

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 1 APRIL 2025

INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 27 NOVEMBER 2024 TO 24 MARCH 2025

BRECHIN RECOVERY AND REGENERATION

REPORT BY SHARON FAULKNER, DIRECTOR OF HR, OD, DIGITAL ENABLEMENT. IT & BUSINESS SUPPORT

ABSTRACT

This report provides information to members regarding Brechin Recovery and Regeneration as agreed in the report to Communities Committee on 26 November 2024 (ref. [Report 352/24](#)).

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 At its meeting on 26 November 2024, the Communities Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the next stage of work required to develop the shortlist of options for Brechin and Brechin River Street Area (BRSA) and that the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support in their role as chair of Brechin Recovery Group reports regular progress updates to future meetings of the committee; and
- (ii) the formation of an elected member and officer Steering Group to provide oversight of the options appraisal process and approach to engagement and the appointment of the Convenor of the Communities Committee and the three Brechin and Edzell Ward Members to the Steering Group and designated officer representatives.

2. UPDATE ON ACTIONS

- 2.1** Officers have been undertaking work since Storm Babet and this became more focused in November 2024 with the delivery of the two technical reports on housing and flood management which allowed the closer analyses of future options for the BRSA. This work also considered the interrelationship with the wider town underpinned by a cost benefit analysis, in line with the Council's policy on taking a place-based approach.
- 2.2** Four Information sessions were held in Brechin on 21 and 23 November 2024 to provide an overview of the technical reports on flood prevention and housing and allow an opportunity for the community to ask questions. Officers followed up on questions raised by those who attended.
- 2.3** There are two officer groups to support the Steering Group, a co-ordinating group which meets every two weeks and has strategic overview of the actions and a Brechin operational group which also meets every two weeks and is responsible for the ongoing support for the community and delivery of current engagement.
- 2.4** A member/officer Steering Group was set up following the Communities Committee on 27 November 2024 to consider the short list of options arising from the two technical reports. Two meetings of the group took place on 23 January and 4 February 2025 with a workshop on 6 March when the issues

affecting the BRSA were discussed and the options were developed in more detail. Outcomes from the workshop are currently being considered further by an operational group of officers from relevant services to develop the framework for the next steps.

- 2.5** Officers have been continuing to engage with the community via the regular newsletter, updates on the Angus Council Engage HQ site and door to door welfare checks undertaken by housing officers for those residents still living in properties in BRSA. Weekly drop-in sessions are still available to residents at the Crickety in Brechin, where a range of issues are being addressed. Numbers attending vary between 6 and 12 per week depending on the issues that residents are seeking support for.
- 2.6** Officers continue to meet with Scottish Government officials to discuss the progress on future options and to gain support for the work. Scottish Government officials have committed to a meeting in the near future with Angus Council officers and SEPA officials to discuss the options for flood protection and housing.

3. Community Communication and Engagement

- 3.1** Due to the complexity and interconnected nature of the decisions and the future impact on the community, a Community Reference group is to be established in Brechin, to provide a platform for dialogue. While the group will develop the terms of reference the primary purpose would be to:

Support the participation and input from the local community to the:

- **ongoing development of plans for community resilience;**
- **ongoing recovery from Storm Babet;**
- **development of any future flood protection scheme;**
- **exploration of ways to increase dialogue between the council's services regarding decision making in this area.**

Angus Council officers, alongside the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) will support the reference group and develop the relationship between the group and the Council.

- 3.2** Membership of the reference group will be members who represent the diversity of the demographics, interest and knowledge within the community and representatives from community-based organisations and local businesses.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1** The operational group is developing the actions arising from the Steering Group into an action plan. This will address the housing and flood prevention actions alongside the communications and engagement programme and will be assigned to the responsible officers and provide outline timescales.
- 4.2** The Steering Group will meet again on 17 April to consider the next steps of work and the plan for engagement with the community reference group prior to reporting to Communities Committee in relation to further decisions required on 20 May 2025.

- 4.3** Communication with the community will continue prior to reporting to committee in May. An event has been scheduled for 1 May which will focus on resilience including the resilience bus “Flo”. This will involve a drop-in to gather further information from citizens. It is also planned to carry out further check-ins with all residents to establish their thoughts around flood mitigation and to provide an update to them on our next stages before moving into engagement with the Reference Group.

5. REPORT AUTHOR

This report and associated schedules have been compiled by Sharon Faulkner who can be contacted by emailing FaulknerS@angus.gov.uk.