identified. As noted in 3.6.2, discussions with MPA on the use of dredge materials have been ongoing. Due to a delay in MPA's planned large capital dredge, other options are being considered. Options are as follows:

- Maintenance dredge material from MPA which they complete on a regular basis
- North Esk estuary – the proposed works will investigate available excess material
- South Esk estuary – the proposed works will investigate available excess
- St Cyrus Bay – the proposed works will investigate available excess
- Sand from a merchant, transported to the site
- Excess material that has built up at the groynes in front of the GSK complex in Montrose.

5.3 The study noted in 4.2 will consider the sites for source material required for the works.

5.4 **Procurement**

5.4.1 Report No 37/14 approved the use of Scotland Excel for civil engineering sub-consultancy services. Based on this report it is proposed that the procurement of a consultant to complete an environmental and options study will be advertised via Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) under the Scotland Excel Engineering and Technical Consultancy Framework contract. Tender submissions will be based on a 40/60 price/quality split. The quality assessment will include the consultants previous experience on similar projects, personnel proposed to carry out the works, a methodology on how the study will be completed and their quality control plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The cost for Environmental Assessment and Options Appraisal is estimated to be £0.15m and approval for that work is being sought in this report. The results of that work will inform the scope of phase 1 works but a preliminary estimate of costs of £0.650 million has been assumed at this stage.

6.2 The estimated project cost for Phase 1 of the proposal is as follows:-

Consultant feasibility costs incurred:	£0.047m – cost incurred up to 31 March 2022
Environmental and Options Appraisal:	£0.15m – approval being sought in this report
Phase 1 Construction Works:	£0.65m – estimate based on reports completed to date. Costs will be estimated in proposed options report and will be subject to a further report for approval.
Estimated Phase 1 Cost:	**£0.847m**

6.3 Total project funding within the Capital Plan is as follows:-

Capital Funding	£1.063m
Capital Contribution - Coastal Protection / River Flood Alleviation	£0.192m

Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve (Crown Estates)	£0.001m
Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve (Coastal Community Fund)	£0.072m
Coastal Community Fund	£0.066m
Scottish Government General Capital Grant - to be confirmed	£3.2m
Total:	**£4.603m**

The above funding is allowed for in the Council's current Capital Plan, referred to in Report No 227/22. The overall funding however has not been fully secured as there is a reliance of securing £3.2m of funding from Scottish Government. In addition, the Nature Scot Funding referred to in 4.1 above, increased the secured funding by £0.35m, not currently shown in the Capital Plan.

6.4 The current secured funding is sufficient to progress with Phase 1 of the project. As noted within 3.1 above works are required to reduce the risk of a breach which could occur as early as 2025. As noted in 5.1 above this phase is necessary to minimise the risk of flooding.. The scope and estimated costs for Phase 2 will be developed based on the outcome of the Environmental and Options Appraisal and will be subject to future committee reports.

7. RISKS

7.1 Risk Management strategy – Project and procurement risks are being managed in accordance with the Council's Risk Management strategy and being monitored through the established Project Board.

7.2 Project Costs – Phase 1 of the works proposed are based on an allowance only taken from previous consultant reports completed to date. A detailed cost estimate will be produced as part of the future proposed works for procurement.

7.3 Phase 1 of the works is being developed to reinstate any erosion of the existing dunes only. Any improvements and long-term protection of the dunes is required to be developed as a second Phase which does not currently have a financial commitment or a specific solution to provide the necessary works.

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 227/22, 2021/2026 Capital Plan

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