



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Cunninghame House,
Irvine.

6 November 2014

Cabinet

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on **TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2014** at **2.30 p.m.** to consider the undernoted business.

Yours faithfully

Elma Murray

Chief Executive

1. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any declaration of interest in respect of items of business on the agenda.

2. Minutes (Page 7)

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2014 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR DECISION

Reports by the Chief Executive

3. Petition: Fairlie - Safe Roads and Pavements (Page 13)

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of consideration by the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee of the Petition in respect of safe roads and pavements in Fairlie (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

4. Corporate Fraud Team (Page 27)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the establishment of a Corporate Fraud Team (copy enclosed).

5. Welfare Reform Activity in 2014/15 (Page 35)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on welfare reform activity in 2014/15 and progress made against the 2014 to 2017 welfare reform action plan (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Executive Director (Place)

6. Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme Progress Report (Page 55)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Place) on a proposed public consultation on a number of options to mitigate flood risk within the upper Garnock Valley (copy enclosed).

7. Demolition Order - 2 Montgomerie Road, Saltcoats (Page 119)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Place) on the condition of the above property and proposed demolition (copy enclosed).

Reports by Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

8. Planning Controls, Pay Day Lending and Betting Offices - Scottish Government Consultation Paper on Changes to Planning Legislation)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Place) on the consultation from the Scottish Government (copy to follow).

CONTRACTS

9. Award of Contract - Replacement Sheltered Housing Unit, Montgomery Court, Kilbirnie (Page 121)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the works to provide a replacement Sheltered Housing Unit and Amenity Bungalows, Montgomery Court, Stoneyholm Road, Kilbirnie.(copy enclosed).

MINUTES

10. Minutes of Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 24 September 2014 (Page 125)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economies & Communities) on the minutes of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 24 September 2014 (copy enclosed).

11. Minutes of Economic Development & Regeneration Board held on 1 October 2014 (Page 131)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economies & Communities) on the minutes of the Economic Development & Regeneration Board held on 1 October 2014 (copy enclosed).

12. Minutes of 1st Tier JCC and Corporate Health & Safety Group held on 23 October 2014 (Page 137)

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the minutes of the 1st Tier JCC and Corporate Health and Safety Group held on 23 October 2014 (copy enclosed).

13. Urgent Items

Any other item which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Cabinet

Sederunt: **Elected Members**

Willie Gibson (Chair)
Alan Hill (Vice-Chair)
Marie Burns
John Bruce
Anthea Dickson
Tony Gurney
Ruth Maguire

Chair:

Attending:

Apologies:

Meeting Ended:

Cabinet
28 October 2014

IRVINE, 28 October 2014 - At a Meeting of Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, John Bruce, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill and Ruth Maguire; Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus, Ms Elizabeth H. Higon (Church Representatives) Mr Gordon Smith (Teaching Representative) and Nairn MacDonald (Youth Representative).

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive, L. Aird, Interim Head of Finance and S. Humphries, Senior Manager (Revenues and Benefits) (Finance and Corporate Support); Y. Baulk, Head of Service and P. Rowley, Structural Engineer (Place); J. Butcher, Executive Director and S. Quinn, Head of Service (Development) (Education and Youth Employment); D. Hammond, Senior Manager Strategic Planning and Infrastructure (Economy and Communities); J. McCrae, Senior Manager (Criminal Justice) (Health and Social Care Partnership); R. Moore, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and A. Little Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Naill Alexander and Alistair Grimes (Consultants).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson and Mr Mark Fraser.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2014 were confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Report on Statutory Public Consultation on the Proposal to Rezone the West Byrehill Area of Kilwinning from the St Luke's Primary School Catchment to St Winning's Primary School Catchment

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) which provided information on (a) the outcome of the Statutory Public Consultation process (Appendix 1); and (b) the proposed rezoning of the West Byrehill area of Kilwinning from St. Luke's Primary School catchment to St. Winning's Primary School catchment area with effect from August 2015.

That Cabinet agreed to approve the rezone of the West Byrehill area of Kilwinning from St Luke's Primary School catchment to St Winning's Primary School catchment area with effect from August 2015.

4. Attendance, Absence and Exclusions

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) on (a) the publication of the annual Attendance, Absence and Exclusion data; and (b) the tracking and monitoring processes for attendance and exclusions that facilitate the identification of any areas of concern.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- the correlation between high levels of deprivation and higher levels of non-attendance at school;
- a range of approved absences, including those for pupils with support services' appointments;
- the low impact on attendance statistics of children taken out of school for family holidays and that North Ayrshire do not encourage this practice;
- a range of factors that result in the national drop in attendance levels from primary to secondary schools; and
- work to examine the reasons for unauthorised absences.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information set out in the attendance, absence and exclusion data; and (b) approve the targeting of support and resources to improve outcomes for young people.

5. Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) Examination Results 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) on the performance of North Ayrshire schools in the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) examinations of 2014.

The report provided information on (a) the new online tool (INSIGHT) that has replaced the main evaluation tool for schools and education authorities; and (b) the current position in relation to improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy, improving attainment for all, and attainment vs. deprivation (Appendices 2 - 4).

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- the national figures that do not include statistics for non state schools; and
- the new measurement of overall attainment which will provide a total tariff score per pupil.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the content of the report and the achievements of the pupils in this year's SQA examinations; and (b) that a further report will be submitted in the first quarter of 2015 which will comment on the overall performance of the 2014 North Ayrshire Council school leavers as highlighted in INSIGHT's first annual report.

6. Write Off of Tenant Rent Arrears

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) advised of tenant rent arrears and court costs for former Council house tenants; and (b) sought approval to write off irrecoverable amounts.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the write-offs totalling £109,848.85, as detailed in Section 2 of the report.

7. Non Standard Lending

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on research, findings and recommendations arising from work carried out by the short life payday lending working group.

The Cabinet also received a presentation by Consultants on the scale and nature of payday lending in North Ayrshire; the impact on individuals, families and households; alternatives to high cost credit and how Council services and partners might work better together to provide advice and support to customers affected by high cost short term credit.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- a deferred share scheme with First Alliance to increase their ability to lend and retain a capital ratio that meets legislative requirements, facilitating an expansion of their membership and loan book.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the research findings of Non Standard Lending in North Ayrshire; and (b) that officers explore further the recommendations of the payday lending report and bring back a future report to Cabinet.

8. Units 37A and 37B Kyle Road , Irvine Industrial Estate, Irvine

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed disposal of the Units 37A and 37B Kyle Road, Irvine Industrial Estate, Irvine to Charles Buyers and Son Limited.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the disposal of Units 37A and 37B Kyle Road, Irvine Industrial Estate, Irvine to Charles Buyers and Son Limited for the sum £0.145m.

9. Projects Funded from Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) 2014/15

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on a proposed programme of projects to be funded through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) 2014/15, a tax credit scheme which enables the Council as a Landfill Operator to contribute money to projects which meet environmental objectives contained in the Landfill Tax Regulations.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to the future examination of the evaluation criteria values used to score applications.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the programme of projects set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to be funded from the Council's Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) in 2014/15; and (b) delegate authority to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) to award any excess LCF monies from the 2014/15 allocation to any eligible project(s).

10. Community Payback Order - Unpaid Work Requirement

Submitted report by the Director (Health & Social Care Partnership) on (a) the range of work undertaken through Community Payback Order (CPO) in 2013/2014 that benefits the community of North Ayrshire Council; and (b) the draft COP Annual Report for submission to the Scottish Government (Appendix 1).

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the work undertaken in North Ayrshire by offenders placed on Community Payback Order - Unpaid Work Requirements; and (b) approve the Annual Community Payback Report for submission to the Scottish Government.

11. All Ayrshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on progress relating to the development of the Ayrshire Flood Risk Management (FRM) Strategy.

The report outlined (a) the key phases in preparing the draft strategy; (b) the SEPA Characterisation Report (Appendix 1); (c) the Surface Water Management Plans; (d) the Initial Objectives (Appendix 2); and (e) a Long List (Appendix 3) and Short List (Appendix 4) of measures intended to address the objectives.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- the currency of the data, including the original vulnerable flooding areas shown within the SEPA Characterisation Report and work to update the maps illustrating potentially vulnerable areas; and
- consideration of the installation of a water gauge in the north east of Largs to measure the water levels over a period of time.

The Cabinet noted the progress to date on the development of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan for Ayrshire Local Plan District.

12. Improving Children's Outcomes

Submitted report by the Director (Health & Social Care Partnership) on (a) progress in implementing the Improving Children's Outcomes project; (b) details of a community survey and on-line schools survey now underway; (c) gathering of fund mapping information; and (d) information briefings for a range of partners, including CPP partners, Head Teachers, School Co-ordinators, Elected Members and Health and Social Care staff.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to work with teachers to obtain the views of children and young people with disabilities.

The Cabinet noted the progress of the Improving Children's Outcomes Project.

13. Physical Environment Advisory Panel held on 29 September 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the minutes of the Physical Environment Advisory Panel held on 29 September 2014.

Noted.

The meeting ended 4.20 p.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 3

11 November 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Petition: Fairlie - Safe Roads and Pavements**

Purpose: To advise the Cabinet of the outcome of consideration by the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee of the Petition in respect of safe roads and pavements in Fairlie.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet considers the recommendation by the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee that support from North Ayrshire Council be provided in relation to:-

(a) obtaining a 20mph limit through Fairlie by (i) formally writing to Keith Brown, Minister for Transport endorsing this; (ii) chairing a meeting between Transport Scotland and Fairlie to support the 20mph implementation; and (iii) supporting promotional road safety awareness signage;

(b) the implementation and management of a Transport Partnership with major industrial traffic users;

(c) continuing to support the avoidance of Fairlie when considering any traffic impact strategy in relation to industrial planning consent; and

(d) a Bypass for Fairlie.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 8 October 2014, the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee received a report setting out the background to a petition, containing 622 signatures with 38 personal statements from Fairlie residents, in respect of safe roads and pavements in Fairlie. The report is attached as Appendix 1.

- 1.2 The terms of the petition were as follows:-

Road Safety and Industrial Coal Transport Through A78, Main Road, Fairlie, North Ayrshire

We, the residents of Fairlie, have had significant concerns about road safety and the volume of industrial traffic passing through our village, specifically Fergusson Coal Wagons. We know that the road, as a Trunk Road, is the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament, however we write to you [the Chief Executive] about Fergusson Coal and our concerns.

We understand that when Clydeport were granted planning permission to operate a coal platform, it was on the express proviso that all movements in or out are done by sea or rail. We also understand that no such restriction is placed upon the Clydeport lease to Fergusson Coal, who have significant and ever increasing volumes of traffic passing through Fairlie from 05:30 until 20:30.

This traffic is causing grave distress to the villagers, with serious concerns about the safety of the road and the disruption to the lives of the villagers through noise and pollution. Fairlie is not suitable for this level of industrial traffic due to the restricted road widths and lack of safe pavement.

North Ayrshire Council paid for our village to be supported by Ayrshire 21 and the top 3 issues that came out of the community consultation were road safety and impact of industrial Coal Wagons (noise and pollution).

We now seek your urgent attention to improve the safety and stress caused by this industrial traffic. Specifically:

- 1. Ferguson coal Wagons MUST NOT pass through Fairlie - the business must urgently find other means of transport.**
- 2. Future Planning Consent MUST restrict industrial traffic through Fairlie as is the case of the wind turbine construction."**

- 1.3 The Executive Director (Economy and Communities) provided a briefing note on the background to the matter and responding to the planning considerations within the Petition. The Briefing Note is attached at Appendix 2.

2. Current Position

2.1 The Lead Petitioner expressed concerns regarding:-

- the village of Fairlie being cut in half by the A78 trunk road;
- the narrow road which means that lorries and buses drive too close to the pavement;
- the pavements themselves are narrow and pedestrians are trapped by high walls;
- 18 months ago there were 15 coal lorries recorded passing through Fairlie per day and today there are 15 coal lorries passing through per hour;
- the lorries pass through the village starting at 4.30am until 21.30pm which is affecting the village sleep cycles and causing significant stress to residents;
- the issue of coal dust in bus stops and on cars;
- the incident which took place on Valentines Day 2013 resulting in a fatality;
- that villagers are unable to enjoy healthy lifestyles; and
- the targets of the Group in relation to speed limits and the management of industrial traffic in Fairlie.

2.2 In conclusion, the Petitioners asked the Committee to provide assistance in relation to:-

- obtaining a 20mph limit through Fairlie by (i) formally writing to Keith Brown, Minister for Transport endorsing this; (ii) chairing a meeting between Transport Scotland and Fairlie to support the 20mph implementation; and (iii) supporting promotional road safety awareness signage;
- the implementation and management of a Transport Partnership with major industrial traffic users;
- continuing to support the avoidance of Fairlie when considering any traffic impact strategy in relation to industrial planning consent; and
- a Bypass for Fairlie.

2.3 Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved that the Committee make a recommendation to the Cabinet that support be provided by North Ayrshire Council as requested in the presentation by the Petitioners.

2.4 There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider the recommendation by the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee that support from North Ayrshire Council be provided in relation to:-
- (a) obtaining a 20mph limit through Fairlie by (i) formally writing to Keith Brown, Minister for Transport endorsing this; (ii) chairing a meeting between Transport Scotland and Fairlie to support the 20mph implementation; and (iii) supporting promotional road safety awareness signage;
 - (b) the implementation and management of a Transport Partnership with major industrial traffic users;
 - (c) continuing to support the avoidance of Fairlie when considering any traffic impact strategy in relation to industrial planning consent; and
 - (d) a Bypass for Fairlie.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 None arising from this report.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 None arising from this report.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 None arising from this report.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The Executive Director (Economy and Communities) has been consulted and provided the briefing note at Appendix 2.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Cabinet requires to consider the recommendation of the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee.



ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference :

For further information please contact Diane McCaw, Committee Services Officer on 01294 324133

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item

8 October 2014

Scrutiny and Petitions Committee

Subject:	Petition in Respect of Fairlie Safe Roads and Pavements
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Purpose:	To advise the Committee of the terms of a petition in respect of safe roads and pavements in Fairlie.
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Recommendation:	It is proposed that the Committee considers the terms of the petition and agrees, or otherwise, to make a recommendation to the Cabinet.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In terms of the Scheme of Administration, the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee has a remit "To receive all petitions and deputations submitted to the Council except those relating to the Council's planning functions, which shall be considered by the Planning Committee. The arrangements for receiving petitions are as set out in Appendix B to the Standing Orders relating to Meetings and Proceedings of the Council and Committees".
- 1.2 This report sets out the background to a petition of some 622 signatures, together with 38 personal statements from Fairlie Residents demonstrating the pact of road safety concerns and the effects on coal traffic.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The terms of the petition are as follows:-

Road Safety and Industrial Coal Transport Through A78, Main Road, Fairlie, North Ayrshire

We, the residents of Fairlie, have had significant concerns about road safety and the volume of industrial traffic passing through our village, specifically Fergusson Coal Wagons. We know that the road, as a Trunk Road, is the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament, however we write to you [the Chief Executive] about Fergusson Coal and our concerns.

We understand that when Clydeport were granted planning permission to operate a coal platform, it was on the express proviso that all movements in or out are done by sea or rail. We also understand that no such restriction is placed upon the Clydeport lease to Fergusson Coal, who have significant and ever increasing volumes of traffic passing through Fairlie from 05:30 until 20:30.

This traffic is causing grave distress to the villagers, with serious concerns about the safety of the road and the disruption to the lives of the villagers through noise and pollution. Fairlie is not suitable for this level of industrial traffic due to the restricted road widths and lack of safe pavement.

North Ayrshire Council paid for our village to be supported by Ayrshire 21 and the top 3 issues that came out of the community consultation were road safety and impact of industrial Coal Wagons (noise and pollution).

We now seek your urgent attention to improve the safety and stress caused by this industrial traffic. Specifically:

- 1. Fergusson coal Wagons MUST NOT pass through Fairlie - the business must urgently find other means of transport.**
 - 2. Future Planning Consent MUST restrict industrial traffic through Fairlie as is the case of the wind turbine construction."**
- 2.2 The Executive Director (Economy and Communities) has provided a briefing note on the background to this matter, which is set out at Appendix 1.**

- 2.3 In terms of the procedure for deadline with petitions and deputations set out in Standing Orders, representatives of the petitioners have been invited to attend the meeting and to identify three spokespersons to address the Committee. Spokespersons should be restricted to addressing the specific points raised in their petition
- 2.4 The spokespersons have, collectively, 10 minutes to address the Committee. This may be extended at the discretion of the Chair.
- 2.5 Once the Committee has heard from the spokespersons for the petitioners, the Chair will invite Members of the Committee to ask questions of the spokespersons.
- 2.6 Officers will be present at the meeting to respond to any questions that Members of the Committee may have.
- 2.7 The Committee will then deliberate and determine the matter.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee considers the terms of the petition and agrees, or otherwise, to make a recommendation to the Cabinet.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 None arising from this report.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 None arising from this report.

Implications for Key Priorities

4.6 None arising from this report.

5. Consultations

5.1 The Executive Director (Economy and Communities) has been consulted and provided the briefing note at Appendix 1.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The Committee is required to consider the terms of the petition.



ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference :

For further information please contact Diane McCaw, Committee Services Officer on telephone number 01294 324133.

Background Papers

Petition

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item

8 October 2014

Scrutiny and Petitions Committee

Subject:	Fairlie Road Safety Petition
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Purpose:	To respond to the Planning considerations within the Petition.
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Recommendation:	Accept the response to the Petition.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 A petition of some 622 signatures, together with 38 personal statements, has been received from Fairlie residents. The petition raises the residents' concerns about road safety and the volume of industrial traffic passing through the village, specifically Fergusson Coal wagons, whilst recognising that the Trunk Road, is the responsibility of Transport Scotland. The petitioners consider that the movement of goods in or out of the Clydeport site is restricted to transportation by sea or rail, that Fairlie is not suitable for the current level of industrial traffic, due to the restricted road widths and lack of safe pavement, and that this traffic is causing grave distress to the villagers, with serious concerns about the safety of the road and the disruption to the lives of the villagers through noise and pollution.
- 1.2 The petitioners seek the Council's urgent attention to improve the safety and stress caused by this industrial traffic, through
- "1. Ferguson coal wagons must not pass through Fairlie - the business must urgently find other means of transport.
2. Future Planning Consent must restrict industrial traffic through Fairlie as is the case of the wind turbine construction."
- 1.3 Fergusson Coal has been operating out of Hunterston Port since 1999. It receives coal from ships docking at the port and it is understood mixes it with coal brought on to the site by lorry. The processed coal is then re-distributed by lorry.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 An application for Outline Planning Permission (ref D/800) for the Ore/Coal Terminal, submitted by British Steel Corporation (BSC), was approved by the Secretary of State for Scotland on 11 June 1973. The Council does not have a copy of the Decision Notice/Letter but from other correspondence it is understood that the permission was granted subject to conditions regarding the following:-
- (i) The design, external appearance and finishes of all works, fixed plant and equipment;
 - (ii) Proposals for the landscaping and screening of the development;
 - (iii) Proposals for the suppression of dust arising from the use of works;
 - (iv) Details of the processes to be carried out and the methods of working when the terminal is in operation;
 - (iv) Proposals for the hours and methods of working during the construction period; and
 - (v) Proposals for the treatment of existing vehicular, pedestrian and agricultural accesses to land outwith the proposed development which are to be affected by the development and for any new access or accesses to the A78 Trunk Road.
- 2.2 A subsequent detailed application for the construction and formation of an Ore/Coal terminal, Stockyard, Rail Out-loading Station and sidings by BSC, (ref W/74/6) was approved by Secretary of State for Scotland by a Decision Letter dated 26 March 1974. The Decision Letter, which we have in our possession, contains conditions, none of which relate to the movement of materials to/from the site by rail only.
- 2.3 As a Port, Class 35 of the General Permitted Development Order 1992 makes generous allowances for the carrying out of activities by statutory undertakers or their lessees in respect of activities in connection with, among other things, the discharging or transport of goods at a dock pier or harbour, without the need for express planning permission. The Fergusson Coal operation, since it involves the discharging and transportation of coal at a port, is permitted development in terms of Class 35.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 In relation to the first point of the petition, as noted above, the movement of goods by road from the port is not restricted by the planning permission. As there is no breach of planning control, there is no action that the Council may take on this matter.
- 3.2 With regard to the second point of the petition regarding future Hunterston developments, the Local Development Plan requires that future developments of a major scale should be subject to an integrated transport study, which would determine the appropriate route for the movement of goods and construction vehicles. Each application for planning permission must be assessed on its merits, having regard to the Local Development Plan and any other material considerations, including representations made in relation to the application.
- 3.3 It is noted that recent approvals for major developments at Hunterston, eg, Offshore Wind Turbine Test Facility and the Western Link Converter Station, were both granted subject to a condition requiring the submission of a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to minimise the impact of the development, including during construction, on the trunk road network. The TMPs require that HGV deliveries associated with these developments are made from the south of the Hunterston roundabout to avoid heavy traffic travelling through Fairlie.
- 3.4 In respect of the concerns expressed in the petition about noise, and nuisance from coal dust. Environmental Health advise that they have no powers to deal with noise from moving traffic on a public road. In respect of the nuisance from coal dust, they advise that there are a number of possible sources of coal dust in Fairlie (transportation, coal terminal, coal stock yard, coal grading yard). Coal dust in this context is controlled by site permitting through the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) regulation and the Council would normally liaise with SEPA on complaints of this type. The petitioners could raise these concerns separately with SEPA. SEPA regulate the coal yard at Hunterston operated by TH Fergusson under a Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit. The company operate a coal screening, grading and bagging process there. The PPC permit for the site requires laden vehicles to be sheeted and to pass through a wheel wash prior to leaving the site. These measures are intended to minimise the coal dust falling from the lorries.

4. Implications

4.1 N/A

5. Consultations

5.1 None Required.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Accept the response to the petition as noted above.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference :

For further information please contact James Miller, Senior Planning
Services Manager on 01294 324315

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 4

11 November 2014

Cabinet

Subject: Corporate Fraud Team

Purpose: To secure Cabinet approval to establish a Corporate Fraud Team.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet approves the establishment of a Corporate Fraud Team as set out at Appendix 1.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council currently investigates Housing Benefit fraud. Responsibility for this will transfer to the Department for Work and Pensions Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) on the 1 February 2015. The investigation of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) fraud will remain with the Council.
- 1.2 A review of the future investigation of council tax reduction and other non-benefit fraud has been carried out and it is proposed to establish a Corporate Fraud Team under the responsibility of the Senior Manager for Internal Audit and Risk Management, as set out at Appendix 1.

2. Current Position

Benefit fraud investigation

- 2.1 The current Benefits Investigation Team structure is outlined in appendix 1:

The team is currently working on a scaled down basis since the Benefits Investigation Team Supervisor, left the Council in April 2014. It is proposed that this post is deleted.
- 2.2 As noted above there is still a requirement for the Council to investigate CTR fraud to maximise the Council's income. CTR is funded by the Council and the Scottish Government and does not attract subsidy.
- 2.3 Recent investigations into council tax fraud has numbered between 500 and 600 annually generating income of between £42k and £51k.

- 2.4 Time spent investigating Housing Benefit fraud will stop once it transfers to SFIS. Investigators will therefore spend more time investigating council tax fraud, which may increase the caseload and the amount of fraud identified.
- 2.5 Audit Scotland's report on the recovery of benefits subsidy in 2012/13 recommended that Councils have a proactive approach which encourages the reporting of fraudulent claims.
- 2.6 Audit Scotland's "benefits performance audit annual update 2013/14" makes specific reference to Dundee City Council's Corporate Fraud and Corruption Policy and a Corporate Fraud Action Plan as good practice. Their Corporate Fraud Team investigates Council Tax Reduction, tenancy fraud and blue badge fraud.
- 2.7 A Benefits Investigation Team acts as a strong fraud deterrent; the current team has successfully promoted an anti-fraud culture over many years, with council tax benefit prosecutions resulting in local publicity. The value of fraud prevention cannot be easily determined but there is no doubt that a reduction in fraud investigations increases the risk of fraud being perpetuated.

Internal Audit

- 2.8 Internal Audit currently has responsibility for investigating fraud and irregularity across the Council. Within the approved audit plan for 2014/15, 115 days has been earmarked for this work. The actual time spent during 2013/14 on investigation work was 109 days.
- 2.9 In addition, the Internal Audit team co-ordinates the National Fraud Initiative exercise for the Council; this work equates to around 15 days' work per annum and this work has been well received. The Internal Audit team consists of:
 - 1 Team Manager;
 - 3 Internal Auditors; and
 - 1 Audit Assistant.
- 2.10 Each FTE member of staff provides around 215 working days per annum.
- 2.11 It is proposed that one Internal Auditor is transferred to lead a Corporate Fraud team reporting directly to the Senior Manager (Internal Audit, Risk and Performance). This would leave a smaller audit team with direct responsibility for planned audit work and audit consultancy and with the necessary independence from operational matters through the Team Manager (Internal Audit).

- 2.12 The auditor who transfers would take 130 days of current audit, fraud and irregularity work to the Corporate Fraud team; reducing the current resources for investigating other fraud. The resource shortfall within the Fraud team would be adjusted to focusing on the highest risk / highest value cases.
- 2.13 The resource reduction within Internal Audit of around 85 days would be met by focussing the audit plan on high and medium risk work and stopping or reducing audit work in areas which have been rated as low or very low risk.
- 2.14 The 5 year audit plan identifies the risk rating of each audit assignment. The number of days earmarked for low or very low risk areas varies from a maximum of 160 days in 2014/15 to a minimum of 70 days in 2017/18.
- 2.15 Any such revision to the Internal Audit plan would require the approval of the Audit Committee.
- 2.16 The creation of a Corporate Fraud team would make best use of the differing but complementary skills of the Internal Auditor and Fraud Investigators. In particular, the fraud investigators have specialist training in interview skills which would enhance the investigations carried out within the Council.
- 2.17 Once the transfer of Housing Benefit fraud investigations to the SFIS is complete, this will provide the opportunity for the Corporate Fraud team to investigate other areas including; single person discount fraud, tenancy fraud, blue badge, council tax second homes and Scottish Welfare Fund.
- 2.18 Three options have been considered:

Option 1: Council staff transfer to Single Fraud Investigation Service. The DWP has stated that staff will transfer to SFIS in accordance with the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice (COSOP) and not TUPE; although an assurance has been received that staff employment rights and benefits would be protected and COSLA has verified this meets the needs of Councils;

Implications

The Council will lose the skills and experience of the Council's investigation staff to the DWP and leave no resource to investigate Council Tax Reduction fraud or Corporate Fraud.

Option 2: Create a Corporate Fraud Team under the responsibility of the Senior Manager Internal Audit and Risk Management;

Implications

The skills and experience of the Benefits Investigators will be retained by the Council and this will improve the quality of Corporate Fraud investigations.

Option 3: Create a Corporate Fraud Team under the responsibility of the Senior Manager Internal Audit and Risk Management with redeployment of the administrative post.

Implications

The Corporate Fraud Team will absorb any administration duties and operate on a scaled down basis.

Recommendation

It is recommended that option 3 is approved by the Cabinet and a Corporate Fraud Team under the responsibility of the Senior Manager Internal Audit and Risk Management is established. The cost of this proposal is set out at Appendix 1.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That the Cabinet approves the establishment of a Corporate Fraud Team as set out at Appendix 1.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The DWP has intimated that its annual administration grant will be reduced by £12m in 2015/16 for those UK local authorities that will transfer to SFIS by the 31 March 2015, which includes the Council; by implication the Council will lose funding of £95,626 (0.79%).

The DWP will provide £400k new burdens funding over 2014/15 and 2015/16 to help Scottish Councils investigate non-benefit fraud for example Council Tax Reduction and Scottish Welfare Fund. The Council's share is estimated at £12,640 (3.16%).

It is not known if the Scottish Government will provide an administrative grant for council tax reduction (CTR) investigations when the DWP administration grant is reduced.

There is a likelihood that SFIS will concentrate on higher value frauds to meet their own performance targets and this may reduce the amount of time spent on Housing Benefit fraud; benefit claims will still be administered by the Council until Universal Credit is implemented and at present 40% subsidy is received for a fraud overpayment; any fraud identified by SFIS has a financial risk for the Council. This will be monitored.

If approved the Corporate Fraud Team would require to be considered as a base budget pressure for 2015/16.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 Deletion of 1 Benefits Investigation Team Supervisor post.

Transfer of 1 Internal Auditor and 2 Benefit Investigation Officers to Corporate Fraud Team.

Redeployment of 1 Benefits Investigation Assistant.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 None

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 None

Implications for Key Priorities

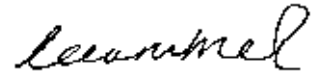
- 4.6 Levels of crime being detected have increased.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The Corporate Management Team was consulted on the proposal.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Cabinet approval of a Corporate Fraud Team will prevent the loss of experienced investigation staff to SFIS and ensure that Council Tax Reduction and other non-benefit fraud is investigated to maximise the income of the Council.



LAURA FRIEL
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference : SH

For further information please contact Stephen Humphries Senior Manager Revenues and Benefits on 01294 310106.

Background Papers

Welfare Reform Act 2012

Appendix 1

Current benefits investigation team & Internal Audit structure

No of FTE Posts	Post	Designation	Section	Hours Per Week	Grade	Mid point annual salary	Annual Salary Costs	28.3% Employers Cost (NI + Superan)	Total Costs
1.00		Auditor	Internal Audit	35	10	£32,724	£32,724	£9,260.89	£41,985
1.00		Benefits Investigation Team Supervisor	Benefits	35	9	£29,065	£29,065	£8,225.40	£37,290
2.00		Benefits Investigators	Benefits	35	7	£22,896	£45,792	£12,959.14	£58,751
1.00		Benefits Investigator Administrative Support	Benefits	35	4	£15,998	£15,998	£4,527.43	£20,525
5.00									£158,552

Proposed Corporate Fraud Team

No of FTE Posts	Post	Designation	Section	Hours Per Week	Grade	Mid point annual salary	Annual Salary Costs	28.3% Employers Cost (NI + Superan)	Total Costs
1.00		Corporate Fraud Team Supervisor	Internal Audit	35	10	£32,724	£32,724	£9,260.89	£41,985
2.00		Corporate Fraud Investigators	Internal Audit	35	7	£22,896	£45,792	£12,959.14	£58,751
3.00									£100,736

Saving £57,816

Reduction in DWP administrative grant £95,626

Net loss £37,810

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 5

11 November 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Welfare Reform activity in 2014/15**

Purpose: To update the Cabinet on welfare reform activity in 2014/15 and progress made against the 2014 to 2017 welfare reform action plan.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet (i) notes welfare reform activity in 2014/15; and (ii) notes the progress made against the 2014 to 2017 welfare reform action plan as set out at Appendix 1 and (iii) increases the threshold on grants from medium to high with immediate effect.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress made in 2014/15 to mitigate the welfare reforms contained in the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and progress made against the Council's welfare reform action plan 2014 to 2017, as set out at Appendix 1.

2. Current Position

2.1 Spare room Subsidy

- 2.1.1 The number of Council tenants currently affected by spare room subsidy at the end of September 2014 is 1,797 compared to 2,130 in September 2013 a reduction of 15.6%. This figure fluctuates regularly as tenants circumstances change and new tenants become affected by under occupation. Only 27 of the 1,797 tenants have still to apply for Discretionary Housing Payment.
- 2.1.2 General rent arrears and rent arrears for under occupied tenants as at end of September 2014 compared to September 2013 are noted below in tables 1 and 2:

Table 1: General rent arrears

Rent arrears	September 2014	September 2013	Change
Number of current tenants	12,879	12,819	0.4%
Number of tenants in arrears	3,475	4,394	-21%
Amount of arrears	£762,327	£846,974	-10%
% of tenants in arrears	27%	34%	-20%

Table 2: Under occupied tenants rent arrears

Under occupation rent arrears	September 2014	September 2013	Change
Number of current tenants	1,797	2,130	-16%
Number of tenants in arrears	583	1,294	-55%
Amount of arrears	£126,321	£240,681	-48%
% of tenants in arrears	32%	61%	-47%

- 2.1.3 The recent Scottish Housing Best Value Network publication on the 2013/14 Housing Charter Results indicates that North Ayrshire is the second best performing Scottish Council in relation to gross rent arrears as a percentage of rent due performance indicator. This is an excellent result given the impact of welfare reform in North Ayrshire.
- 2.1.4 The amount of rent arrears for tenants currently affected by under occupation has reduced by 48% mainly due to DHP being awarded for 2014/15 but there are still tenants with arrears, who did not apply or qualify for a discretionary housing payment during 2013/14. Housing Services is carrying out an analysis of 2013/14 rent arrears to identify how much relates to under occupation.
- 2.1.5 Customer Services and Housing Services Welfare Reform Advice Team successfully hosted a welfare reform question and answer session on Twitter and Facebook on the 18 August 2014. Articles raising the awareness of welfare reform and support provided by the Council continue to be published regularly in the Tenants Newsletter.
- 2.1.6 Craigforth Consultants have recently completed a report into the changing demand for larger council housing. This is currently being considered by Housing Services and a report with proposals will be presented to Cabinet at a future date.

2.2 Scottish Welfare Fund

- 2.2.1 Over the last year, there has been a significant increase in the number of applications and amount awarded across both grants. This is due to the scheme being extended to individuals or households on low income and families in crisis; and a pan Ayrshire promotion campaign. According to the latest Scottish Government figures, at the end of July 2014, the Council's grant expenditure at 44% was the highest in Scotland, compared to a Scottish average of 32%.
- 2.2.2 The number of 2014/15 Scottish Welfare Fund applications and awards as at end of September 2014 compared to September 2013 is shown in table 3 below:

Table 3: Scottish Welfare Fund summary September 2013 to September 2014

	Crisis Grants			Community Care Grants		
	Sept-14	Sept-13	Change	Sept-14	Sept-13	Change
Applications	3,271	1,789	83%	1,424	816	74%
Awards	2,488	1,175	111%	683	415	64%
%age awards made	76%	66%	15%	48%	51%	-5%
Value of awards	£163,788	£59,576	175%	£452,409	£264,735	71%

- 2.2.3 Crisis Grant expenditure is projected to be £349k against a budget of £529k (includes £167,090 funding carried over from 2013/14) resulting in an underspend of £180k; it is proposed that this be transferred to Community Care Grants.
- 2.2.4 Community Care Grant expenditure is projected to be £1.249m against a budget of £880k (includes £174,748 funding carried over from 2013/14); an overspend of £369k; reduced to £189k after including projected £180k Crisis Grant underspend.
- 2.2.5 To mitigate the projected overspend, it is proposed that the threshold for award of grant is increased from medium to high with immediate effect.
- 2.2.6 Average processing times for a crisis grant and community care grant is less than one day and 18 days compared to a target of two days and 15 days respectively. The current application process is under review to improve processing times.

2.3 Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

2.3.1 2014/15 DHP funding of £1.765m has been received:

- DWP £0.408m;
- Scottish Government £0.613m (maximum 250% cap limit); and
- Scottish Government £0.744m (share of £12m to mitigate spare room subsidy).

2.3.2 Current DHP commitment at 6 October 2014 is £1.865m:

- Spare room subsidy £1.794m; and
- Other hardship £0.71m.

2.3.3 Distribution of £3m of Scottish Government funds has been held back pending local authorities confirming their final outturn for 2014/15; the Council's share is estimated at £185,896 and it is anticipated that the current over commitment will be met from this.

2.4 Impact on Local Support Services

2.4.1 The impact of welfare reform on local support services from September 2012 to September 2014 is shown in table 4 below; welfare reform financial issues and welfare rights enquires continue to increase, all others areas show a slight downward trend at 30 September 2014.

Table 4: impact on local support services

Position at end of September 2012 to 2014	Sept 2012	Sept 2013	Sept 2014
Welfare reform financial issues	115	418	476
Welfare Rights enquiries	814	1,440	1,870
Social Services destitution referrals	56	274	268
Housing options	903	1,033	945
Homeless presentations	337	396	384
Housing referral to Money Matters	152	193	186
Money Matters general debt enquiries	362	413	201

2.4.2 The Debt Advisors within the Welfare Reform Advice Team are running budgeting sessions for tenants in the local libraries. Due to the number of people attending these sessions they have been extended to December 2014 and the libraries in Kilbirnie and Bourtreehill are now included. Debt Advice and Budgeting sessions are also running in the Ardrossan Homeless Hostel.

2.4.3 In order to minimise the impact of fuel poverty on tenants, Housing Services has developed links and agreed referral processes with Citrus Energy. All new tenant information packs now contain Citrus Energy Information.

2.4.4 To support tenants access and utilise transactional bank accounts Housing Services have agreed to continue the Financial Access Partnership Agreement with Housing Associations and First Alliance Credit Union for a further year; 74 council tenants are operating active bank accounts.

2.5 Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS)

2.5.1 The Council's migration date to the DWP Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) is 1 February 2015.

2.5.2 A report will be presented to Cabinet on 11 November 2014 to consider the establishment of a corporate fraud team.

2.5.3 Meetings have commenced with the DWP over the transfer of the Council's Housing Benefit fraud caseload from the 1 February 2015, and a joint service level agreement will be put in place.

2.6 Universal Credit

2.6.1 The DWP has notified the Council of its intention to accelerate the roll out of Universal Credit across all UK Jobcentre Plus offices and Council areas, commencing February 2015. This change relates to single claimants, previously claiming Jobseekers Allowance; the caseload is expected to be small. The implementation date for North Ayrshire is anticipated to be April 2015.

2.6.2 A request made by the Scottish Government to the UK Government, to delay the implementation of Universal Credit in Scotland, while new Scottish devolution powers were considered by Lord Smith's Commission, was rejected.

- 2.6.3 The roll out of Universal Credit is around a year earlier than expected. The Council's welfare reform working group continues to work in partnership with the DWP to deliver, "Universal Support - delivered locally". The Council's welfare reform action plan will be brought forward in readiness for this change and ensure a delivery partnership agreement with the DWP is in place to deliver Universal Credit on time in North Ayrshire.
- 2.6.4 Direct payment of the housing element to cover rent charges is expected to be included in the monthly Universal Credit payment made direct to tenants.; increasing the risk of rent arrears. There are currently around 4,500 working age Council tenants on Housing Benefit who may transfer to Universal Credit. A survey and vulnerability matrix is being developed by Housing Services to identify how many of these tenants may meet the DWP criteria for vulnerability and exempt from direct payments. A survey is being piloted in November 2014 and this will be rolled out to all areas during 2015.
- 2.6.5 DWP is considering giving Councils "trusted landlord" status to simplify the alternative payment arrangements under Universal Credit and approve the payment of the housing element direct to landlords where the claimant is vulnerable or in rent arrears. Further guidance is awaited from the DWP on alternative payment arrangements under the accelerated roll-out programme.

2.7 Employment Initiatives

- 2.7.1 Housing Services continue to work in partnership with CEiS to provide employment advice and training to individuals affected by welfare reform and evaluate the outcome of the scheme. The scheme was initially piloted in the Garnock Valley and this has now being rolled out to the Three Towns area.
- 2.7.2 The Council has successfully supported the following number of unemployed people into employment since 2011:

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (YTD)
Number of ED clients entering employment through ED sponsored initiatives (note that ytd 2014/15 is for Q1 only)	1,169	1,019	1,119	284
Number of 16-24 year olds supported into employment by ED services	N/A	318	440	333
Total	1,169	1,337	1,559	617

- 2.7.3 Rocket Science has completed research into the feasibility of the Council running its own employability programmes for Council tenants affected by welfare reform and who are furthest away from the job market due to their skill set and the length of time they have been out of work. This identified 99 households who, because of benefit changes, will receive £20 per week less. Interventions are required to support individuals into work or training as a proactive preventive measure to avoid rent arrears and households incurring debt. The findings and recommendations of the report are under consideration and a future report will be submitted to Cabinet when European Funding allocation is known as this will influence the Council's scale of the initiative.
- 2.7.4 The Council's bid to the Scottish Government's, "building resilience for welfare reform" fund was unsuccessful. The DWP is supportive of the Council's project, which aims to support households that are most impacted by welfare reform by employing "employment coaches" to support households overcome barriers to work and engage mainstream employability services. An application has been submitted to the DWP for Flexible Support Grant funding; if successful a report will be submitted to Cabinet for match funding approval.
- 2.7.5 A visit was made by the Senior Manager Revenues and Benefits and Senior Manager Community Development to West Dunbartonshire Youth Hub on the 29 September 2014; the hub provides 18 to 24 year olds on Jobseekers Allowance with training on IT skills, interview skills and Curriculum Vitae writing, confidence building and support to find sustainable employment. The hub is a partnership between West Dunbartonshire Council, Jobcentre Plus and West College Scotland and it has successfully reduced the number of young people out of work.
- 2.7.6 A local Employment Hub is proposed for North Ayrshire to deliver a range of services to support residents into work. Feasibility work is underway by the Council and DWP to establish a location for the hub. Economy and Communities are moving towards a neighbourhood model for service delivery and a hub fits with this, as it will enable services to be delivered directly in one of the Council's deprived communities either Irvine or the Three Towns, areas most affected by Welfare Reform. It is proposed that services from across the Council, DWP and other partners will provide employment advice to all age groups at a local level. Agreement requires to be reached on funding this initiative.

2.7.7 The Council's Homelessness Service and Economy and Community Services are working in partnership to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce homelessness and repeat homelessness by ensuring tenants and residents have the necessary skills and information to sustain accommodation;
- Minimise crisis by ensuring vulnerable people have the skills necessary to negotiate the benefit system; and
- Improve employment opportunities for homeless people by facilitating and supporting access to a suite of training based on an assessment of their needs.

The following actions have been developed:

- Train homeless staff on the range of training and education opportunities available;
- Review the support matrix to ensure skills development is identified;
- Develop Pathways into training and education;
- Develop monitoring arrangements;
- Work directly with service users to develop a bespoke skills based training course to improve tenancy sustainment; and
- Develop timetable and working group.

2.8 Payday lending

2.8.1 The Council established a short life working group, chaired by Councillor R Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Support and Housing, to review the level of non-standard lending in North Ayrshire and consider evidence from the non-standard industry itself, debt and money advice sector, social enterprise alternatives, commentators, academics and borrowers. A report on the findings and proposed recommendations was submitted to Cabinet on the 28 October 2014.

2.9 Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

2.9.1 PIP is live for all new claimants aged 16 to 64 across the UK. Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants aged under 16 and over 65 are not currently affected and will be invited to claim PIP between October 2015 and the end of 2017.

2.9.2 For existing DLA claimants migration to PIP has only commenced in 12 areas in the UK, including four Postcode areas in Scotland; Dumfries and Galloway, Edinburgh, Galashiels and Motherwell.

2.9.3 The claim process for PIP is problematic; there are reports of delays at every stage and Atos Healthcare and Capita who deliver the Health Professional assessment for each customer are failing to meet target times. Only 25% of claims were decided in the first year, leading DWP to amend Guidance to allow a substantial majority of claims to be decided without a face to face assessment.

2.9.4 The impact of PIP on local authority, residents and service users is considerable. Delays in decision making on PIP is causing financial hardship and anxiety, leading to increased demand for financial support and increased demand for advice and support services.

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Cabinet (i) notes welfare reform activity in 2014/15; and (ii) notes the progress made against the 2014 to 2017 welfare reform action plan as set out at Appendix 1 and (iii) increases the threshold on grants from medium to high with immediate effect.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

4.1 The DWP administration grant for 2015/16 will be cut by £12m as a result of Housing Benefit fraud transferring to SFIS. The reduction of grant on the Council has been confirmed as £95,626 (0.79%).

Human Resource Implications

4.2 None

Legal Implications

4.3 The action plan will ensure that the Council complies with the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

Equality Implications

4.4 None

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

4.5 None

Implications for Key Priorities

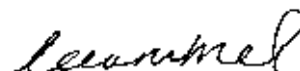
4.6 More vulnerable people are supported within their own communities. Fewer people are living in poverty.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The action plan has been developed by the Corporate Working Group. A welfare reform progress report is provided to the Council's Corporate Management Team on a bi-monthly basis.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Council's welfare reform action plan is being progressed by the Welfare Reform Working Group and the Council is well placed to respond to the reforms contained in the Welfare Reform Act 2012.



LAURA FRIEL
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference : SH

For further information please contact Stephen Humphries, Senior Manager (Revenues and Benefits) on 01294 310106.

Background Papers

Welfare Reform Act 2012

Welfare Reform Action Plan 2014-2017

North Ayrshire Council Welfare Reform Action Plan 2014-17

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contains reforms that impact on North Ayrshire residents, affects the delivery of Council Services and strategies and requires effective partnership working across the local community. This plan details the action the Council will take from 2014 to 2017 to implement the reforms and to mitigate their impact.

Priority	Action	Lead	Target date	Progress
Universal Credit Triage Arrangements	Develop a common Triage approach with DWP and other partners to meet the needs of customers under Universal Credit.	Marianne McManus	2014-15	<p>Map of the provision of digital services, benefit advice, budgeting advice and financial advice in North Ayrshire is being used in partnership with DWP to develop triage arrangements in North Ayrshire.</p> <p>Triage arrangements to be escalated in readiness to deliver the revised DWP Universal Credit roll-out plan.</p>
	Develop partnership arrangements with other services and agencies to support tenants, manage direct payment of Universal Credit and Universal Credit application process.	Marianne McManus	2015-16	<p>Joint presentation with DWP regarding “Universal Support – delivered locally” to be given to the Community Planning Partnership in December.</p> <p>Partnership arrangements to be escalated in readiness to deliver the revised DWP Universal Credit roll-out plan.</p>

Priority	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress
Financial Inclusion and Budgeting Skills	Review current pathways and provision of local information, money advice, financial inclusion, and advocacy services for tenants and develop links with relevant agencies to provide a referral process to meet Universal Credit requirements.	Isobel Kelly	2014-16	<p>Money Matters involved in non-standard lending research. The findings and recommendations reported to Cabinet on 28 October including:</p> <p>Re-examine the relationship between debt and money advice services to ensure they meet the needs of customers and provide best value to North Ayrshire citizens; and</p> <p>Re-assess the resource requirements to extend or refocus the financial capability support (including Money Matters) to the most vulnerable citizens as part of their financial care plan;</p> <p>Housing Services have fortnightly Welfare Reform Drop in Sessions in the Kilwinning, Saltcoats, Bourtreehill and Kilbirnie libraries.</p>

Digital Inclusion	Identify the current digital and customer support capabilities of the Council, Jobcentre Plus and partner organisations and potential for growth under Universal Credit.	Rhona Arthur	2014 to 2017	<p>48,873 computer bookings in the first 5 months of 2014/15 across the 17 libraries and 5,240 Wi-Fi log-on across 11 Wi-Fi sites. Overall usage is 38.67% and machine occupancy is highest at Dalry and Kilbirnie where there are Job Clubs and machine usage is just over 50%.</p> <p>Digital Map exercise underway to identify neighbourhood gaps and possible scope for referrals and service expansion.</p> <p>Redburn has a PC suite with community access. Fullarton has just refurbished their IT suite with community voluntary support and some funding through the Ahead Project; there are plans to start a Job Club. Vineburgh Community Centre refurbishing their PC suite to facilitate access to job seeking information and ICT skills development. Ardeer has an IT suite with Wi-Fi and a couple of voluntary self-help groups attend the centre.</p>
	Raise awareness of internet access and forms, training opportunities and support for all council, housing association and private tenants.	Nicola McQuiston	2014 to 2017	<p>Staff working with tenants to maximize the number accessing on line HB forms in readiness for completion of UC forms on line.</p> <p>Articles included in Tenants Newsletter regarding availability of IT courses and equipment.</p>

Priority	Action	Lead	Target date	Progress
Employability & increasing local employment	Consider Rocket Science Limited research findings into Council employability schemes for claimants furthest away from the job market; and action any recommendations.	Sally Agass	2014 to 2016	<p>Rocket Science research findings and recommendations under consideration.</p> <p>Application submitted to DWP for Flexible Grant Funding for “building resilience welfare reform” project based on employment coaches.</p> <p>Match funding with Nuclear Defence Agency for broader work experience and employability project is under consideration.</p> <p>Visit made to West Dunbartonshire Youth Hub and North Ayrshire model under consideration by Economy and Communities.</p>
DWP Claimant Commitment	Develop partnership arrangements with DWP to support people to meet new claimant commitment and to mitigate against sanctions.	Cat Hester	2014-15	<p>Job Clubs in Irvine, Kilwinning, Dalry, Beith. Computing for Employment in: Irvine, Kilwinning, Dalry, Largs, Ardrossan, Ardeer, Saltcoats and Kilbirnie.</p> <p>Personal Statement days and CV development project Skills on Film proving popular.</p>

Priority	Action	Lead	Target date	Progress
				<p>The Mates, employability support project in Kilbirnie has integrated literacy support for service users.</p> <p>John Muir Award programme at Hillhead has made a very positive start, with 5 participants all aged 20-23.</p> <p>Employability event took place at Radio City, with CEIS Kilbirnie Job centre and SDS. Promoting courses through NAC website and posters in venues across NA and by email to contacts including JCP, Working Links/ CEIS / Ayrshire College.</p> <p>Ayrshire College JCP, CEIS, SDS and NAC- Economy, Communities meet 6 weekly to encourage co-ordinated development of courses which will see a progression route for users; constructive referral routes are being utilised.</p> <p>“Dealing with Benefits Sanctions” leaflet circulated to all Social Work Teams, Housing Welfare Reform Team and partner organisations.</p>

Priority	Action	Lead	Target date	Progress
				Local Jobcentre Plus have agreed to meet with Social Services representative to consider data sharing to avoid ESA sanctions for vulnerable individuals who are known to Social Work.
Universal Credit and Local Support Services Framework	Evaluate the Universal Credit pilots and direct payment sites to identify good practice and identify any risks associated with the implementation of Universal Credit for tenants.	Ailie Craine	2014 to 2016	Universal Credit and Direct Payment Demonstration Project documents continue to be reviewed and learning outcomes recorded and distributed to the welfare reform working group for appropriate action.
	Work in partnership with DWP and Community Planning Partners to deliver the Local Support Services Framework; and manage the migration of the Housing Benefit caseload to the DWP.	Stephen Humphries	2014 to 2017	Quarterly meetings continue to be held with DWP as part of the delivery of the, "Universal Support – delivered locally" framework.
	Review the cost and budget implications direct payment will have on Housing Services Policies and Strategies.	Janeine Barrett	2015 to 2017	The arrangements for direct payment under Universal Credit have yet to be confirmed by the DWP. Councils may be given "trusted landlord" status and this would reduce the impact of direct payment on Housing Services.

Priority	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress
Spare Room Subsidy	Provide advice, assistance and support to tenants affected by under occupation; including DHP, property reclassifications and future accommodation demands.	Nicola McQuiston	2014-16	<p>Share of £12m funding received from the Scottish Government to mitigate spare room subsidy; further £3m deferred until 2014/15 spare room subsidy figures are known.</p> <p>As at end of September 2014 27 tenants of the 1,797 tenants affected have still to apply for DHP.</p>
Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	Review the referral pathways and training requirements with partners to support customers claim PIP.	Isobel Kelly	2014-15	Welfare Rights Officer presented information to Care Providers Forum on new research on the impact of Welfare Reform on Social Care Providers; the WRO will attend the Care Providers Forum on a quarterly basis.
Pay day lending	Conduct review of pay day lending and action recommendations that arise from the Council short life working group.	Stephen Humphries	2014 to 2017	Short life working group established and evidence hearings and focus groups held. Research concluded and findings and recommendations reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2014.

Priority	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress
Scottish Welfare Fund	Manage the cash limited Scottish Welfare Fund and maximise take up.	Linda Walker	2014 to 2017	Since April there has been a significant increase in take-up of the Scottish Welfare Fund across both grants. Cash limited funds continue to be monitored.
Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS)	Manage the migration of benefits investigation workload and staff to SFIS; and review service and funding implications.	Stephen Humphries	2014 to 2016	<p>The date of transfer of the Benefits Investigation Service and Housing Benefit caseload is the 1 February 2015.</p> <p>A Corporate Fraud Team was considered by the CMT on the 15 October 2014.</p> <p>Meetings held with DWP regarding the transfer of Housing Benefit fraud caseload and service level agreement.</p>
Food banks	Carry out research into the growth of food banks in the local community; and deliver an alternative approach to food banks.	Stephen Humphries	2014 to 2017	<p>Connected Communities allocated £28,955 in May 2014 to fund "Make a Meal of It" and to fund interim capital and staffing costs prior to availability of Scottish Government funding for foodbanks.</p> <p>Food poverty strategy under consideration by Connected Communities.</p>

Overarching Issues				
Priority	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress
Training Strategy	Identify all current and future training requirements in relation to welfare reforms, and procure training as required.	Laura Cook	2014-16	Training requirements for Universal Credit are under review due to the proposed acceleration of the DWP Universal Credit roll out programme
Consultation and surveys	Respond to all consultation papers and surveys regarding Welfare Reform.	Welfare Reform Working Group	As required	No consultations received in the second quarter.
Council's Charging Policy	Review of the Council's charging policy as a result of Welfare Reforms for example ESA/IB and SDA migration.	Isobel Kelly	2014-17	Money Matters Team continues to provide initial assessment and calculation of charge; providing an opportunity for take-up of new benefits (PIP) and to address any errors in current awards. Social Services have participated in COSLA annual survey on charging and raised relevant issues, including welfare reform.

Overarching Issues				
Priority	Action	Lead	Target Date	Progress
Performance Indicators	Continue to collate and evaluate baseline indicator data to monitor trends and changes in demand for services.	Ailie Craine	2014 - ongoing	Baseline indicators continue to be collated for 2014/15 and updated on a quarterly basis for all Council services.
Communication Strategy	Develop a Communication Plan for welfare reform including the use of Facebook, Twitter and website.	Claire Duncan	2014 - 2017	<p>Q and A session on welfare reform hosted on council's Twitter and Housing Facebook account on 18th August 2014.</p> <p>Links to welfare reform information are available on the Council's website. Regular articles on Welfare Reform in Quarterly Tenancy Matters newsletter.</p> <p>Communication plans for Universal Credit under review due to the proposed acceleration of the DWP Universal Credit roll out programme.</p>

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 6

11 November 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme Progress Report**

Purpose: To seek the approval of Cabinet to undertake public consultation on a number of options to mitigate flood risk within the upper Garnock Valley.

Recommendation: That Cabinet:-

1. Notes the progress in developing a flood protection scheme for the Upper Garnock Valley;
 2. Agrees that, subject to reaching agreement in principal with appropriate landowners, public consultation be undertaken in respect of options 2a, 7 and 8 as the constituent parts of a full scheme (Option 9);
 3. Agrees that property level protection be developed further should a formal scheme not be confirmed by Government.
-

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, requires the Council, in partnership with SEPA and Scottish Water, to identify flood risk areas and develop sustainable flood management options within North Ayrshire.
- 1.2 There is a long history of flooding in the Garnock Valley with previous studies noting flood events going back to the 1890s. There appears to have been an increase in the frequency of flooding in the study area in recent years, with six notable flood events since the 1990s, the most extreme being the 2008 event in Kilbirnie.
- 1.3 Cabinet have received a number of reports in respect of the developing scheme. Initial public engagement undertaken in 2013 confirmed the local desire for a scheme and that flood storage was the preferred option.
- 1.4 A copy of the appraisal summary report compiled by specialist external advisors is attached at Appendix 1.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 A detailed assessment of the flood flows arising from the upper reaches of the River Garnock and its tributaries has now been completed. This has been used to model the areas at risk of flooding for a number of scenarios ranging from a 1 in 2 year event (most likely but lowest impact) through to a 1 in 200 year event (the most extreme).
- 2.2 Where flooding occurs significant parts of Kilbirnie and Glengarnock are at risk from flooding on a relatively frequent basis. Flood water is shown to spill out of the river in a number of key areas and then flow through the town. Overland flows are regarded as being the key mechanism leading to extensive flooding. There are a number of areas where the flood hazard is Significant, indicating a potential risk to life.
- 2.3 The Powgree Burn is also a source of flood risk on a frequent basis. Water spills out of the burn affecting property, the railway line and a number of streets.
- 2.4 Within Dalry the risk of flooding is mostly limited to the residential housing at Mill Park next to Beith Road. This area is at considerable risk of both frequent and deep flooding, and there is a Significant to Extreme hazard during flood events. There is also some flood risk to commercial properties along the left bank of the Rye Water, including the DSM factory, during more extreme events. Due to the relatively infrequent nature of flooding in the latter area no further investigations were carried out along the Rye Water as works in this location are not considered to be economically viable.
- 2.5 The number of properties where during a 1 in 200 year event when water is most likely to leave the watercourse and cause flooding by rising above property floor levels is set out below for each town:-
 - a. Kilbirnie - 119 residential and 28 non-residential properties;
 - b. Glengarnock - 42 residential and 4 non-residential properties;
 - c. Dalry – 50 residential and 4 non-residential properties.
- 2.6 The detailed flood flows modelling has informed a flood damage assessment for the affected areas. The total estimated cost of flood damage during the most extreme level of flood event in all three towns is approximately £27 M. This is lower than previously thought due to the shallow depth of flooding within the majority of flooded areas along with the raised floor levels within in the majority of properties.

2.7 During the development of this study SEPA has issued a hierarchy for flood solutions where property level protection is the preferred option moving through to natural flood management and then on to flood mitigation schemes. Accordingly a screening exercise, summarised in the table below, has been undertaken to determine the most appropriate methods for development.

No	Method	Comment	Consider for Development
1	Property - level protection (PLP)	A relatively cost-effective measure which could be implemented in a short timescale. There are a number of key draw-backs to this option (for example PLP does not reduce risk to life or infrastructure) which need to be further considered	Yes
2	Natural flood management (NFM)	Some potential opportunities exist however it was considered that substantial reductions in flood risk would not be possible with NFM alone.	No*
3	Lowering of in-channel water levels	Options include channel widening / deepening and removal of structures.	No
4	Direct Defences	This involves the use of flood walls and embankments to block overland flow paths and is an effective way to reduce flood risk in any of the areas in the study area.	Yes
5	Diversion of water	This is not considered to be appropriate due to the relatively steep catchment and lack of suitable areas for diversion.	No
6	Flood storage	There are possible locations for both on and off-line storage areas upstream of Kilbirnie; there is no scope for upstream storage for Dalry. Flood storage on other tributaries was generally not considered to be feasible due to the lack of appropriate sites and limited flow contributions.	Yes
7	Temporary or demountable defences	Some degree of flood warning is required for such measures to be effective. Preference should also generally be given to permanent systems to eliminate the risk of failure. Since other options are available, temporary measures were not further considered (other than PLP)	No
'Soft' Measures			
8	Flood warning	The nature of the catchment would mean flood warning lead times would be limited. There would be benefits to implementing a flood warning scheme, however preference was given to options which would reduce the risk of flooding.	No*
9	Raising awareness	This could potentially reduce the impacts of flooding, however it would not reduce the risk of flooding itself.	No*
10	Emergency planning	This could potentially reduce the impacts of flooding, however it would not reduce the risk of flooding itself.	No*

*Although not further developed as part of this project, these options do not result in substantial reductions in flood risk. These options do offer potential for benefits to the study area, and could therefore be further considered separately.

2.8 In response to previous flooding events and the decision to develop a flood mitigation scheme for consideration by Scottish Government the Council has, in line with the hierarchy, supported a number of actions to improve warning and community resilience including:-

- The provision of a water level gauge to the river south of the Bridge Street roundabout. The data provided is relayed direct to a dedicated page on the Council's website;
- The installation of a CCTV camera at the Bridge Street roundabout that can provide live coverage of the river at this point;
- Assistance has also been provided to help vulnerable areas in the form of air vent covers purchased and installed to approximately 80 properties within the 1 in 200 year flood envelope;
- The provision of flood bins containing hydro-sacks at five locations within the Kilbirnie and Glengarnock area.

2.9 The screening exercise of the options has identified the following actions for development:-

- Direct defences
- Flood storage (for Kilbirnie and Glengarnock)
- Property-level protection

2.10 River Garnock - Kilbirnie and Glengarnock

Three options have been considered:-

- Option 1 - The provision of direct defences by constructing walls and embankments to provide a 1 in 200 year level of protection will prevent damages estimated at £9.96m. However the cost of providing these defences is estimated at £26.2m and therefore, in line with national guidance where benefit cost ratio of greater than 1 is required, not considered economically viable.
- Options 2 and 2a (Recommended) – The provision of flood storage through the construction of an on-line dam on the River Garnock upstream of Kilbirnie between North Langlands Farm and Greenridge Farm. The nature of flood storage and the addition of downstream tributaries results in a higher standard of protection nearer the dam that reduces as distance increase. The amount of protection provided is around 1 in 100 year preventing damages of £7.08m at a cost of £7.86m. The addition of minor works downstream (Option 2a) to address residual flood risk at those locations below 1 in 100 year at a cost of £0.1m would increase the amount of damages prevented by £1.18 thus providing a scheme with a benefit cost ratio of 1.04.

- Options 3 and 3a – The provision of off-line storage, where water is diverted from the River Garnock into the Dipple Burn catchment via the creation of a channel (option 3) or a culvert (option 3a) past Langlands Farm to a flood water storage area east of Dipple Road. As with on-line storage the level of protection reduces as distance from the diverted channel increases. The limit to the level of protection that could reasonably be provided is 1 in 100 years preventing damages of £7.08m, as with option 2a this could be marginally increased by the addition of minor works downstream. The costs associated with these options are £12.9m and £16.2m respectively and therefore fall below the threshold at which schemes are considered economically viable.

2.11 Powgree Burn – Glengarnock

Four options have been considered:-

- Option 4 - The ground profile is not suitable to provide any significant level of flood water storage.
- Upstream of Kerseland Road

There are two properties at risk of flooding:-

- Option 5 - Direct defences are considered impractical due to the multiple flow paths in this area. A reduction in flood risk could be achieved through upgrading the culvert under Kerseland Road, however this would not be economically viable due to the significant costs of such works compared with only modest benefits.
- Option 6 - Property-level protection and potentially localised works are considered to be the only viable options for these properties, although the predicted depth of flooding would limit the effectiveness of such works.
- Downstream of the Railway (Recommended)
- Option 7 – The provision of direct defences along the right bank of the Powgree Burn could provide a maximum standard of protection of 1 in 15 years. At this point further levels of protection would adversely affect the railway and would not be cost effective. In order to maximise the benefits of this option it would need to be considered along with upstream flood storage from the River Garnock. The provision of direct defences, albeit limited, would cost around £0.31M with benefits of £0.88M, yielding a benefit-cost ratio of 2.84.

2.12 River Garnock – Dalry (Mill Park) (Recommended)

Option 8 - The construction of direct defences in the form of walls/embankments is the only suitable option consisting of flood defence walls along the south side of Beith Road (A737). The maximum standard of protection that could be provided is around 1 in a 50 year event. The topography of this area means that a pumping station would be required to discharge any surface water during flood events. Works would also be required to mitigate impacts on the railway and the DSM factory. The costs of the defences are £6.21M with benefits of £9.00M providing a benefit cost ratio of 1.47.

2.13 Combined Scheme (Recommended)

Option 9 – The amalgamation of options 2a, 7, and 8 would prevent damages of £18.1m at a cost of £14.5m thus providing a benefit cost ratio of 1.25.

2.14 Property Level Protection

Options 10 and 10a – The provision of property level protection through automated or passive systems such as flood resistant doors, automatic airbricks and anti-flood valves to the 211 properties at risk from flooding during a 1 in 200 year event (option 10). These measures would prevent total damages of £3.74m at a cost of £3.17m. If only the 79 properties where individually the cost of protection exceeded damages were considered (option 10a) then the cost would be reduced to £1.19M.

There are a number of considerations associated with property level protection:-

- It is not 100% effective, with leakage likely above flood depths of 600mm for long duration flooding such as that experienced with the River Garnock;
- Above flood depths of 1000mm it is better to allow inundation of property to allow water levels to equilibrate;
- For some areas of Dalry the significant depth of flooding would only allow a low level of protection to be achieved;
- Property level protection would likely need to be funded by homeowners, albeit grant funding may be available;
- Only properties are protected.

The additional spend above option 10a associated with the combined scheme is £13.3m and would prevent further damages of £15m thereby providing an incremental benefit cost ratio of 1.13. Accordingly the benefit cost to the wider area provided by the implementation of flood protection infrastructure proposed through a combined scheme (option 9) is greater than that achieved through property level protection.

- 2.15 The assessments have been developed using economic measures only. Government guidance to support the development of schemes allows a monetary value to be assigned to the potential risk to life. The addition of this would increase the cost benefit ratios of the recommended schemes significantly. However this value is not typically included in project appraisals.
- 2.16 Flood Protection Schemes require confirmation by Government. Confirmed schemes are eligible for Government grant of up to 80% of the eligible costs. In developing an application there are a number of statutory processes, including extensive formal consultation with stakeholders and the wider public. Effective consultation and early action in respect of any objections or concerns raised can reduce the potential for a Public Local Enquiry and assist in the confirmation of a scheme by Government.
- 2.17 The development of flood storage will impact upon appropriate landowners. Whilst early discussions have been held and are continuing it will, given their impact upon the recommended schemes, be necessary to reach agreements in principal prior to the commencement of formal public consultation.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the progress to develop a flood protection scheme for the Upper Garnock Valley.
- 3.2 That Cabinet agrees that, subject to reaching agreement in principal with appropriate landowners, public consultation be undertaken in respect of options 2a, 7 and 8 as the constituent parts of a full scheme (Option 9).
- 3.3 That Cabinet agrees that property level protection be developed further should a formal scheme not be confirmed by Government.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of a combined scheme is currently estimated to be £14.5m. Schemes confirmed by Government are eligible for grant funding of up to 80% of the eligible costs. The Council has made provision within its capital plan to contribute 20% towards a confirmed scheme.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 The scheme is being developed in line with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

The preferred option, identified through consultation, will require planning consent. In respect of flood storage it will be necessary to comply with the requirements of The Reservoirs Act (1975) and The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 . In addition Engineering Licences will be required for the construction of the storage structure and any flood walls. Any drainage works would be subject to the General Binding Rules set out in the Regulations.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 An Equality Implication Assessment will be carried out during the public consultation period.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 It will be necessary to complete a screening exercise in respect of the need to undertake a full Environmental Impact Assessment.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The project contributes towards the objectives of a 'safer North Ayrshire and 'protecting vulnerable people'

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 Community benefit implications will be considered if the scheme is confirmed by Government and moves to the construction stage.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Initial contact has already been made with key stakeholders including Scottish Water, SEPA and some landowners. As part of scheme development, further consultation will be required with the following stakeholders:

- The local community – to obtain local opinion on the proposals;
- Scottish Water – to allow incorporation of the drainage network in scheme designs;
- SEPA – to confirm environmental requirements of further scheme development work;

- Affected land owners – to discuss scheme impacts and agree land purchase / mitigation measures;
- Network Rail – to discuss options in the vicinity of railway infrastructure.

5.2 Ward members have been briefed upon progress and the options to be taken forward for public consultation.

6. Conclusion

6.1 A number of options have been developed for consultation in the development of a Flood Protection Scheme for the Upper Garnock Valley.

6.2 It will be necessary to undertake a formal consultation exercise to identify objections and concerns prior to the submission of the scheme to Government for consideration.



CRAIG HATTON
Executive Director (Place)

Reference : CH/JS

For further information please contact Joe Smith, Senior Manager, Roads & Transportation on 01294 225203

Background Papers

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Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme Appraisal Summary Report

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Prepared by:

Graduate

Dylan Huws

Dylan Huws
Associate Director

Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme
Appraisal Summary Report

Rev No	Comments	Checked by	Approved by	Date
3	Update of property numbers	DH	DH	15/10/2014
2	Updated with progress to August 2014	DH	DH	03/09/2014
1	Final issue	DH	DH	15/05/2014
0	First draft	DH	DH	13/05/2014

1 Tanfield, Edinburgh, EH3 5DA
Telephone: 0131 301 8600 Website: <http://www.aecom.com>

Job No 60304944

Reference -

Date Created 14/04/2014

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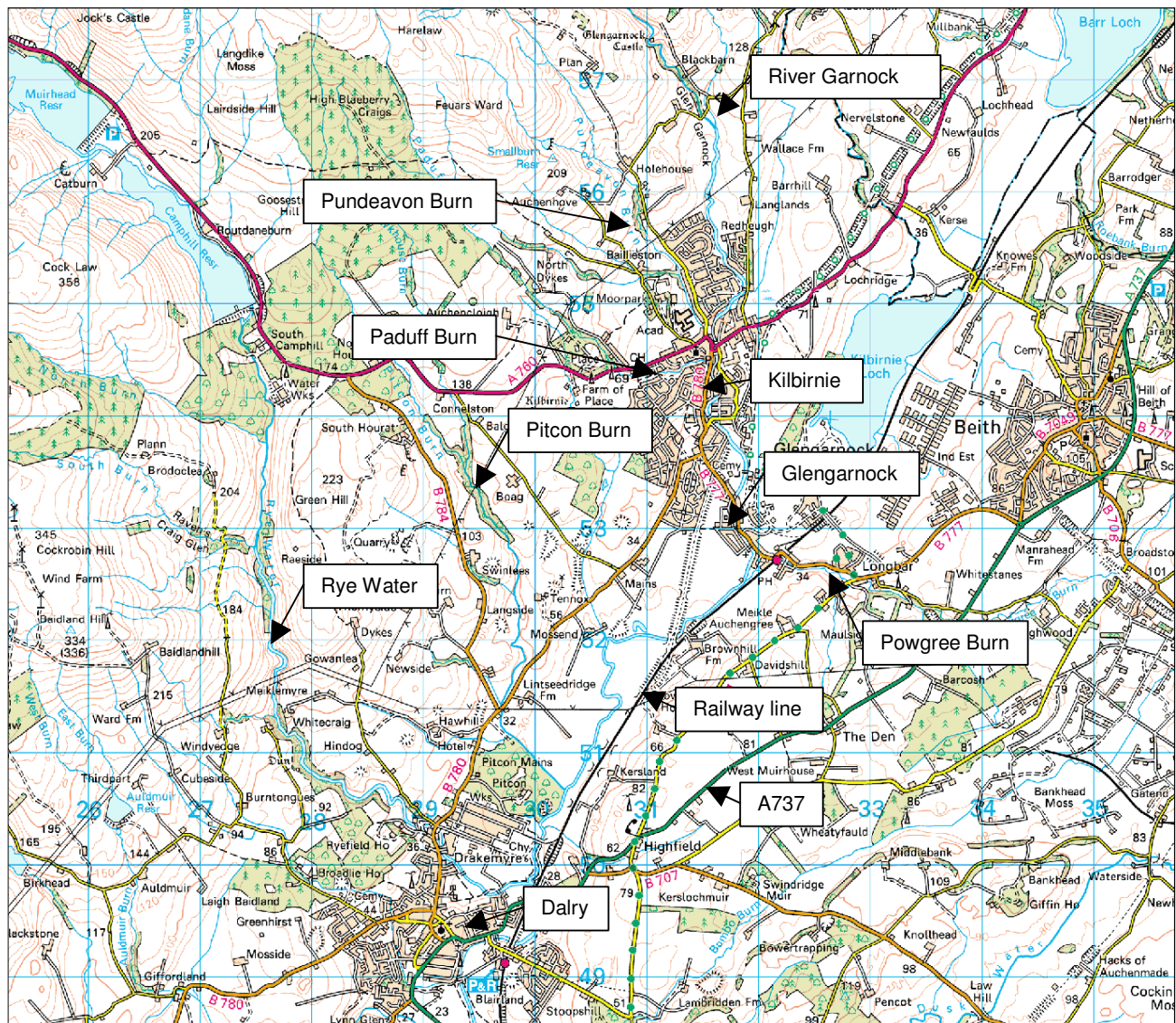
Appendices 27

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Numerous investigations have been carried out regarding flood risk and possible mitigation strategies in the Upper Garnock area. AECOM was appointed in December 2012 to develop a flood protection scheme for the Upper Garnock, building on work previously carried out by other consultants. The study area is shown in Figure 1 below. The ultimate aim of this project is to develop a flood risk management strategy for properties at risk of flooding in Kilbirnie, Glengarnock and Dalry. This report summarises the appraisal of flood risk management options for the Upper Garnock. Further details will be provided in the main Appraisal Report and associated technical notes.



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Figure 1 - Study area

1.2 Overview of Flood Risk

There is a long history of flooding in the study area with previous studies noting flood events going back to the 1890s. There appears to have been an increase in the frequency of flooding in the study area in recent years; with six notable flood events since the 1990s, the most extreme being the 2008 event.

The flood risk from the River Garnock has been assessed on a number of previous occasions and a hydraulic model of the watercourse has gradually evolved over these assessments. The baseline data was in excess of ten years old in places. A detailed topographical survey of the river, the structures crossing the river and the banks of the river was therefore carried out to allow a new model to be constructed, a model that reflected the actual current conditions.

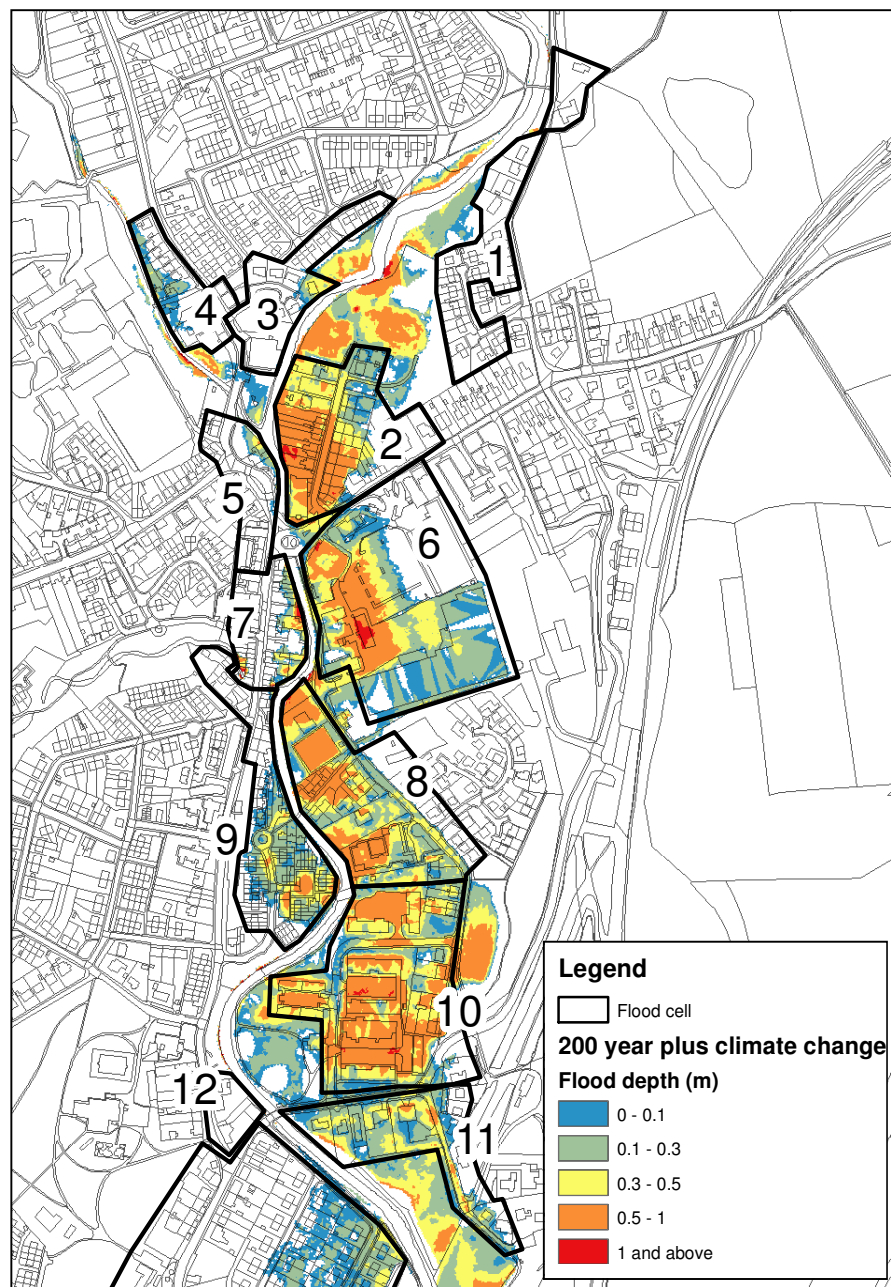
A detailed assessment of the flood flows in the River Garnock and its tributaries was carried out. This allowed the return period flood flows in the watercourses to be calculated. Due to the limited river- and rainfall-gauging information within the study area, there is some uncertainty regarding the rainfall response and distribution of flows between the tributaries. Notwithstanding that, a verification exercise was carried out using historical flooding information and the hydraulic model was deemed to be suitable for the purpose of assessing a community-level flood protection scheme.

A hydraulic model was developed and used to assess flood risk in the study area. The model extents are shown in Appendix A. A baseline scenario, where all existing features which currently offer some form of protection are removed from the model, was used for this assessment. Since none of the existing features are formal flood defences and many are in a poor state of repair, this was considered to be an appropriate scenario to assess flood risk. Some of the existing features provide some degree of protection and it is therefore important to note that the flood risk described here may not represent the current level of flood risk.

The study area was assessed for flood risk during various return period events up to the 200 year return period flood event including a climate change allowance. This return period defines the area of medium to high risk of flooding, and is far in excess of the floods experienced in recent history.

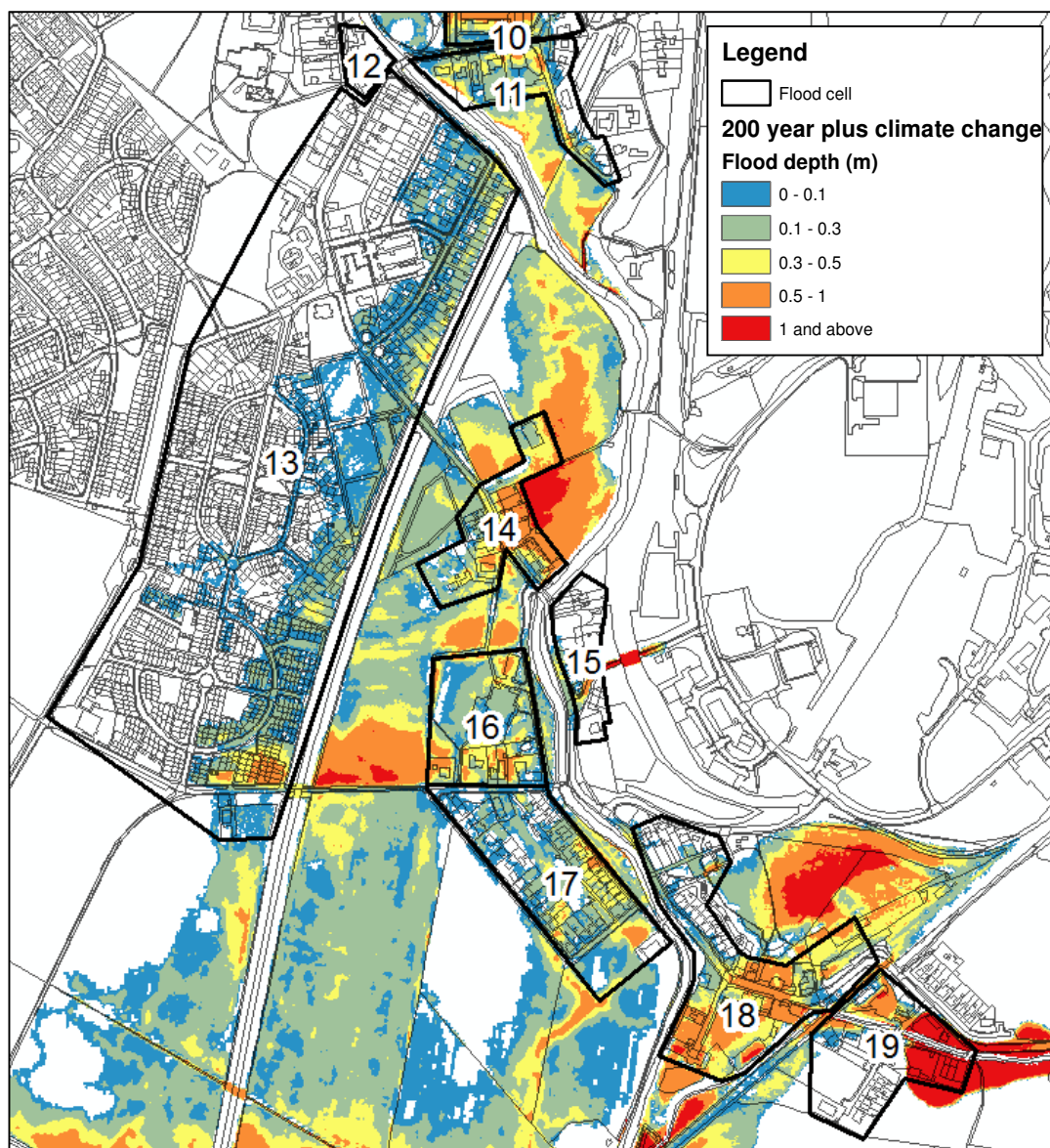
The study area was split into 'flood cells'; this allows for further investigations to focus on those areas which are most affected. Flood damages predicted to occur over the next 100 years are calculated as a guide to the possible benefits of flood mitigation works. Other impacts, including social and environmental, are also discussed.

Flood outlines and flood cells are shown in Figure 2 - Figure 4 below. A full range of flood outlines is included in Appendix B.



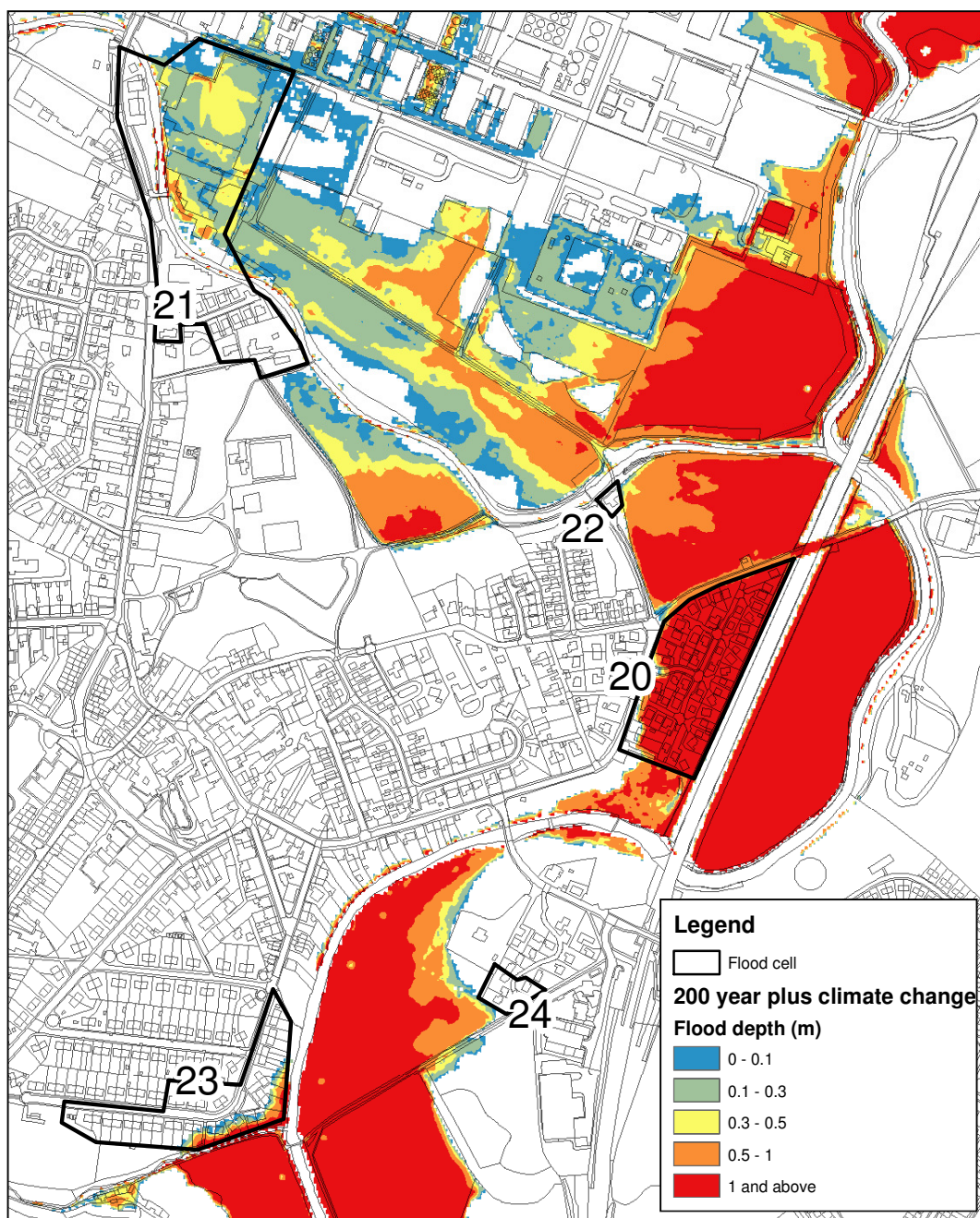
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Figure 2 – 200 year plus climate change flood outline and flood cells (Kilbirnie)



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Figure 3 – 200 year plus climate change flood outline and flood cells (Kilbirnie / Glengarnock)

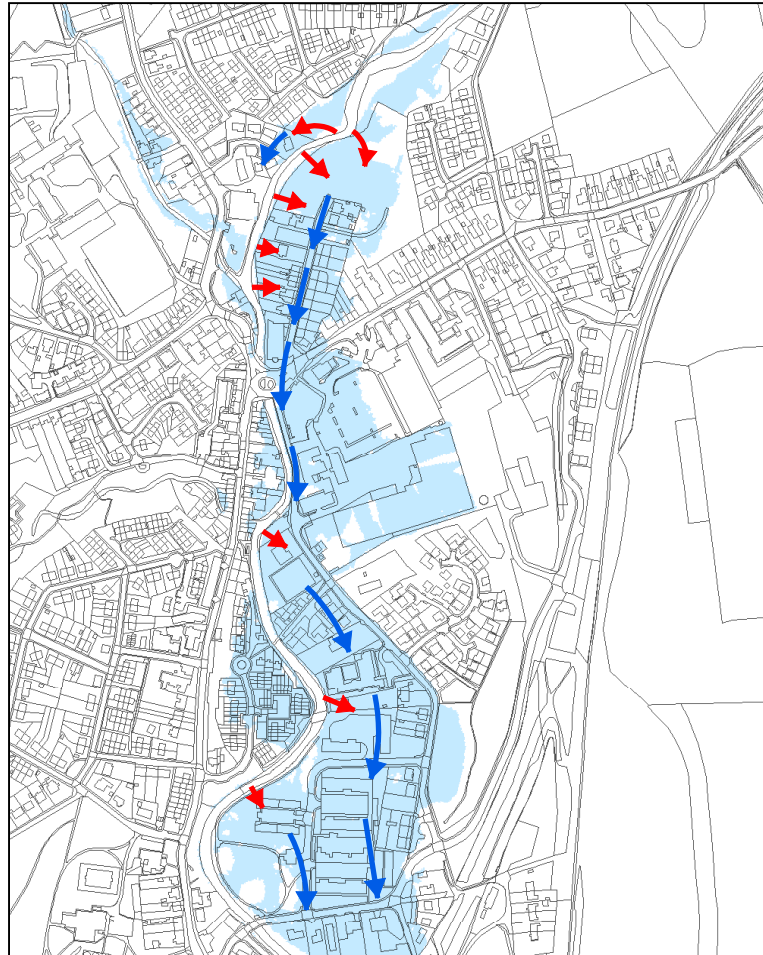


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Figure 4 – 200 year plus climate change flood outlines and flood cells (Dalry)

1.2.1 Kilbirnie (Cells 1-13)

Key spill locations and overland flood paths for the baseline scenario (all existing features removed) are shown in Figure 5 below.



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Figure 5 – Key spill locations (red) and overland flow paths (blue) (Kilbirnie)

Hydraulic model results indicate that the River Garnock first spills out of bank in Kilbirnie at Connell Court and Riverside Place for the 5 year return period. Other key spill locations include the yard north of the bowling club (5yr) and multiple locations at Muirend Street (25-50yr). As was experienced in historical flood events, overland flow is a key flood mechanism in the study area. Spills from north of Muirend Street re-enter the channel around Mill Court after flowing along Muirend Street and then Garnock Street.

Flood water from Paddockholm Industrial Estate continues across Paddockholm Road towards Knoxville Road before re-entering the channel. At Glenriddet Avenue, water separates from the channel adjacent to the disused railway embankment and continues along the railway line, re-joining the main river floodplain at Kirkland Road and Loadingbank.

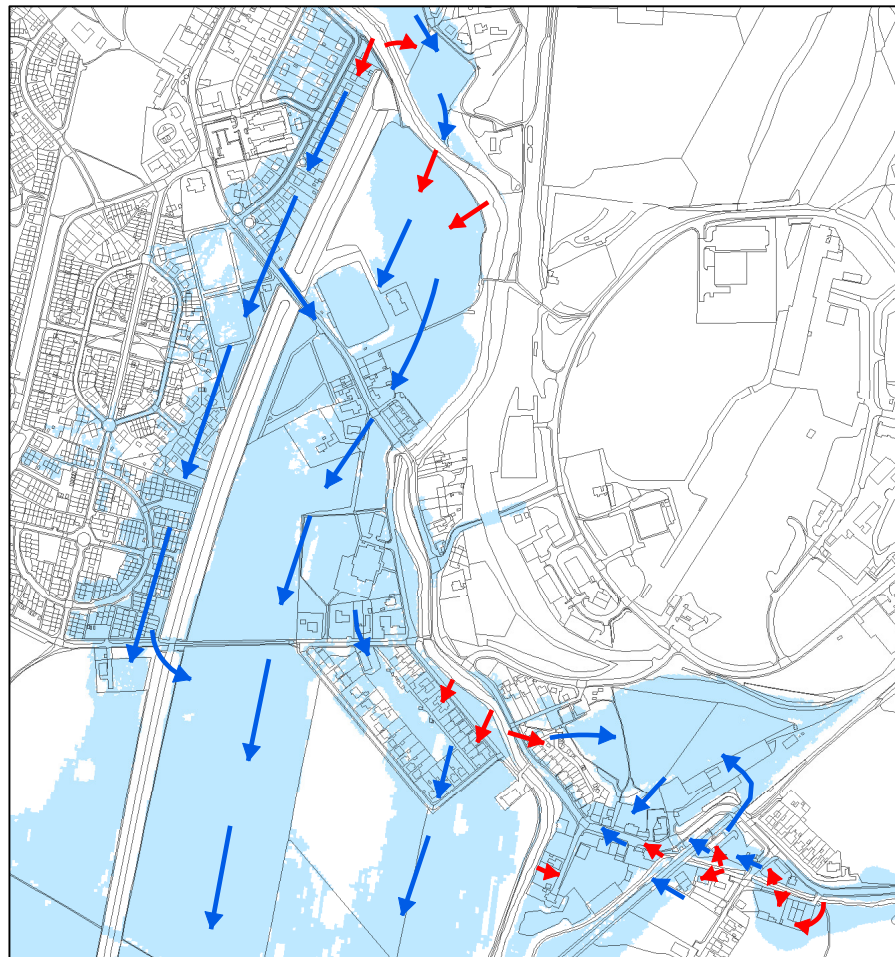
Flooding at other locations in Kilbirnie is relatively localised with only limited overland flow.

Based on flood levels exceeding floor levels, a total of 119 residential and 28 non-residential properties in the flood cells in Kilbirnie are at risk of flooding during a 200 year event including climate change allowance.

There are areas of Significant Hazard even for relatively frequent events of the order of 25-50 year return period, indicating there may be a risk to life in these events.

1.2.2 Glengarnock (Cells 14-19)

Key spill locations and overland flood paths for the baseline scenario (all existing features removed) are shown in Figure 6 below.



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Figure 6 – Key spill locations (red) and overland flow paths (blue) (Kilbirnie/Glengarnock)

Water first spills onto Valefield playing fields from a 5 year return period. This forms an overland flow path which flows over Kirkland Road and continuing for around 1.5km before re-entering the river downstream of Glengarnock. Grahamston Road is

affected from the 10 year return period, with overland flow continuing to the south. With the exception of the area near the Powgree Burn, flood risk along Main Road is generally limited to the road itself, with a flow path along Garnockside inundating a low-lying area to the north-east.

The Powgree Burn is the primary source of flood risk in cells 18 and 19. There is significant flood risk to some properties upstream of the railway line, with flooding during a 2 year return period event. The railway line itself is overtopped from a 5 year return period, flowing along the railway and inundating the low-lying area north of Glengarnock from a 10 year return period. Water spills out of the Powgree Burn near the Glendale Arms from a 2 year return period, inundating Main Street and Burnside Street.

Based on flood levels exceeding floor levels, a total of 42 residential and 4 non-residential properties in the flood cells in Glengarnock are at risk of flooding during a 1 in 200 year event including climate change allowance.

There are extensive areas along the Powgree Burn where the flood hazard is Significant or even Extreme for relatively frequent events. This may constitute a risk to life during such flood events.

The floodplains between Kilbirnie and Dalry are inundated from before a 2 year return period event.

1.2.3 Dalry

Key spill locations and overland flood paths for the baseline scenario are shown in Figure 7.

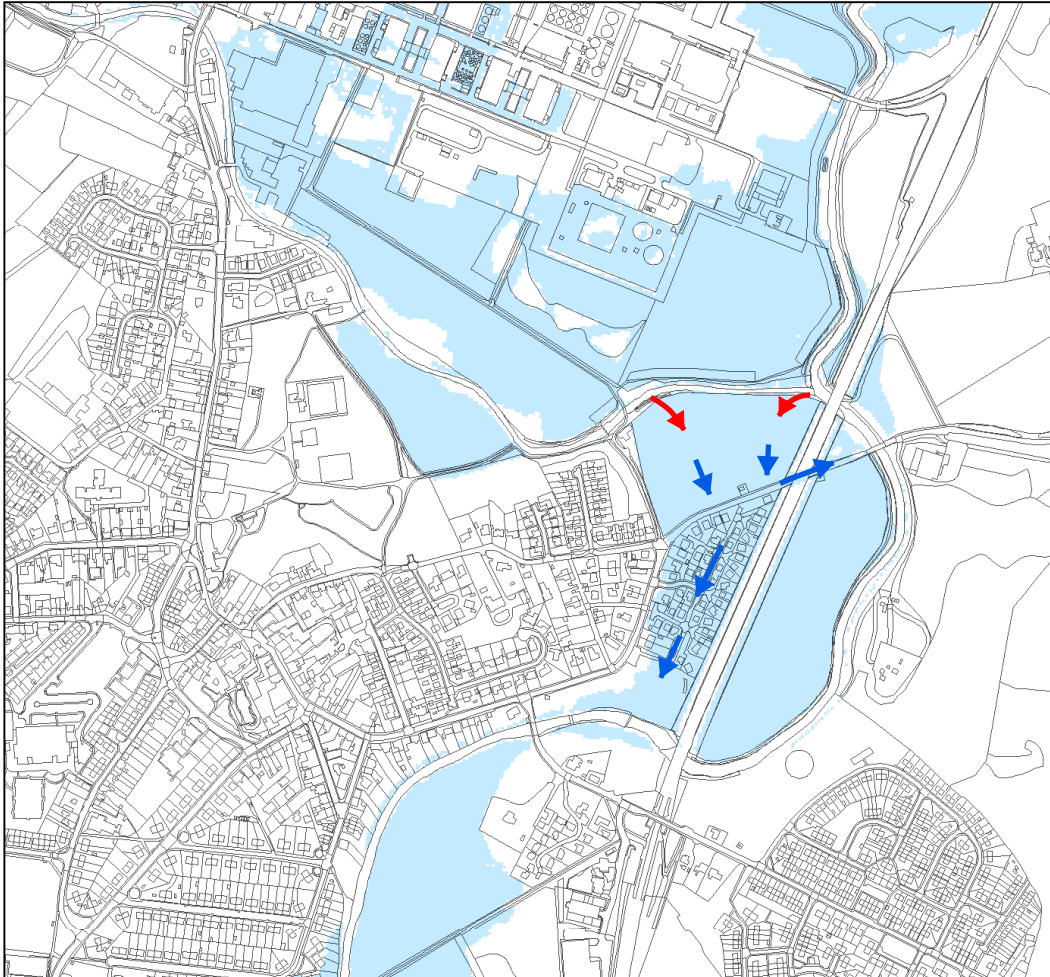
The River Garnock and Rye Water come out of bank before the 2 year return period event, resulting in flooding to open ground and surface water flows through the railway underpass on Beith Road. No properties are at risk during a 2 year flood event. From the 5 year return period, water spills across Beith Road resulting in flood risk to properties in Mill Park, filling low-lying areas before discharging to the south. Flood depths increase with increasing flood severity, reaching a depth of over 2m in places for the 200yr plus climate change event. Water also spills out of bank from the Garnock to the South of Mill Park.

Between the 50-75 year return periods, there is some out of bank flow on the left bank of the Rye Water just downstream of the Braehead Bridge however, flood risk remains limited to the buildings adjacent to the river. Some low lying ground within the DSM factory area is at risk of shallow flooding from the 50-100yr return period. An isolated property, Riverside Cottage, is potentially at risk of flooding from predicted 200yr plus climate change flood levels as a result of inundation from the Rye Water. The benefits associated with protecting a property that already has a high level of protection is limited and would not be economical. Further protection measures to this property have therefore not been considered.

Downstream of Mill Park, flood risk is limited to isolated buildings adjacent to the lower reach of the Putyan Water during a 200 year plus climate change event. None of the buildings in cells 23 and 24 were found to be at risk of flooding during a 200 year event including climate change allowance. Upper reaches of the Putyan Water were not assessed as part of the Upper Garnock assessment.

A total of 50 residential and 4 non-residential properties in the flood cells in Dalry are at risk of flooding during a 200 year event including climate change allowance.

The flood depths and velocities at Mill Park would be a Significant or Extreme hazard even during relatively frequent events. This would pose a risk to life and potentially even put the structural integrity of some of the properties at risk.



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Figure 7 – Key spill locations (red) and overland flow paths (blue) (Dalry)

1.3 Economic Impacts of Flooding

A comprehensive damage assessment was carried out using the hydraulic model output to estimate the economic impact of a range of flood events. This section contains a summary of the findings; a summary of key assumptions is shown in Appendix D. Full details of the damage assessment will be reported separately to this summary document. A range of economic impacts was also quantified, including the following:

- Direct property damages and clean-up costs
- Emergency services costs including environment agency
- Damage to utilities
- Temporary accommodation
- Clean-up costs (dehumidifier electricity and heating costs)
- Damage to vehicles
- Social equity and climate change allowances

Due to a high frequency of flooding, a number of properties required to be written off as there would be insufficient time to carry out repairs between flood events. These properties were written off at risk-free market value in year zero; no associated damages were allowed to accrue for the properties.

Estimated damages for a range of return periods are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Total estimated damages

Damages	2yr	5yr	10yr	25yr	50yr	100yr	200yr	500yr
Floor level exceeded	11	42	75	100	131	165	207	257
Damage threshold ¹	13	75	117	157	231	337	470	472
Residential	£77,463	£700,059	£1,866,906	£2,545,294	£3,172,306	£3,825,068	£4,666,638	£5,638,521
Commercial	£91,853	£236,613	£322,684	£575,465	£955,233	£2,257,910	£3,504,216	£5,321,934
Emergency	£18,117	£100,224	£234,286	£333,921	£441,647	£650,879	£874,281	£1,172,769
Utilities	£8,466	£46,834	£109,480	£156,038	£206,377	£304,149	£408,543	£548,023
Accommodation	£7,700	£38,500	£70,400	£85,800	£116,600	£146,300	£183,700	£232,100
Clean-up	£13,515	£75,506	£169,695	£205,789	£267,780	£324,765	£407,728	£513,559
Vehicles	£6,076	£30,380	£55,552	£67,704	£92,008	£115,444	£144,956	£183,148
Social allowance	£27,112	£245,021	£653,417	£890,853	£1,110,307	£1,338,774	£1,633,323	£1,973,482
Total	£250,302	£1,473,137	£3,482,420	£4,860,864	£6,362,258	£8,963,289	£11,823,385	£15,583,536
Present value of total estimated damage over 100 year appraisal period = £26.8M								

The above damages and associated probabilities were used to determine average annual damages, which were discounted to a present value (PV) damage over a 100 year appraisal period in line with HM Treasury Green Book guidelines. Climate change effects were included in calculating present value damages. A breakdown of the PV damages for each flood cell is shown in Table 2 below.

¹ Based on MCM data, property damages start to be accrued when water reaches 0.3m below the floor level

Table 2 – Breakdown of estimated present value damages

Flood cell	Total present value damage
1	£0
2	£1,122,224
3	£3,892
4	£7,031
5	£0
6	£1,851,210
7	£19,550
8	£2,392,453
9	£310,090
10	£2,114,569
11	£229,634
12	£0
13	£401,426
14	£950,571
15	£14,788
16	£193,251
17	£726,874
Kilbirnie / Glengarnock subtotal (excl Powgree Burn flooding)	£10,337,562
18	£2,321,019
19	£1,090,478
Glengarnock (Powgree Burn flooding) subtotal	£3,411,497
20	£12,732,526
21	£318,224
22	£46,294
23	£0
24	£0
Dalry subtotal	£13,097,043
Grand total	£26,846,103

As suggested in the Scottish Government Guidance, it is possible to calculate the possible risk to life and assign a monetary value to this risk. Table 3 below shows the results of this assessment. On first inspection, these numbers appear to be high considering there have not been any reported deaths associated with flooding recently. However, the numbers do highlight the potentially severe impact that flooding could have and the significant benefits associated with a flood scheme.

Table 3 – Risk to life (lives potentially at risk and economic valuation)

Location	Without climate change		With climate change	
	Lives at risk	Economic valuation	Lives at risk	Economic valuation
Kilbirnie & Glengarnock (cells 1-17)	5	£5,724,450	11	£12,593,790
Glengarnock / Powgree (cells 18-19)	7	£8,014,230	12	£13,738,680
Dalry (cells 20-24*)	20	£22,897,800	35	£40,071,150

*all impacts are in cell 20 – Mill Park

It should be noted that it is not possible to completely prevent flooding from happening and that more extreme events than the standard designed for can happen; not all of the above damages can therefore be mitigated using a flood scheme, since there will always be some residual risk associated with more extreme events. This is demonstrated in Figure 8 below.

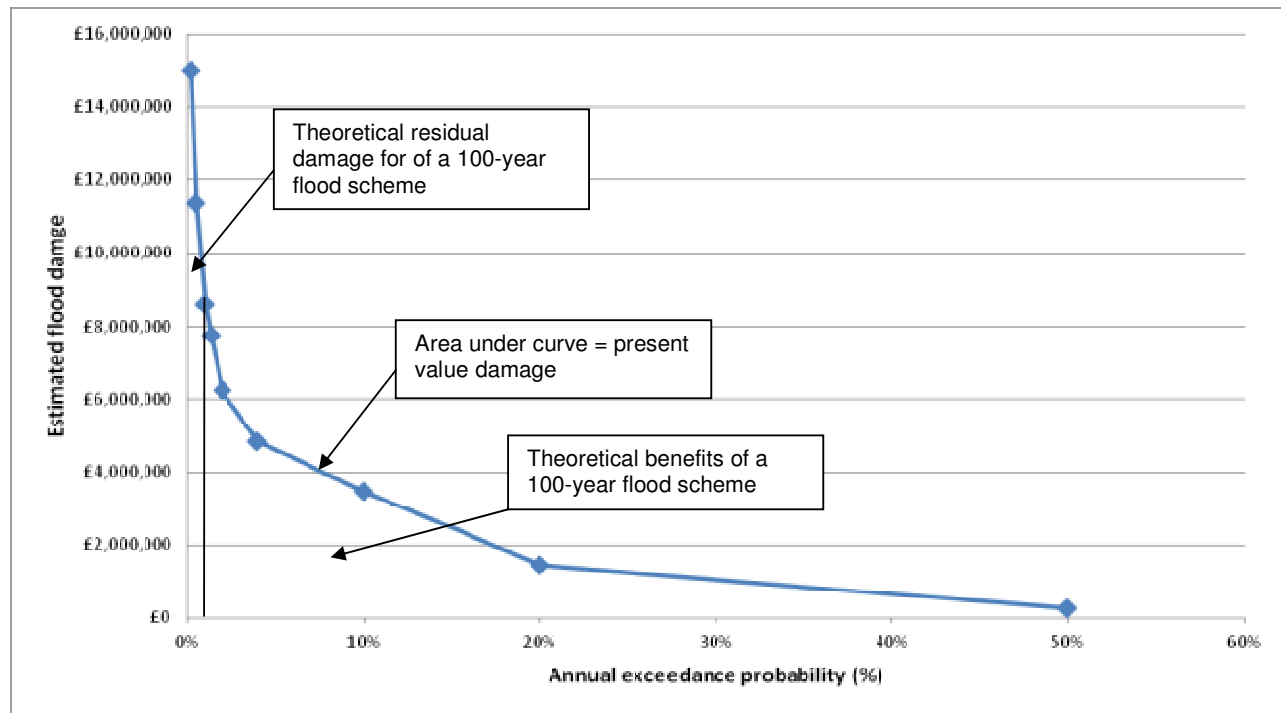


Figure 8 - Flood damages showing simplified residual damages²

1.4 Other Impacts of Flooding

In addition to economic impacts, flooding also has intangible and indirect effects on the community including impacts on health, employment and recreation. Flooding would also increase the risk of environmental pollution and endanger cultural heritage features. These impacts are discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.

² The annual exceedance probability is found by taking the inverse of the return period e.g. a 100 year return period is equivalent to an annual exceedance probability of $1/100 = 1\%$. The effect of capping is not shown in this figure.

2 Flood Mitigation Options

2.1 Option Screening

AECOM's initial role was to develop in detail any options identified in previous work. In light of SEPA's hierarchy for flood solutions (property-level protection -> natural flood management -> flood mitigation scheme), it was decided that a review of all possible options was required. This section describes the outcomes of the option screening exercise to determine options to be developed in more detail. Full details of the screening exercise will be included in the main Appraisal Report.

Table 4 – Summary of option screening

Option	Comment	Develop?
Property-level protection (PLP)	PLP is a relatively cost-effective measure which could be implemented in a short timescale. There are a number of key draw-backs to this option (for example PLP does not reduce risk to life or infrastructure) which need to be further considered	Y
Natural flood management (NFM)	NFM options were investigated by CH2MHill; some potential opportunities exist however it was considered that substantial reductions in flood risk would not be possible with NFM alone.	N*
Lowering of in-channel water levels	Options include channel widening / deepening and removal of structures. Existing river training walls and other infrastructure on the river bank mean changes to the channel are not practical. There is no significant benefit in removing structures.	N
Direct defences	This involves the use of flood walls and embankments to block overland flow paths and is an effective way to reduce flood risk in any of the areas in the study area.	Y
Diversion of water	This was considered in previous studies however this option is not considered to be appropriate due to the relatively steep catchment and lack of suitable areas for diversion.	N
Flood storage	There are possible locations for both on- and off-line storage areas on the Garnock upstream of Kilbirnie; there is no scope for upstream storage for Dalry. Flood storage on other tributaries was generally not considered to be feasible due to the lack of appropriate sites and limited flow contributions.	Y
Temporary or demountable defences	Some degree of flood warning is required for such measures to be effective. Preference should also generally be given to permanent systems to eliminate the risk of failure. Since other options are available, temporary measures were not further considered (other than PLP).	N
'Soft' measures		
Flood warning	The nature of the catchment would mean flood warning lead times would be limited. There would be benefits to implementing a flood warning scheme, however preference was given to options which would reduce the risk of flooding.	N*
Raising awareness	This could potentially reduce the impacts of flooding, however it would not reduce the risk of flooding itself.	N*
Emergency planning	This could potentially reduce the impacts of flooding, however it would not reduce the risk of flooding itself.	N*

*Although not further developed as part of this project, these options do not result in substantial reductions in flood risk. These options do offer potential for benefits to the study area, and could therefore be further considered separately.

The options which will be further considered as part of this project are:

- Property-level protection
- Direct defences
- Flood storage (for Kilbirnie and Glengarnock)

2.2 Kilbirnie & Glengarnock

2.2.1 Direct Defences (River Garnock)

Direct defences involve the placement of physical barriers between the river and the affected properties. A direct defence scheme was developed taking into account a wide range of constraints including existing structures, underground utilities and seepage. A plan showing the location of defences is shown in Appendix C. Since none of the existing walls and embankments are considered to be formal flood defences, only the most robust have been incorporated as part of the scheme. This option consists of the following components:

- Reinforced concrete flood walls positioned on the river bank, some above existing river training walls and others with a reinforced river bank.
- Reinforced concrete flood walls built within the river channel against existing walls
- Sheet piled flood walls
- Flood embankments
- Flood gates
- Replacement bridge parapets
- Works to the drainage system

Under current arrangements, flooding in the study area is dominated by extensive overland flow following spills in a few key locations. By putting up direct defences to cut off these flow paths, flood flows are contained within the channel. This results in increased flows and levels in the channel. This in turn increases flood risk in other areas and the need for further defences to contain the flood flows within the channel. This inter-dependency means that defence works cannot be focussed solely on those areas most at risk without increasing flood risk in other areas.

Sections of Glengarnock are also at risk from the Powgree Burn in addition to the River Garnock. Flood protection measures for the Powgree Burn are considered in Section 2.2.2.

The cost of a direct defence scheme protecting to a 200 year plus 20% climate change standard of protection (without full protection to Glengarnock from the Powgree Burn) would be in excess of £26M. This option would require a significant amount of services to be diverted or otherwise accommodated in the design, adding significant additional costs. Due to the large amount of below-ground works required as part of this option, a lower standard would not yield significantly reduced cost. A direct defence option is therefore not economically viable for Kilbirnie and Glengarnock.

2.2.2 Upstream Storage

Flood risk for the River Garnock can be reduced by limiting the flows in the river during flooding events by the providing flood storage upstream and controlling the flows. This approach also delays the flood peak; this de-synchronisation with downstream flood peaks on other tributaries and hence results in further reduction in peak flood flows. Due to the local topography there is no opportunity for reducing the peak flows in the tributaries. These downstream tributaries are therefore unattenuated and dilute the downstream benefits of a storage scheme. Plans of the upstream storage options are shown in Appendix C.

Flood storage can be provided through both an on-line arrangement, where the impoundment is positioned across the main valley, or through the provision of off-line storage, where flood water is diverted out of the river system into a storage area next to the river. An off-line option was considered at an earlier stage of the project and presented to the public in the public presentation in March 2013. An on-line option has also been considered for the scheme based on the potential significant reduction in the scale of the required work.

On-line Storage

The land form of the Garnock Valley upstream of Kilbirnie is steep with limited floodplain. This is generally not conducive for the provision of economical dam arrangements. The most suitable location for an on-line storage reservoir is just upstream of Kilbirnie between North Langlands Farm and Greenridge Farm. At this location the relatively steep topography limits the potential impoundment volume. A relatively high dam structure is therefore needed to generate sufficient volume. This option consists of the following components:

- Earth embankment dam constructed using earth from within the impounded area
- Section of realigned culverted watercourse under dam
- Baffle and orifice outflow control device ("Neyrpic module") to maximise the effectiveness of the storage volume
- Reinforced grass spillway

Due to the contribution of the downstream tributaries to the flood flows in Kilbirnie and Glengarnock the practical standard of protection (SOP) that can be provided is limited (for very extreme events, flow from the tributaries alone would be enough to result in flood risk).

The limit of upstream attenuation is around a 100 year return period (the SOP would be lower in areas more distant from the storage area, and higher in areas nearer the storage area); above this, some downstream defences are required to minimise any residual flood risk. Due to the significant cost associated with constructing direct defences and the limited benefit associated with increasing the standard of protection above the 100 year return period, the opportunity to increase the standard of protection above this level is limited. Downstream direct defences were therefore only considered for locations with residual flooding below a 100 year return period.

The estimated cost for the on-line storage option, including ongoing maintenance and Reservoirs Act supervision and inspection, is £7.86M. With minor downstream works to address residual flood risk up to a 100 year return period, the cost of this option is £7.96M. These costs were developed by a contractor and include all known construction costs and client costs. A risk allowance of £1.5M was made, which is equivalent to an optimism bias of 24%. A separate review of optimism bias was carried out in line with Scottish Government guidance, and 24% was considered to be appropriate.

Off-line storage

The most suitable location for an off-line storage reservoir is on the Dipple Burn just upstream of properties along Dipple Road. The topography in the Dipple Burn catchment is favourable for the construction of a flood storage area with a significant area of flat, low-lying ground. The field is a marshy area with limited agricultural use at present. Flood flows would be diverted from the River Garnock into the Dipple Burn catchment via a channel / culvert past Langlands Farm. A control structure and a low level impoundment would be required within the River Garnock to control the spill of flood water out of the channel and divert it to the Dipple Burn.

Within the potential storage area historic mining has taken place and a number of high pressure raw water mains run through the area. Treatment of the mining workings and appropriate protection / set back from the water mains are therefore required. The key components of this option are:

- Flume and lateral weir on the River Garnock to divert water into a culverted diversion channel
- Earth embankment dam constructed using earth from within the impounded area
- Section of realigned culverted watercourse under dam
- Baffle and orifice flow control device ("Neyrpic module") to maximise the effectiveness of the storage volume
- Reinforced grass spillway
- Enlargement of Dipple Burn watercourse downstream of the storage area

The practical standard of protection (SOP) limit of upstream attenuation is around a 100 year return period (the SOP would be lower in areas more distant from the storage area, and higher in areas nearer the storage area); above this, some downstream defences are required to minimise any residual flood risk. Similar to the on-line storage option, some downstream minor works can be used to maximise the benefits of this option.

The estimated cost for the off-line storage option is £12.9M based on an open diversion channel and £16.2M with a culverted diversion channel from the River Garnock to the Dipple Burn catchment. A risk allowance was included for both options which was equal to 20 - 25% of the scheme cost depending on the scheme.

2.3 Glengarnock / Powgree Burn

The Powgree Burn exceeds top of bank levels both upstream and downstream of the railway crossing on a frequent basis. Properties upstream of Kerseland Road are also at significant risk of flooding. Some informal walls provide some additional level of protection over the modelled scenario. However, these are ageing structures that are not formal defences designed to hold back flood water and therefore could not be relied upon to perform this function as part of this assessment.

Based on the low standard of protection currently provided a significant reduction in flood flows is required to remove the area from a high risk area. Due to the unfavourable ground profile within the Powgree valley no suitable site could be identified to provide any significant storage. In addition, the significant flows and the need to convey extreme flood flows over the reservoir in a safe manner in line with the Reservoirs Act 1975 the provision of upstream storage was regarded as not being viable.

Upstream of Kerseland Road, the multiple flow paths make direct defences impractical. A reduction in flood risk could be achieved through upgrading the culvert under Kerseland Road however this would not be economically viable due to the significant costs of such works compared with only modest benefits. Property-level protection and potentially localised works are considered to be the only viable options for these properties, although the predicted depth of flooding would limit the effectiveness of such works.

The properties in Glengarnock downstream of the railway can be protected using direct defences along the right bank of the Powgree Burn. The maximum standard of protection which can be achieved here is limited to around the 15 year return period as above this, Glengarnock is affected by overland flow from the north-east which has flowed through the railway underpass. Cutting off this additional flow path would involve major works on and adjacent to the railway and would not be cost-effective. The benefits of this option can only be fully realised if measures are in place to address flood risk from the River Garnock (e.g. upstream storage). Any works to extend the existing walls along the Powgree Burn would impact on water levels in the channel and hence have impacts on the railway. It was not considered to be possible to mitigate such impacts, and the Powgree Burn option is therefore limited to maintaining the existing wall levels with formal flood defence structures.

It is estimated that the defences in Glengarnock along the Powgree Burn would cost around £310k. This includes all known construction costs and client costs in addition to risk allowances equivalent to 29%. A separate review of optimism bias was carried out in line with Scottish Government guidance, and 29% was considered to be appropriate.

2.4 Dalry (Mill Park)

Direct defences were considered to be the only suitable option for this area as noted in Section 2.1. In order to protect the residential properties within Mill Park, flood defence walls are proposed along the south side of Beith Road (A737). This location was chosen based on minimising the impact on upstream flood levels by maintaining as many flow paths as possible, including the flow of water along the A737 under the railway line. In events in excess of the 1 in 50 year standard the removal of overland flow paths has a greater impact on flood risk upstream, also resulting in increased defence heights. It is therefore proposed that the standard of protection provided is limited to the 1 in 50 year return period.

Historical geotechnical investigation information indicated the presence of deep gravels in the Mill Park area. There is therefore a significant risk of seepage below defences. The most appropriate solution was therefore considered to be sheet piling in all areas to be defended.

Mill Park is situated in a low-lying area between Beith Road and open ground to the south. With defences in place, there would therefore be a risk of surface water flooding. A pumping station would be required to maintain effective drainage during times of flood.

The risk of overtopping during exceedance events is of particular concern for this area due to the significant depths of flooding and poor natural drainage. It is considered that the current emergency response arrangements would be adequate to ensure safe evacuation of residents should the wall be close to being overtopped. The pumping station would be used to drain the area

following the flood event. There would not be sufficient pumping capacity to prevent Mill Park from being flooded during exceedance events.

Defending Mill Park would result in differential water levels across the railway embankment. Preliminary investigations and modelling indicated that this could result in increased instability in the embankment. Additional defences are therefore required to the east immediately adjacent to the railway embankment, and alongside the railway embankments to the north of Mill Park. The location of defences is shown in Appendix C.

Hydraulic modelling indicates that there are impacts on water levels upstream as a result of this option, potentially impacting on the DSM factory and Riverside Cottage. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into this option to address impacts on the factory, however consultation is required with the owners of Riverside Cottage to discuss these impacts. Compensation or purchase of the property may be an appropriate solution.

The cost of the direct defences, service diversions, upgraded drainage and mitigation works is around £6.2M. This includes all known construction costs and client costs in addition to risk allowances equivalent of 31%. A separate review of optimism bias was carried out in line with Scottish Government guidance, and 31% was considered to be appropriate.

2.5 Property Level Protection

Property-level protection (PLP) can be a cost-effective measure to reduce the impact of flooding. An automatic / passive arrangement would be required for the study area due to lack of flood warning. This would involve the use of, for example, flood resistant doors, automatic airbricks and anti-flood valves. Key technical considerations are as follows:

- PLP is not 100% effective, with leakage likely above flood depths of around 0.6 m particularly for long duration floods as experienced on the Garnock.
- Above flood depths of around 1 m, it is generally accepted that the structural integrity of buildings can be affected and it is better to allow inundation of the property to allow water levels to equilibrate.
- For some areas, particularly in Dalry, the significant depths of flooding would mean only a low standard of protection could be achieved using PLP.
- It is important for property owners to be aware of operation and maintenance procedures. This may mean the flood protection measures lose their effectiveness over time in areas with transient populations.
- Manufacturers' stated services lives for protection measures is typically of the order of 20-30 years, however poor maintenance and inappropriate storage can significantly reduce these timescales.
- Property surveys are required to determine an appropriate flood protection strategy.

Based on Environment Agency guidance³, a conservative cost estimate would be around £8000 per property. Including administration, survey and future asset replacement over a 100 year appraisal period, the present value cost of these measures would be around £15,000 per property (although this will depend on property characteristics). Costs for non-residential properties could vary significantly and would be highly dependent on the individual characteristic of the property.

A total of 211 residential properties are at predicted to flood during a 200 year event (including climate change allowance), however providing protection measures for each one would not be cost-effective, since some properties already have a relatively high standard of protection. Providing PLP to each of the 211 residential properties flooded during a 200 year event (including climate change allowance) would cost around £3.17M. If only the 79 properties which would experience benefits robustly greater than £15,000 were included then the cost would total £1.19M.

Costs for non-residential properties could vary considerably, however the significant damages accrued at a number of properties suggest PLP could be worthwhile. A property survey would be required to determine an appropriate strategy.

³ Environment Agency (2011). Cost estimation for household flood resistance and resilience measures – summary of evidence. Bristol: Environment Agency

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3 Option Appraisal

3.1 Economic Appraisal

A benefit-cost assessment was carried out in accordance with Scottish Government guidelines taking account of guidance set out by the Environment Agency and Defra. The benefits of a scheme are calculated based on the difference between the damage that are likely to be experienced over the life of the scheme with the scheme in place compared to those without the scheme over the same period.

Table 5 below shows a comparison of estimated scheme costs and avoided damages (benefits) for the key options considered as part of this study for Kilbirnie / Glengarnock and Dalry respectively.

Table 5 – Benefit-cost appraisal

Option	Cost	Benefit	Benefit-cost ratio
Property-level protection to all residential properties at risk during 200yr + climate change event	£3.17M	£3.74M	1.18
Property-level protection to all residential properties where benefits exceed PLP cost	£1.19M	£3.15M	2.65
Kilbirnie / Glengarnock direct defences – 200yr standard of protection (inc. climate change)	£26.2M	£9.96M	0.38
Powgree Burn option	£0.31M	£0.88M	2.84
On-line dam (100yr spillway)	£7.86M	£7.08M	0.78
On-line dam (100yr spillway) with minor works	£7.96M	£8.26M	1.04
Off-line dam (diversion channel)	£12.9M	£7.08M	0.55
Off-line dam (diversion culvert)	£16.2M	£7.08M	0.44
Dalry direct defences 50yr standard of protection	£6.21M	£9.00M	1.47
Combined on-line dam with minor works / Powgree Burn / Dalry scheme	£14.5M	£18.1M	1.25

It can be seen from the above table that the **upstream storage, Powgree Burn and Mill Park options** are economically viable in their own right or as a combined scheme. Both the damage assessment and the scheme cost involve a large number of variables. There is inherent uncertainty associated with these estimates; however appropriate allowances (risk allowance / optimism bias) have been made to account for uncertainty in project costs.

In addition to the above formal schemes, the high frequency of flooding and damages accrued at a number of properties indicate that property-level protection could be worthwhile if no scheme is further developed. However, starting from PLP, spending an additional £13.3M would yield additional benefits of £15.0M. This gives an incremental benefit-cost ratio of 1.13. The benefits associated with the reduced flood risk associated with a formal scheme as oppose to property level measures is greater than the additional cost of constructing a scheme compared to implementing property level protection measure. The additional cost associated with a full scheme provides a benefit cost ratio above unity.

If the monetised benefit in terms of risk to life is included in the appraisal, the benefit-cost ratio of the three potentially viable schemes is significantly enhanced as shown in Table 6. Some risk to life remains associated with design exceedance events or the unlikely event of infrastructure failure. It would be more cost effective to address this through the provision of flood warning or improved emergency procedures, rather than increasing the standard of protection offered by the options.

Table 6 – Benefit-cost ratios incorporating risk to life

Option	Cost	Benefit	Benefit-cost ratio
Powgree Burn option	£0.86M	£8M	9.3
On-line dam (100yr spillway) with minor works	£7.96M	£18M	2.3
Dalry direct defences 50yr standard of protection	£5.13M	£43M	8.4

The following appraisals only cover those options which are potentially economically viable. Further details of environmental and social appraisals for all options will be included in the main Appraisal Report.

3.2 Environmental Appraisal

Direct Defence Options – Glengarnock / Dalry

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening exercise was carried by Grontmij for the Kilbirnie and Dalry direct defence options as originally developed by Kaya Consulting. Although there have been some changes in the scheme design, it is considered that these changes would not materially affect the outcome of the screening exercise. The screening report concluded that there would be no requirement for an EIA, although further surveys and a construction environmental management plan would be required. According to the Flood Risk Management (Flood Protection Schemes, Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts) (Scotland) Regulations 2010, Local Authorities are required to seek a screening opinion from each of the consultative bodies. NAC confirmed that an EIA would not be required for this option, but stated that further surveys and a construction environmental management plan would be required.

The majority of the environmental impacts would be associated with construction works within the river channel and resource use (earth, concrete, steel). However, the use of direct defences also provides scope for enhancement of the riparian corridor as part of the works. Post-construction impacts would be limited as normal flow conditions would not be significantly affected and riparian habitats would be maintained.

In the opinion of North Ayrshire Council Planning Department from 2012 an application for planning permission would not require to be accompanied by a full Environmental Statement, but rather by further studies in relation to particular issues:

- Detailed Ecological Studies, including Protected Species Surveys and Phase 1 Extended Habitat Surveys of habitats likely to be affected by the proposed works, with appropriate identification of the main ecological constraints and risks. The scope of such documents should be agreed with SNH and SEPA;
- Detailed site investigations to appropriately identify potential contamination risks. The scope of such a document should be agreed with SEPA and North Ayrshire Council's Contaminated Land Officer (Willie McNish – 01294 4378). Such investigations should also cover any requirement for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment: Guidance on the scope of this element can be obtained from the Coal Authority;
- Flood Risk Assessment (FRA): The scope of this document should be agreed with SEPA and NAC's Flood Officer (Patricia Rowley – 01294 225 259);
- Waste Management Plan (particularly during demolition/construction phases): arrangements should be in line with SEPA requirements, see the comments this competent authority have provided;
- Noise Assessment (Inc Traffic, Construction and Operational): Please scope this document with NAC's Environmental Health Section (John Murray – 01294 324 392);
- Where necessary, pre-condition structural surveys of potentially affected properties in relation to ground borne vibration during construction; and
- Justification against LDP Policy Adopted and proposed.

On-line storage option

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening exercise was carried by Grontmij for the on-line storage option. On the basis of the collated EIA screening data and supporting discussion, an EIA was considered unnecessary to support the proposed online flood impoundment structure. NAC confirmed that an EIA would not be required for this option, but stated that further surveys and a construction environmental management plan would be required as recommended in the EIA screening report.

Whilst the impoundment is a large structure, the potential for significant environmental impact is considered to be low. In addition, the visual and amenity intrusion of the completed structure is also considered to be low given the structure will largely be hidden within the topography and landform of the local countryside.

To inform the construction environmental management plan (CEMP) an extended (and detailed) Phase I Habitat Survey (ecology) should be carried out and targeted to the location of the impoundment structure and appropriate length of the River Garnock, both upstream and downstream. The ecological survey should include appropriate survey for the priority terrestrial species and freshwater species.

In addition, and in support of the development application, key features of the CEMP should be developed in outline, and should include:

- Construction works methodology statement.
- Construction management plan for noise and dust control.
- Nuisance management and mitigation plan from noise and dust, and traffic.
- Surface water management and control, with pollution prevention and control measures.
- Site waste management procedures and controls.
- Site environmental management and controls, with site rules.
- Traffic management and control measures
- Duties of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW), where the requirement for an appropriate European Protected Species licence is identified, such as the occurrence of otter for example, from the ecological surveys.

3.3 Social Appraisal

The impacts of flooding are categorised in the Scottish Government Project Appraisal guidance as:

- Human health and well-being
- Community / way of life
- Cultural heritage

Historical flood events and the current level of flood risk have impacted on the local community and there is significant community support for a flood scheme. A number of people live and work in the area, and are therefore particularly prone to the impacts of flooding. In addition, the condition of the current riparian corridor is considered to be unattractive in places. Part of the study area lies within the Kilbirnie Conservation Area. There are plans in place to encourage regeneration of the Conservation Area to improve and highlight its character.

3.3.1 Formal Flood Schemes (not PLP)

The benefits of a flood scheme to the local population would be significant; there would be an improvement in human health and well-being, flood risk to recreation areas would be reduced and the Kilbirnie Conservation area would be less at risk of flooding. Additional benefits to the local community include:

- Reduced loading on existing walls, some of which are known to be in a poor state of repair
- Reduced flood risk to key employers in the area, notably W and J Knox, who have expressed concern regarding flood risk and future operations, and businesses located at Paddockholm Industrial Estate
- Reduced blighting of potential development areas

For each of the flood schemes, some residual impacts would remain; however by implementing appropriate site management and sensitive design and construction methods, these impacts can be minimised as far as possible. Potential impacts are as follows:

- Disruption and health and safety risks normally associated with construction works
- Visual impact of defences
- Privacy during construction and with defences adjacent to properties

Additional residual impacts associated with the **upstream storage option** include:

- Visual impacts to local residents associated with the dam body itself and the removal of rock / clay from the hillside. The EIA screening report concluded that the visual impact would not be significant in terms of the wider surrounding area, however there may be some visual impacts in close proximity to the dam
- Temporary disruption to farming practices during construction (compensation is being discussed with the landowner)
- Loss of farmland under dam footprint (compensation is being discussed with the landowner)

3.3.2 Property-level Protection

Although PLP can be a cost-effective way to reduce the impact of flooding on properties, there are a number of important social considerations:

- PLP would likely need to be funded by residents themselves (potentially with grant support). This may not be feasible in an area with a relatively high level of deprivation.
- PLP does not benefit recreational areas (such as football grounds).
- The risk of flooding to development land (including brownfield sites) is unaffected by PLP.
- PLP does not impact on emergency service costs and does not significantly reduce the risk to life during flood events.
- PLP not offer any protection to other assets such as cars and roads (including people outside of their homes).
- Concerns have also been raised by home owners that such products can make their home less attractive and affect the value of their home.

3.4 Consultations

Initial contact has already been made with key stakeholders including North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Water, SEPA and some landowners. As part of scheme development, further consultation will be required with the following stakeholders:

- The local community – to obtain local opinion on the options being considered
- North Ayrshire Council – to agree a preferred scheme option and confirm operational / maintenance capability
- Scottish Water – to allow incorporation of the drainage network in scheme designs
- SEPA – to confirm environmental requirements of further scheme development work
- Affected land owners – to discuss scheme impacts and agree land purchase / mitigation measures
- Network Rail – to discuss options in the vicinity of railway infrastructure

Following the public exhibition on 21-22 March 2013 at Radio City, feedback was gathered from those who attended. The comments should be further reviewed and addressed should any options be considered in further detail. It should be noted however at the public exhibition only a direct defence option and the off line storage was considered. The on-line option at that stage had not been assessed. The following is a brief summary of some of the key points:

- The majority of respondents felt there was a need for a flood scheme
- The majority of respondents preferred an upstream storage option over direct defences
- The river has some recreational value (walking and fishing for example), however there were a number of comments regarding rubbish in the river channel and on the river banks
- Concerns were raised over the safety implications of upstream storage. The points raised have however been taken into account in the developed solution
- A number of people live and work in the area, with flooding impacting both on their home and their workplace

It was clear from the feedback that there are significant concerns about flood risk and its impact on personal property, insurance and health. The provision of a flood scheme – sensitively designed and constructed – would bring significant benefits to the community. The decision-making process should be as clear and transparent as possible to give residents confidence in the scheme and thereby maximise the benefits.

4 Conclusions and Implications

4.1 Conclusion

A detailed review of flood risk in the upper reaches of the River Garnock has shown that significant parts of the Kilbirnie and Glengarnock are at risk from flooding on a relatively frequent basis. Flood water is shown to spill out of the channel in a number of key areas and then flow through the town. Overland flows are regarded as being the key mechanism leading to extensive flooding. There are a number of areas where the flood hazard is Significant, indicating a potential risk to life.

The risk of flooding at Dalry is mostly limited to the residential housing at Mill Park next to Beith Road. This area is at considerable risk of both frequent and deep flooding, and there is a Significant to Extreme hazard during flood events. There is also some flood risk to commercial properties along the left bank of the Rye Water, including the DSM factory, for more extreme events. Due to the relatively infrequent nature of flooding in the latter area no further investigations were carried out along the Rye Water as works in this location would not be economically viable.

A flood damage assessment was carried out based on the detailed modelling results to determine the damages in key areas and the likely benefits that a scheme can bring through damage avoidance. Due to the shallow depth of flooding within the majority of flooded areas, in combination with the raised floor levels in the majority of properties, the potential damages generated as a result of flooding were found to be considerably lower than previously indicated. As a result, the potential economic benefit associated with the provision of flood protection measures is reduced.

Both direct defences through the Kilbirnie and Glengarnock and the upstream off-line storage option are not economically viable as the cost of the schemes are considerably higher than the benefits associated with avoided flood damages. The provision of an on-line flood storage scheme in combination with minor works downstream would cost around £7.96M with benefits of £8.26M, yielding a benefit-cost ratio of 1.04. The Powgree Burn option would cost around £0.31M with benefits of £0.88M, yielding a benefit-cost ratio of 2.84. Incorporating the potential risk to life would result in benefit-cost ratios of 2.3 and 9.3 respectively, however the significant level of uncertainty associated with such estimates should be borne in mind. These options are economically viable if monetised risk to life is included, but only marginally viable without. Although risk to life is covered by the Scottish Government guidance, it is typically not included in project appraisals in Scotland.

At Mil Park, Dalry, the most appropriate option was considered to be direct defences. The maximum standard of protection that could be provided is around a 50 year return period. The topography of this area means that a pumping station would be required to discharge any surface water during flood events. Works would also be required to mitigate impacts on the railway and the DSM factory. The cost of the Dalry defences would be around £6.21 with benefits of £9.00M. This results in a benefit-cost ratio of 1.47. There is also a significant benefit associated with a reduction in risk to life.

If all the above works were promoted as a single scheme, the combined cost would be overall benefit-cost ratio would be £14.5M with economic benefits of £18.1M, giving a benefit-cost ratio of 1.25.

There were found to be significant social benefits associated with the flood schemes considered, although some residual impacts would remain. This is particularly the case for the on-line storage option which would have visual impacts and affect agricultural land. The residual impacts would need to be addressed during the consultation process. Further consultation with a range of stakeholders is required to confirm the above options are acceptable.

In addition to the above formal schemes, the high frequency of flooding and damages accrued at a number of properties indicate that property-level protection could be worthwhile if no scheme is further developed, however the wider benefits of such an option (such as reduced risk to life and emergency costs) would be limited. The additional spend associated with the combined scheme would result in an incremental benefit-cost ratio of 1.13, indicating that the additional spend would be worthwhile.

4.2 Further Work

The next step in this project will be to carry out consultations regarding the options being considered. This will allow for option details to be finalised and all reports and drawings to be completed. Any viable schemes could then be taken forward for a submission to Scottish Government for funding.

4.3 Legal Implications

The initial indication from the land owners at the flood storage area is that they are likely to object to the scheme. Further consultations are also required with the DSM factory owners, Network Rail and other affected land owners.

In the event of a formal objection being raised the local authority must inform the objector of their decision, where they have an interest in the land on which the proposed operations are to be carried out, as would be the case. The local authority must also give the Scottish Ministers notice of its decision together with:

- (a) the scheme documents,
- (b) a summary of the objections received by the local authority,
- (c) copies of those objections, and
- (d) copies of any other material considered by the local authority.

The Scottish Ministers must, within 28 days of receipt, advise the Local Authority proposing the scheme either

- (a) that they will not consider the proposed scheme, or
- (b) that they will consider the proposed scheme.

If the Scottish Ministers decide to consider the scheme they must cause a public local public inquiry unless all objections have been withdrawn. Therefore unless the potential objection from the landowners is resolved the scheme will need to be considered by the Scottish Ministers and a local public inquiry will be required. In the event that the landowners agree to remove their objection the land of the actual dam footprint and the extent of the inundated area would need to be purchased by the Council. If the landowners sustain their objection and the scheme gets approved following a local public inquiry the land would need to be purchased through a compulsory purchase route.

The proposed flood storage options would result in the construction of a large raised reservoir under the **Reservoirs Act (1975)**. The reservoir will therefore need to be registered under the Act and the design and construction of the reservoir will need to be reviewed and certified by an All Panel Reservoir Engineer under the Reservoirs Act. North Ayrshire Council will become an undertaker of the reservoir and will need to ensure compliance with the Act as regard to inspections, supervisions and monitoring.

The reservoir is an impounding structure and therefore will require a **Complex Impoundment Licence** under the **Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011**. In addition Engineering Licences will be required for the construction of the storage structure and any flood walls. Any drainage works would be subject to the General Binding Rules set out in the Regulations.

4.4 Funding Implications

The funding approach for large flooding projects based on an allocation of the General Capital Grant that was agreed for period 2012 – 2015 has been extended to include financial year 2015-16. Funding for project beyond 2015-16 will form part of the discussions for the next Spending Review.

Large flooding projects which meet the criteria will be eligible to receive grant funding of 80% of eligible capital costs. Grant funding will only be available to support large new flooding projects. The project threshold is set at £2 million.

In order to be eligible for funding under the General Capital Grant for 2015-16 the scheme will need to be approved and have the necessary planning consent as outlined in the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

For projects to be eligible for grant funding they must meet the following criteria

- I. The scheme/project must be new and has not been awarded/ received funding under any previous arrangements for funding flood protection/prevention schemes.
- II. Schemes should be able to demonstrate a positive benefit cost ratio of greater than 1 and demonstrate project value for money.
- III. Applications should only be made where the main construction of the scheme is either ready to start or will start in 2015-16. The application will need to include evidence which demonstrates the certainty of starting the construction works following an award of a grant, including a robust timetable ;
- IV. Schemes should be able to demonstrate multiple benefits in a catchment area, e.g. water environment, asset management;
- V. Schemes should fit within a potentially vulnerable area as identified by the National Flood Risk Assessment.

Project will then be prioritised based on the criteria set out in the Guidance for Council for the Distribution of the Flooding Component of the General Capital Grant for 2014-15 and 2015-16 which is as follows;

- I. In the first instance, priority is given to those schemes which have already been granted approval and necessary planning permission as part of the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961.
- II. Priority should then be given to any new flood protection schemes which have been granted appropriate statutory consent as outlined within the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

In order to be eligible we therefore must demonstrate that the scheme has a positive benefit cost ratio greater than 1 and ready to start in 2015-16.

4.5 Project Risk

Any increase in scheme cost or decrease in the benefits from the proposed works can affect the benefit-cost ratio of the schemes. Risk allowances have been included in line with standard practice for cost estimates of this nature. The inclusion of monetised risk to life considerably enhances the economic case, however there is significant uncertainty associated with such estimates.

No ground investigation has been made at the storage area location or in Dalry and the current designs and costing are based on desk study information and judgment. Any variation beyond these, for example if the material is unsuitable, could lead to increases in cost. Risk allowances have been made to cover against some unsuitability of materials.

Objections to the scheme that cannot be resolved will lead to the need for a public local inquiry and its associated cost. No allowance has been made for such costs in the appraisal.

4.6 Environmental Implications

Should any of the options be further developed, consultation and investigations should continue to ensure any environmental impacts are identified and appropriately mitigated. The direct defence and off-line storage options for Kilbirnie / Glengarnock are not economically viable and further work should therefore focus on the on-line storage option, direct defences at Dalry and/or any other options to be considered.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Hydraulic Model Extents

Appendix B – Flood Extents

Appendix C – Options Drawings

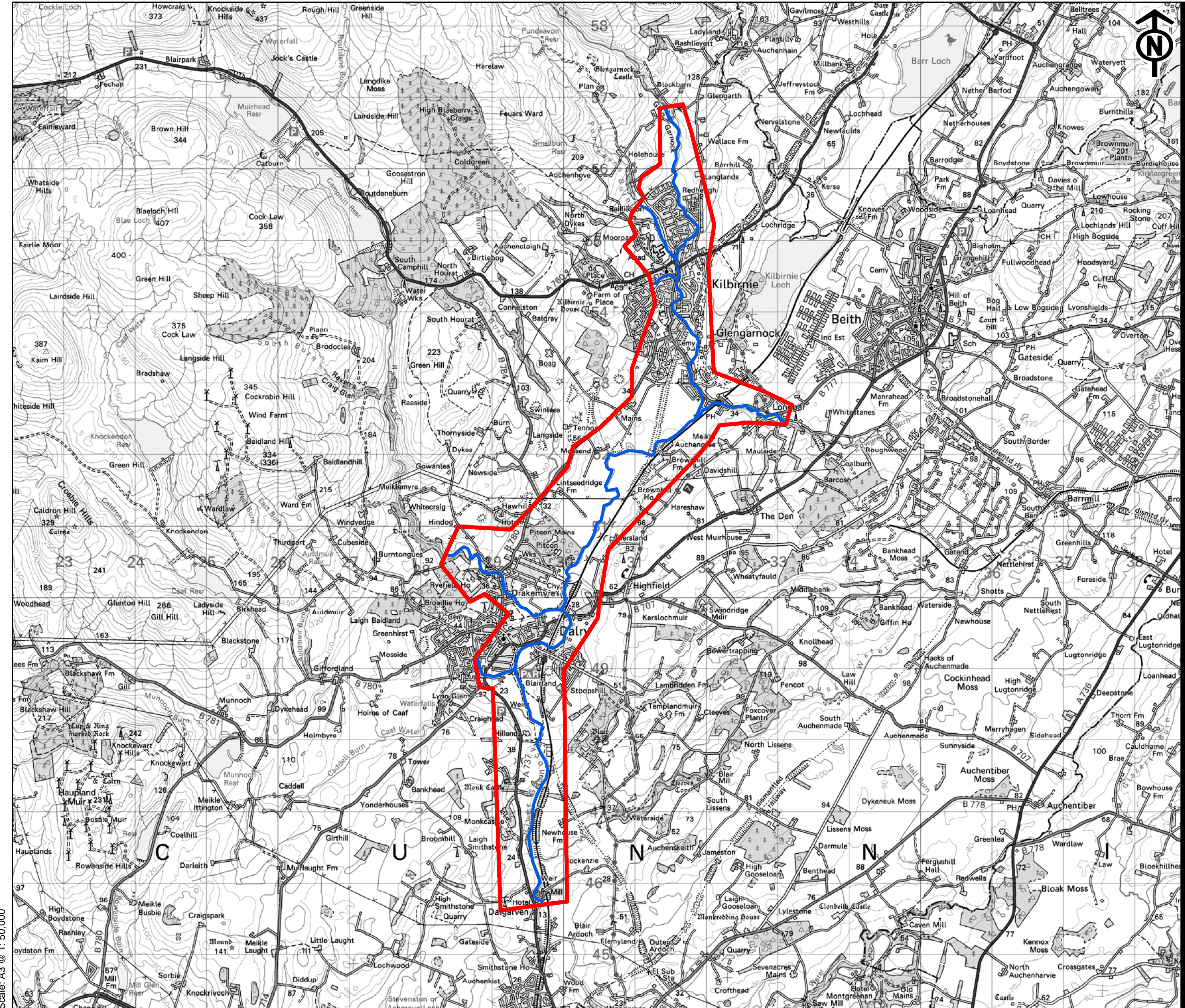
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Appendix A – Hydraulic Model Extents

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PROJECT

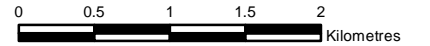
Upper Garnock Flood
Prevention Scheme

CLIENT



Legend

- Extent of 1D
- Extent of 2D



ISSUE/REVISION

CC	12/05/2014	Rev 0

PROJECT NUMBER

60304944

SHEET TITLE

Hydraulic Model Extent

FIGURE




Appendix A

Appendix B – Flood Extents

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-  10yr Flood Extent
-  75yr Flood Extent
-  200yr+CC Flood Extent



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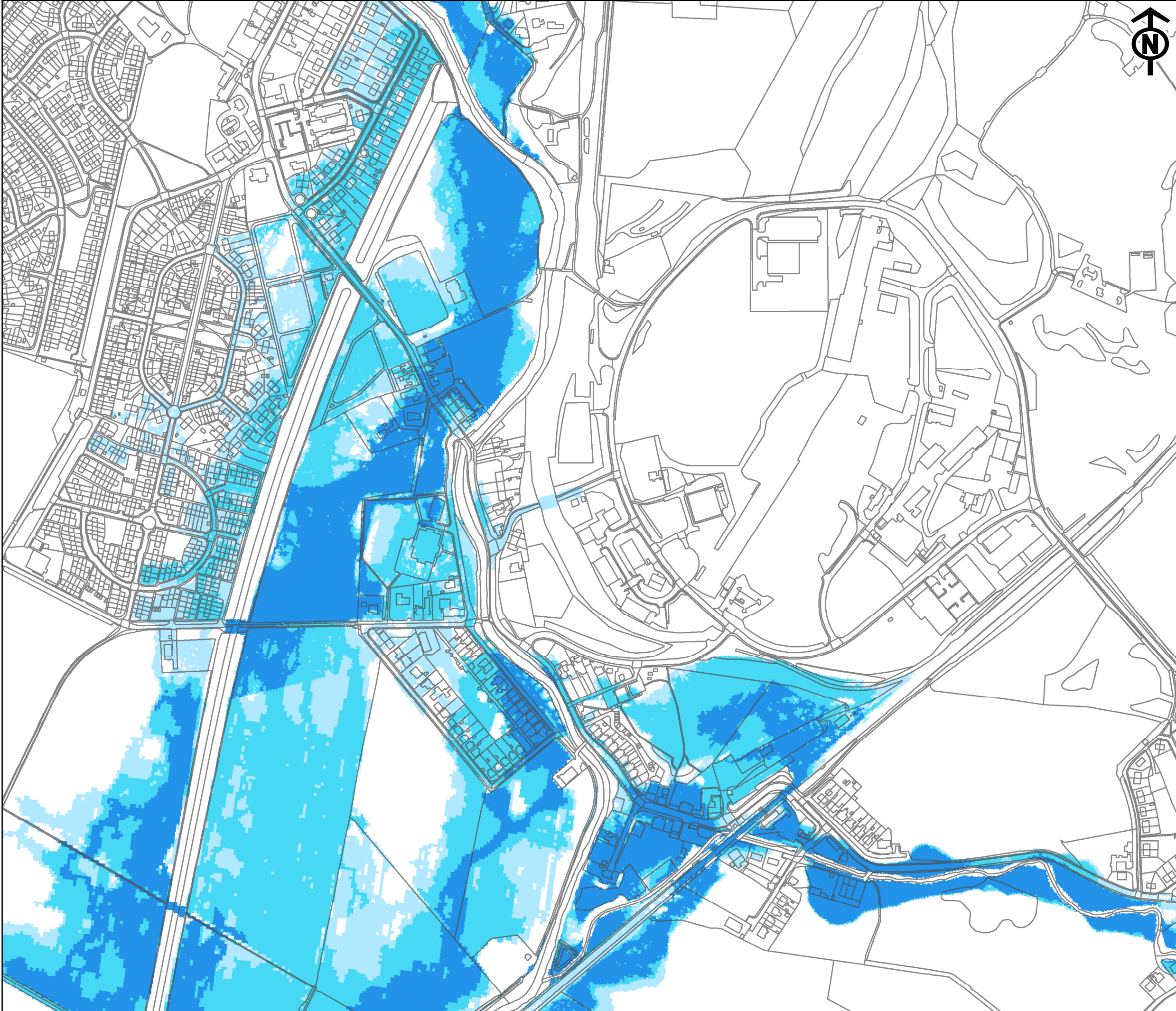
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SHEET TITLE

Flood Extents (Sheet 001/003)
FIGURE

Appendix B.1



AECOM




PROJECT

Upper Garnock Flood
Prevention Scheme

CLIENT



Legend

-  10yr Flood Extent
-  75yr Flood Extent
-  200yr+CC Flood Extent



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


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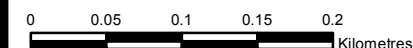
Flood Extents (Sheet 002/003)
FIGURE

Appendix B.2



Legend

-  10yr Flood Extent
-  75yr Flood Extent
-  200yr+CC Flood Extent



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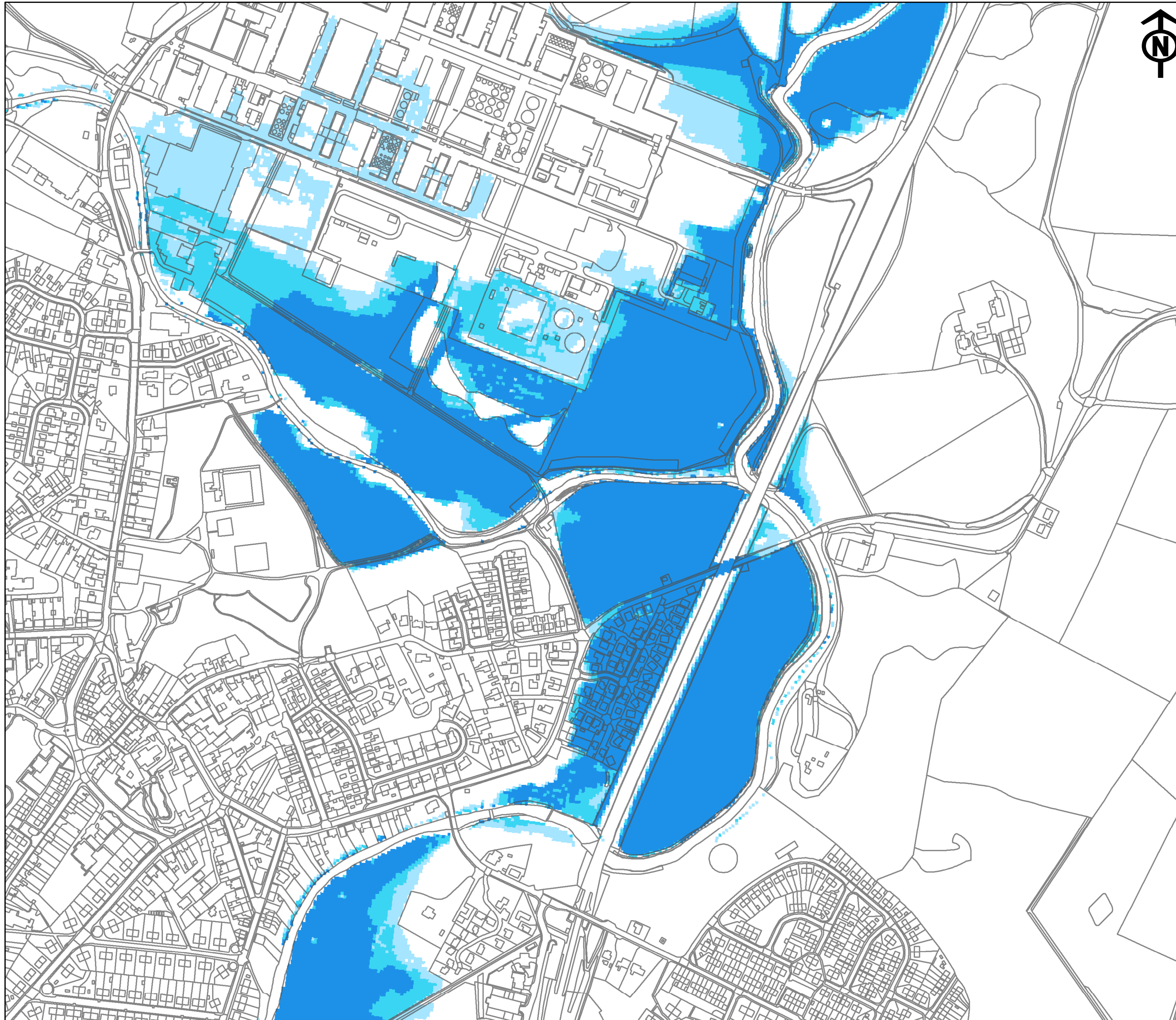
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SHEET TITLE

Flood Extents (Sheet 003/003)

FIGURE

Appendix B.3

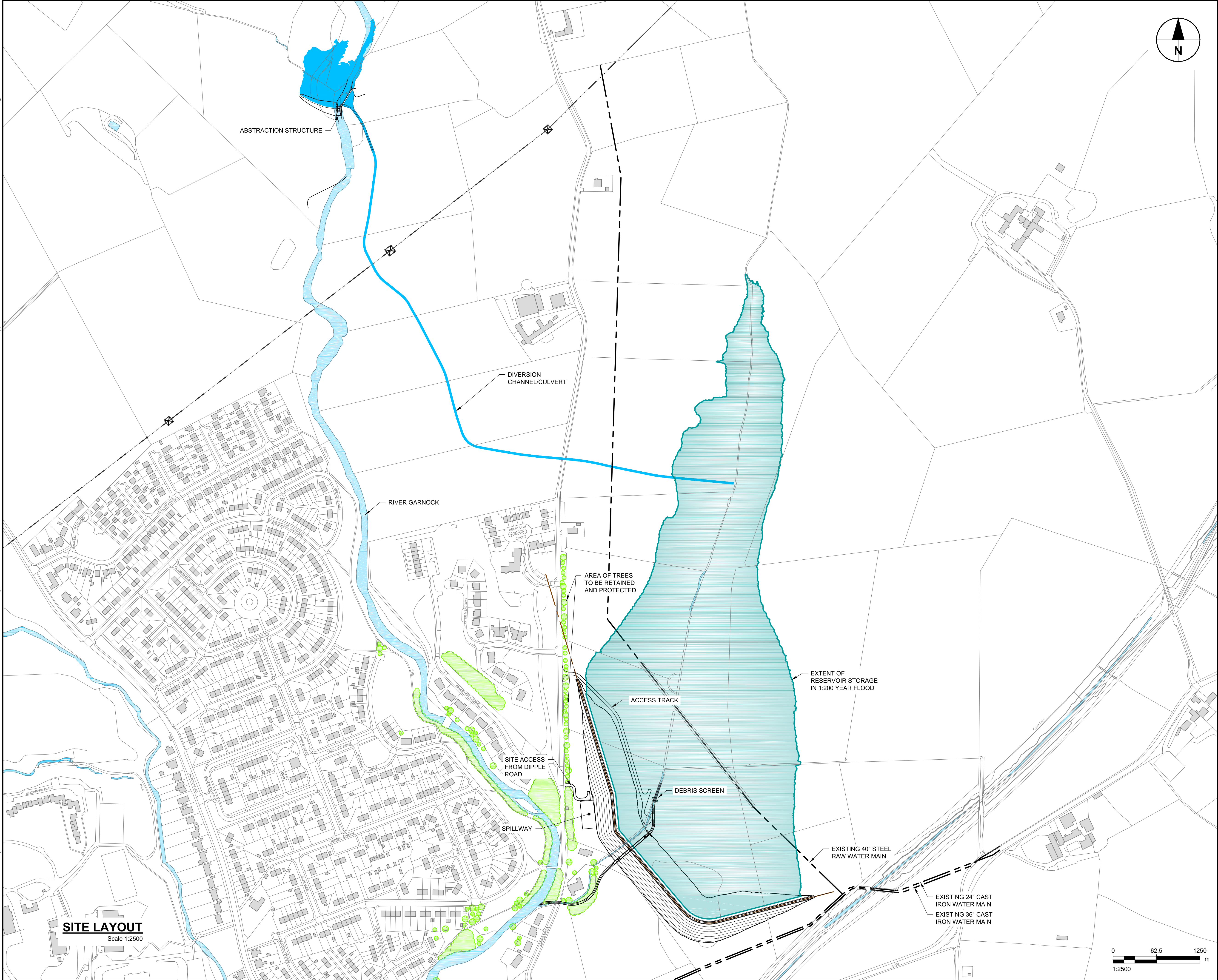


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Appendix C – Options Drawings

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FLOOD PREVENTION
SCHEME - STAGE 3

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CONSULTANT
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Edinburgh EH3 5DA
0131 301 8600 tel 0131 301 8699 fax
www.aecom.com

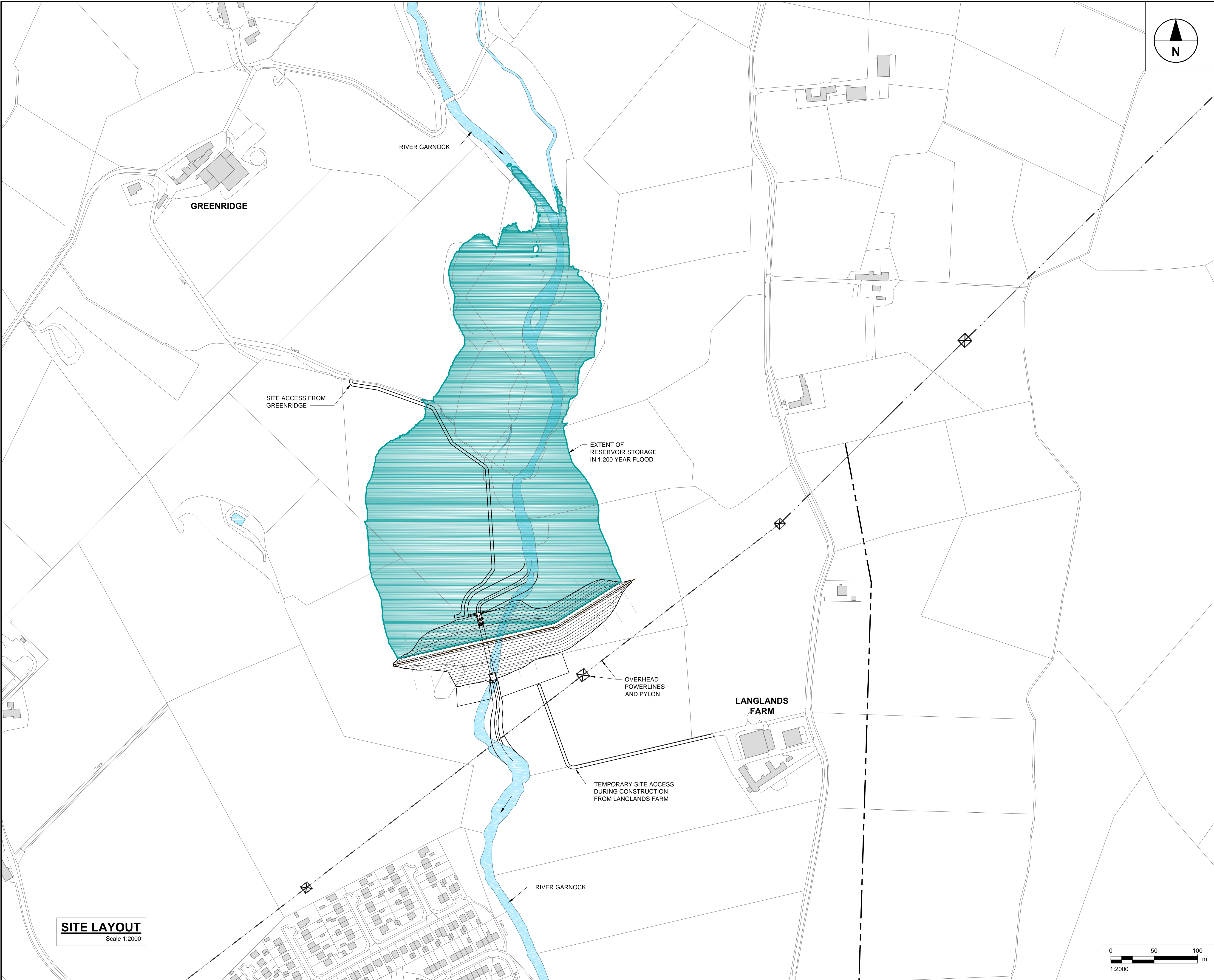
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OFF LINE STORAGE OPTION
PLAN
SHEET NUMBER
OALL-G-0040

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COUNCIL

CONSULTANT
AECOM Limited
1 Tanfield
Edinburgh EH3 5DA
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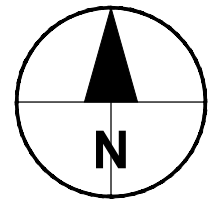
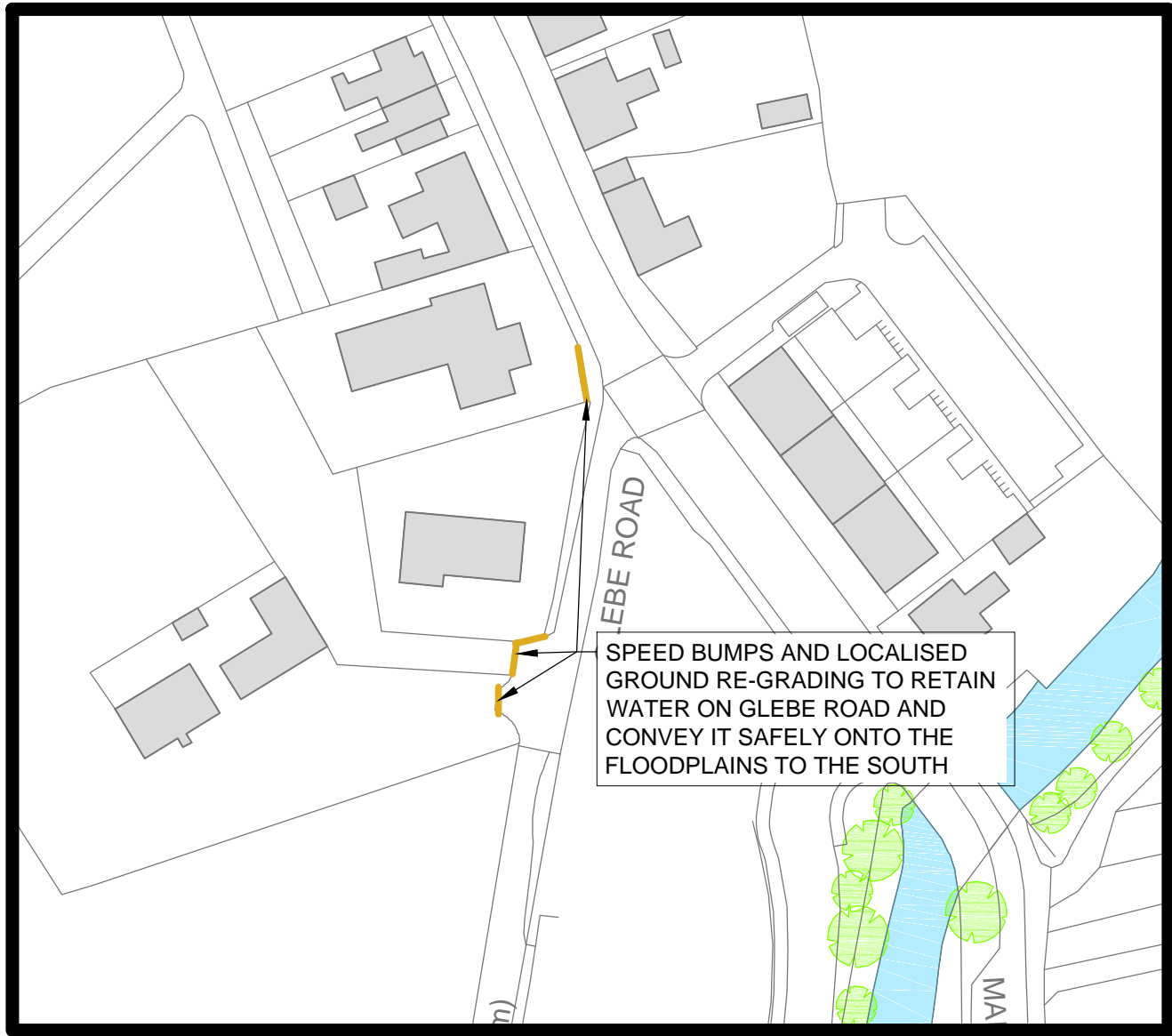
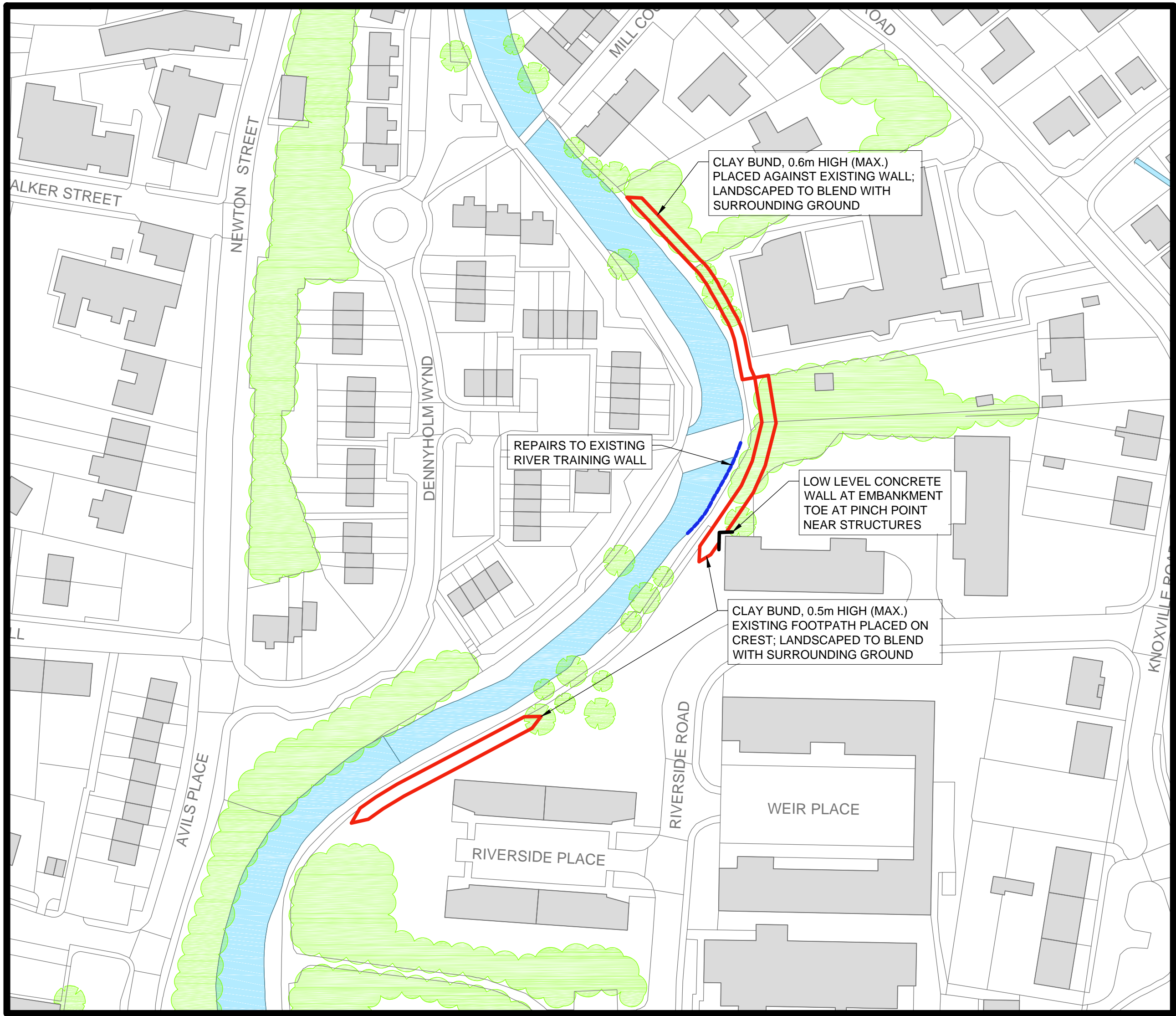
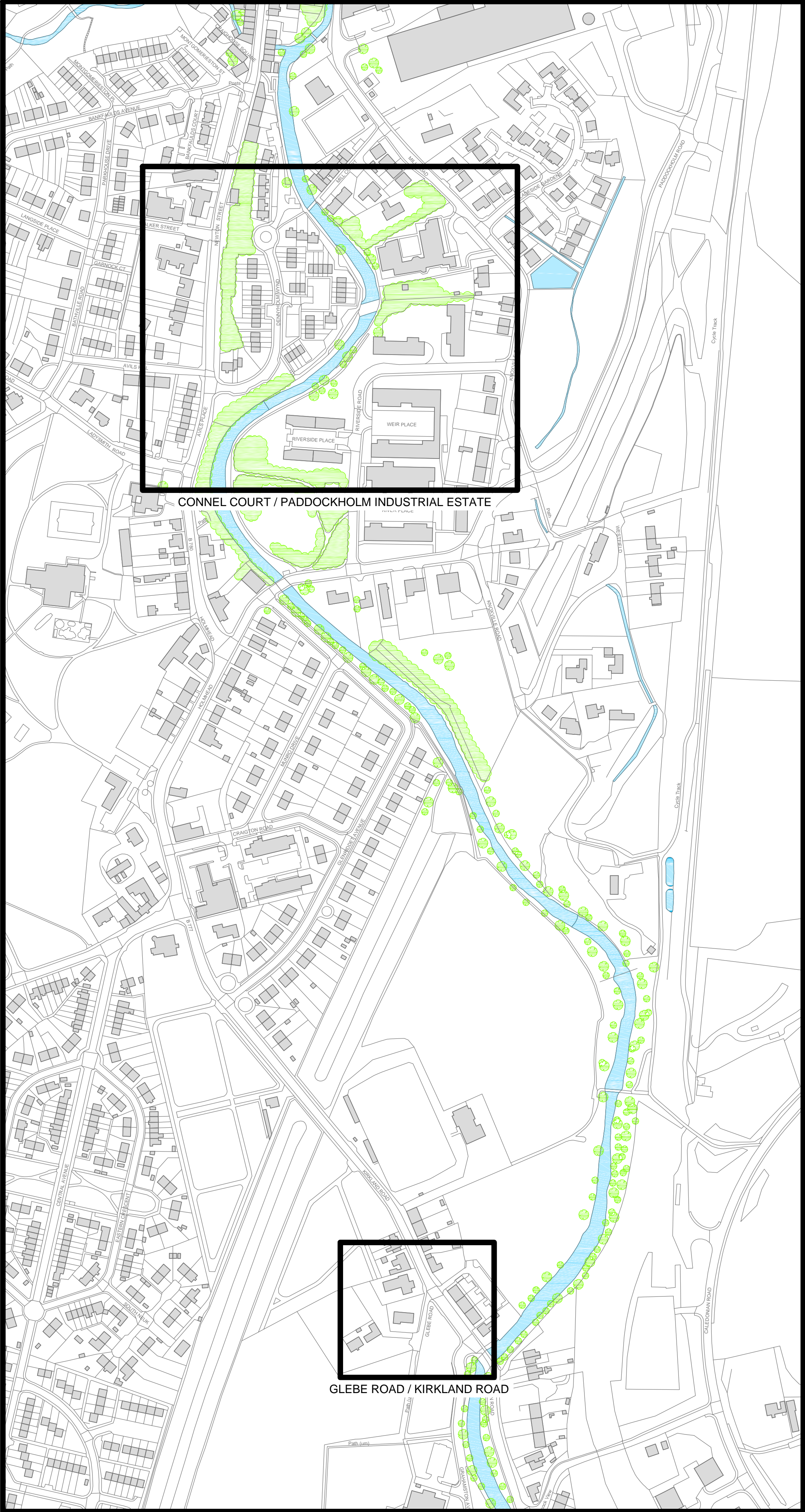
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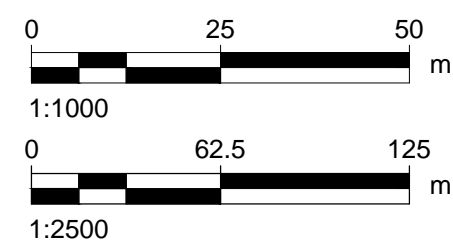
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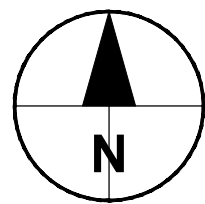
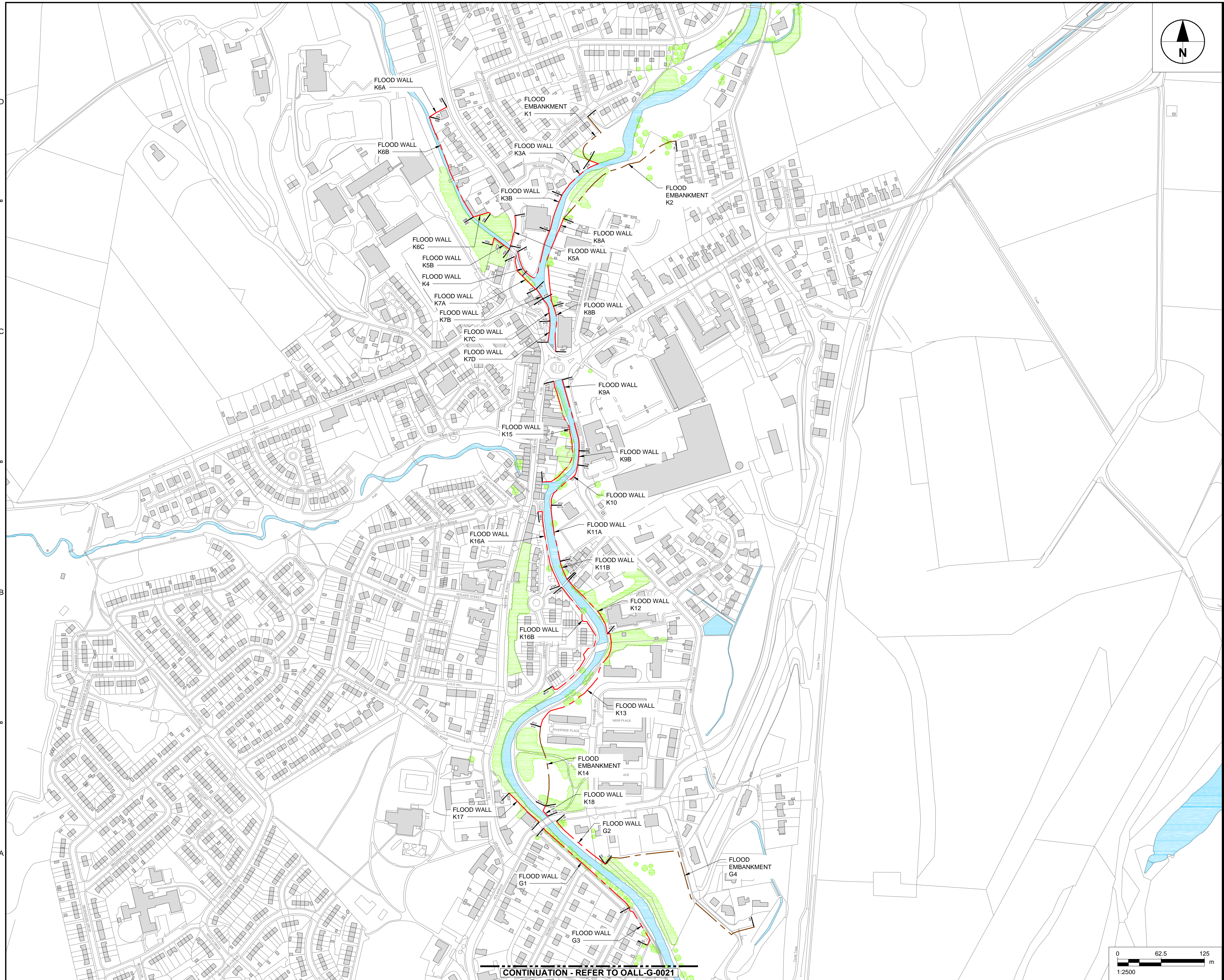
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MINOR DOWNSTREAM WORKS

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SCHEME - STAGE 3

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SHEET TITLE

KILBIRNIE AND GLENGARNOCK
DIRECT DEFENCES PLAN
(1 OF 2)

SHEET NUMBER

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PROJECT

UPPER GARNOCK FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME - STAGE 3

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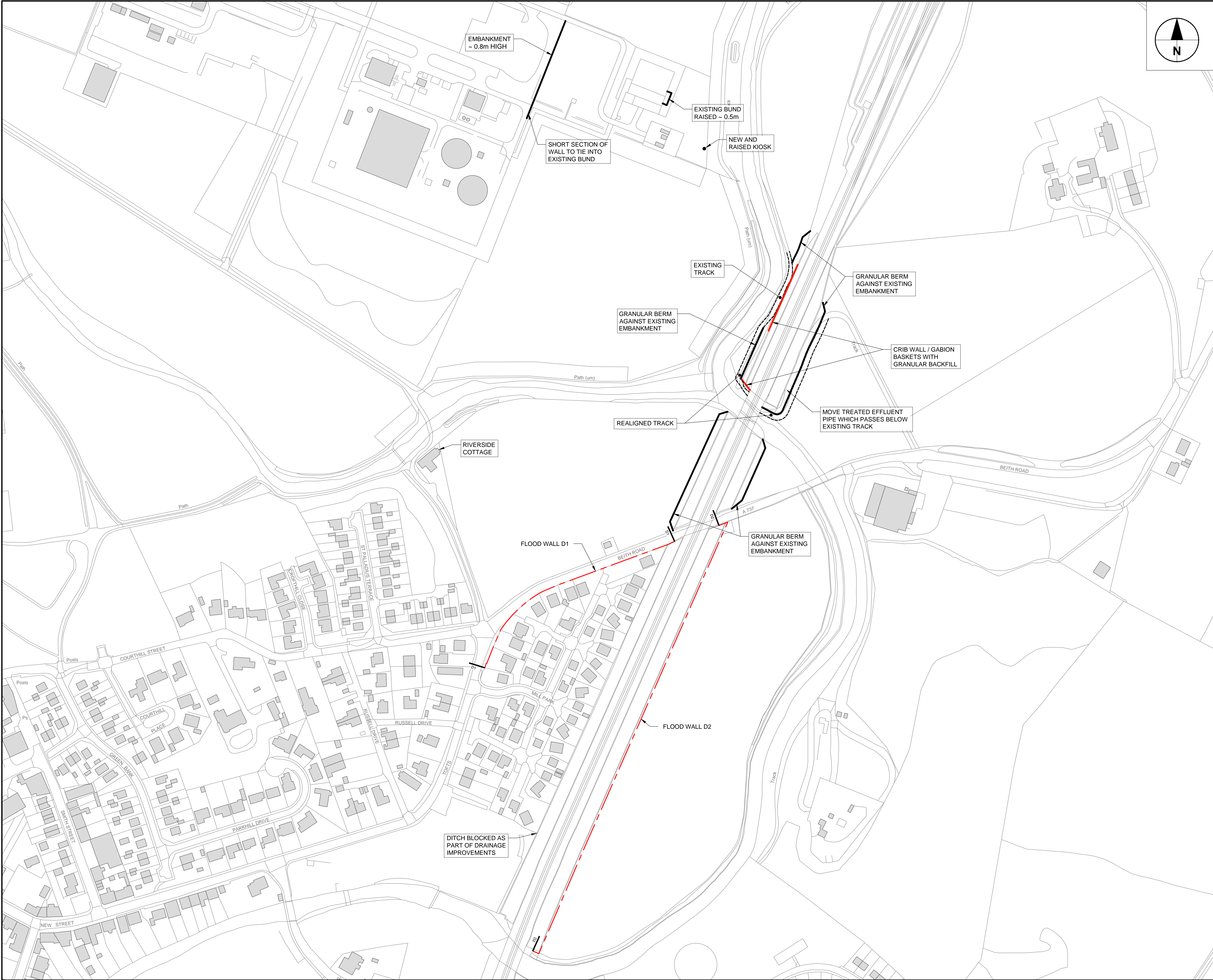
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KILBIRNIE AND GLENGARNOCK
DIRECT DEFENCES PLAN
(2 OF 2)

SHEET NUMBER

OALL-G-0021



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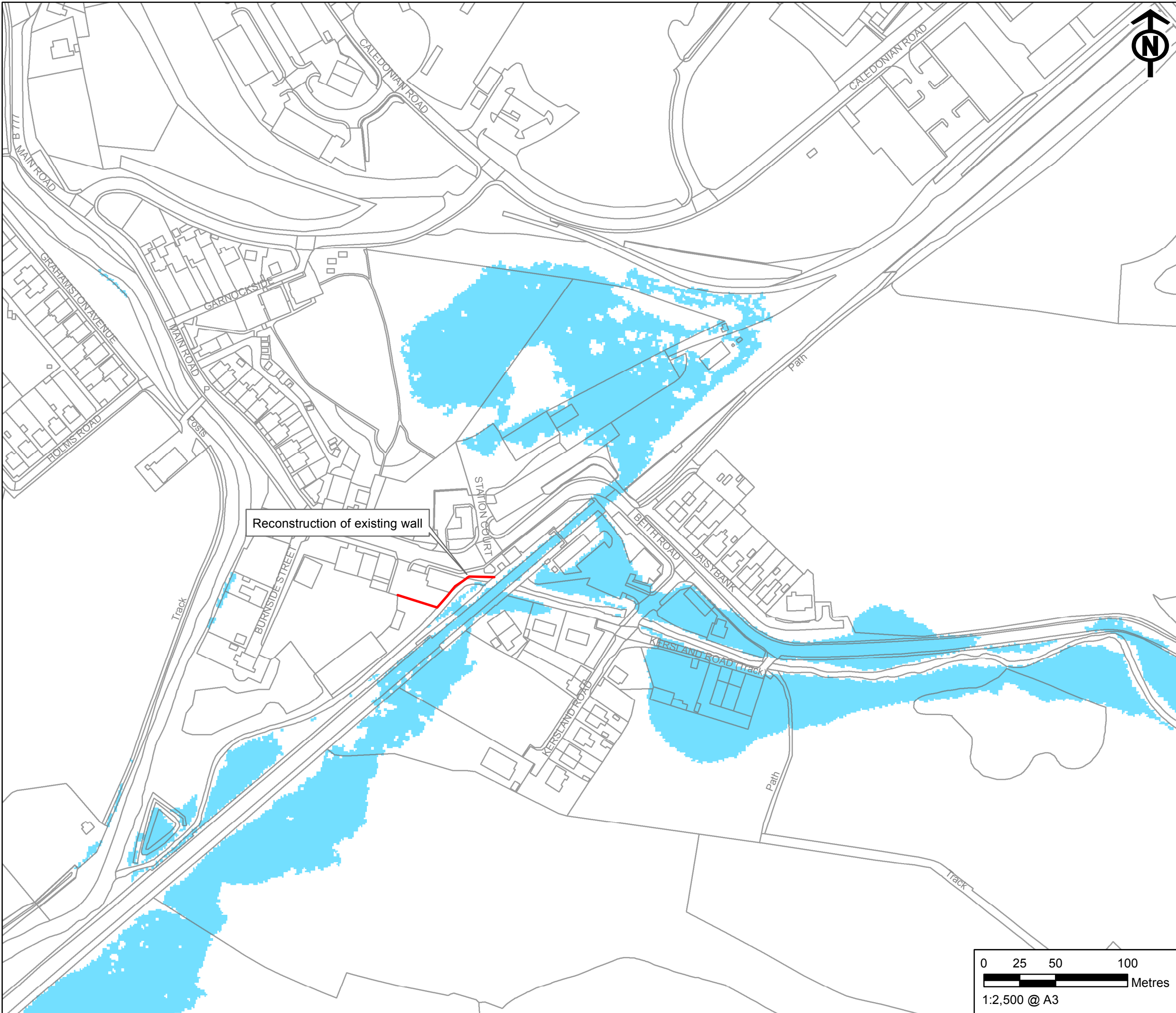
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DALRY
DIRECT DEFENCES AND
MITIGATION WORKS

SHEET NUMBER

DALR-G-0012



PROJECT

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FLOOD PREVENTION
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 10yr flood outline with defences

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60282044

SHEET TITLE

Powgree Burn Defences Plan

SHEET NUMBER

GLEN-G-0011

Appendix D – Key Damage Assessment Information

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Appendix D - Key Assumptions for Damage Assessment

Full details of the damage assessment are reported on separately to this report. The key assumptions and details are as follows:

- The damage assessment was carried out according to the guidance set out in the Scottish Government's *Flood Protection Schemes – Guidance for Local Authorities*.
- The damage assessment methodology was as per the 2013 Multi-Coloured Manual using data from the 2010 Multi-Coloured Handbook (latest data not available at the time of starting the assessment; there is not a significant difference between the 2010 and 2013 data).
- Base year for damages / prices is 2014; depth-damage data has been updated in line with the consumer price index (CPI).
- Damages are based on an undefended model scenario. Some of the existing features may offer some protection in the short terms however this has been ignored for the purposes of this assessment.
- Climate change effects are included by adopting a 15% flow change factor for the 2020s, 20% for the 2050s and 30% for the 2080s. This is based on Environment Agency guidance for England (*Adapting to Climate Change: Guidance for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities*); there is no equivalent guidance for Scotland. Further hydrological modelling can be carried out using UKCIP09 output to refine these estimates.
- Discount rates in line the HM Treasury Green Book; 3.5% for years 0-30, 3% for years 31-75 and 2.5% thereafter.
- Damages and residual damages are estimated over a 100 year appraisal period.
- Residual damages are estimated using routing model results.
- Damages are capped at risk-free property values. Where properties flood to a depth of 100mm during a 5-year return period event, properties are written off at risk-free market values. This is because there would be insufficient time to carry out repairs between flood events. No associated damages (emergency costs etc) are allowed to accrue for these properties.
- Damages are estimated based on surveyed floor levels, modelled flood levels, property type and age. The standard depth-damage data was weighted according to the social grading of study area from census data.
- Emergency costs are taken as 10.7% of property damages
- Health benefits are calculated in accordance with the Scottish Government guidance depending on the change in standard of protection associated with a scheme.
- Utility damages are estimated as 5% of property damages
- Temporary accommodation, dehumidifier electricity, additional heating costs and damage to vehicles are calculated in accordance with the Multi-Coloured Handbook.
- A social equity allowance was added based on census results and weighting factors in the Scottish Government guidance.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 7

11 November 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Demolition Order - 2 Montgomerie Road, Saltcoats**

Purpose: To advise the Cabinet on the condition of the above property and seek approval to serve a Demolition Order.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet approves the serving of a Demolition Order on the owner of the above property.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council was requested to inspect the condition of the two apartment detached cottage at 2 Montgomerie Road, Saltcoats.
- 1.2 Under Section 115 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, the Council retains the statutory authority to serve Demolition Orders where properties fail to meet the recognised tolerable standard.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 On inspection the property was found to be in a very poor condition with penetrating dampness throughout. The roof is structurally unstable and the property has no bathroom facilities. The property was found to be below the Tolerable Standard as defined by Section 86 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987.
- 2.2 The property is privately owned but unoccupied.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 Given the condition of the property it is proposed that Cabinet approves the Serving of a Demolition Order in terms of Section 115 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 Upon the serving of the Demolition Order, Council Tax will cease to be payable on the property.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 Notice will be served under Section 115 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 None.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 None.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 In relation to the future Council Tax implications, discussions have taken place with the Council's Revenues & Benefits Team.
- 5.2 Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board will be advised of the serving of this Demolition Order. This will allow the property to be removed from the Valuation Roll.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is considered appropriate for a Demolition Order to be served on the owner of the property at 2 Montgomerie Road, Saltcoats.



CRAIG HATTON
Executive Director (Place)

Reference : DT

For further information please contact David Tate, Senior Manager (Property Management & Investment) on 01294 225051

Background Papers

None.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 9

11 November 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Award of Contract - Replacement Sheltered Housing Unit, Montgomery Court, Kilbirnie**

Purpose: To advise the Cabinet of the result of the tender exercise for the works to provide a replacement Sheltered Housing Unit and Amenity Bungalows, Montgomery Court, Stoneyholm Road, Kilbirnie.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to approve the award of the contract to Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council requires to put in place a contract for the works to provide a replacement Sheltered Housing Unit and Amenity Bungalows, Montgomery Court, Stoneyholm Road, Kilbirnie. The works comprise the phased demolition of the existing Sheltered Housing Unit and the construction of eight bungalows and a sixteen unit Sheltered Housing complex.
- 1.2 The duration of the contract is eighty eight weeks.
- 1.3 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts a formal tender exercise was undertaken under the restricted procedure using the Public Contracts Scotland portal.
- 1.4 The process resulted in eight pre-qualification questionnaires being received, with all eight applicants short listed and being invited to tender.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 Five tenders were received by the due return time and date. These were evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria of lowest compliant price.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the contract be awarded to Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd on the basis of lowest cost compliant bid received.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The sum of £4,400,000.00 is included in the Council's Capital budget to meet the construction cost of the contract. The contract price is £4,045,405.37 which represents a saving of £354,594.63 against the available budget.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 The tender exercise was conducted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders Relation to Contracts.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 None.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This contributes to the Council Plan Core Objective 4 "Operating more efficiently and effectively".

Community Benefit Implications

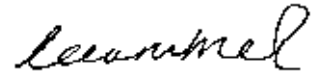
- 4.7 The contract will deliver:
- 210 weeks for new recruits including Joinery 130 weeks (includes 1 apprentice), Painter 30 weeks (includes 1 apprentice) and Bricklayer 50 weeks.
 - 2 x tendering workshops for Team North Ayrshire SME's
 - 1 x tender development workshop for Third Sector Organisations
 - 2 x work placement for a minimum of 5 days for an S4, S5 or S6 pupil from a North Ayrshire School
 - 1 x programme of 5 career talks in North Ayrshire schools
 - 1 x one-to-one mentoring to a young person from North Ayrshire – one hour per month for 12 months
 - 1 x programme of mock interviews for pupils.

5. Consultations

5.1 None.

6. Conclusion

6.1 It is recommended that the award of the contract is made to Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd at a price of £4,045,405.37.



LAURA FRIEL
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference : TR/CG

For further information please contact Thomas Reaney, Procurement Manager on 01294 32 4097.

Background Papers

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 10

11 November 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Ayrshire Economic Partnership: 24 September 2014**

Purpose: To submit the Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 24 September 2014.

Recommendation: That the cabinet notes the Draft Minutes attached at Appendix 1.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Ayrshire Economic Partnership was established several years ago to promote Economic Development across Ayrshire. The approach has focused on sector development:

- Renewable Energy;
- Food and Drink;
- Engineering;
- Tourism.

2. Current Position

2.1 The Ayrshire Economic Partnership last met on 24 September 2014 and meets approximately every two months.

3. Proposals

3.1 The cabinet is invited to note the Draft Minutes attached at Appendix 1.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Human Resource Implications

4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

4.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental or sustainability implications arising from this report.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 There are no implications for key priorities arising from this report.

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 There are no community benefit implications arising from this report.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 No consultation was undertaken in the production of this report.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The attached Draft Minutes are submitted for information.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : KY/KS

For further information please contact Sally Agass, Head of Services (Economic Growth) on 01294 324020.

Background Papers

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At a meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership on **Wednesday 24 September 2014** at **5.30 p.m.** Council Chambers, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE.

Present:	Lesley Bloomer (South Ayrshire Council) Mark Hastings (South Ayrshire Council) Councillor Bill McIntosh (South Ayrshire Council) Karen Yeomans (North Ayrshire Council) Fiona Lees (East Ayrshire Council) Chris McAleavey (East Ayrshire Council) Douglas Boatman (FSB) Gordon McGuiness (Skills Development Scotland) Val Russell (Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce) Heather Dunk (Ayrshire College) Jim Reid (Scottish Enterprise) Ros Halley (Ayrshire & Arran Tourism Manager) Councillor Jim Buchanan (East Ayrshire Council) Elma Murray (North Ayrshire Council) Councillor Willie Gibson (North Ayrshire Council) Eileen Howat (South Ayrshire Council) Willie Mackie (Taste of Ayrshire) Chris Brodie (SDS) Jackie Galbraith (Vice Principal of Strategy, Planning & Performance)
Apologies:	Sharon Hodgson (East Ayrshire Council) Bill Costley (Private Sector) Councillor Douglas Reid (East Ayrshire Council) Wai-Yin Hatton (Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce)
In Attendance:	Kelly Steel (North Ayrshire Council) Loraine Barr (North Ayrshire Council)

ACTIONS AGREED		
	Action Required	Responsible
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
2.	<u>Actions from Previous Meeting: 12 February 2014</u> The Action Notes arising from the AEP meeting held on 23 April 2014 were noted and agreed. An update was provided on the Food & Drink Paper, Taste	

	Ayrshire Board agreed a partnership with Chamber of Commerce. Website development has been delivered and are looking to enhance the website. Funding aims and objectives remain the same. Taste Ayrshire?? will not be approaching AEP for program funding this year.	
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3.	<p><u>Presentation on Regional Skills Assessment</u></p> <p>SDS gave a presentation on Regional Skills Assessment.</p> <p>It was stated that she felt this time comes with a health warning from the college side as the figures were from 2013 and that the most up to date data for 2013/14 is that the key sectors are Health and Engineering 77% in STEM area and 23% in Social. Request was made for the data to be reviewed.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that the jobs coming up are to fill retired shoes. A response was provided stating that the RSA forecast suggests Ayrshire Economy is not growing as much as the rest of the country but that he views the forecast as a challenge.</p> <p>A question was raised to see if there are any observations SDS would make in relation to the particular challenges that Ayrshire faces. SDS responded that Scotland has a strong and vibrant Engineering Sector and we are seeing a huge increase in employment. In terms of Ayrshire, it's one of job creation as much as attracting people to come and live in the area.</p> <p>The next question raised was if SDS sees the RSA as a mechanism where we can get a finer grain to our business where we can get a richer understanding of what's going on. Chris responded by saying that the regional document gives an overview and does provide information, if this does not help to understand suggested working with the SDS to provide information.</p> <p>It was requested that the latest data could be provided sooner rather than later and that he would like to see Ayrshire Skills Gap as a permanent agenda item which will drive a Pan Ayrshire skills.</p>	
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	<p>A discussion took place on how we can take the RSA data and ask ourselves what it means for us, how best to use the data in order to identify how we go forward.</p> <p>A further discussion took place around Ayrshire College & business working in partnership to get proper skills in place.</p> <p>It was agreed that this would become a permanent agenda item.</p>	<p><i>KY/LB/CB/GMCL/JG</i></p>
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4.	<p><u>Ayrshire Energy Strategy</u></p> <p>An update on Ayrshire Energy Strategy was given.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the need to set up an Energy Forum and if so, who should be involved. More work will need to be done as there was concern regarding possible duplication of work between engineering and energy.</p>	<p>MH/JR</p>
5.	<p><u>Theme Updates</u></p> <p>5 a) Renewables</p> <p>The contents of the Renewables paper were agreed and noted.</p> <p>5 b) Tourism</p> <p>The contents of the Tourism paper were agreed and noted.</p> <p>5 c) Engineering</p> <p>The contents of the Engineering paper were agreed and noted.</p> <p>5 d) Food and Drink</p> <p>The contents of the Food and Drink paper were agreed and noted.</p>	

6.	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>In terms of the strategic agenda, it was stated that the AEP need to look at the challenges to ensure that Ayrshire is capable of facing the challenges, particularly in the context of the changing landscapes with regards to City Deals etc.</p> <p>It was noted that more time is required to carry out further work on this but that a way forward would be proposed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The West of Scotland Regional Advisory Board (RAB) was raised. It was proposed that consideration should be given to how the RAB may be able to assist in supporting the Ayrshire response to City Deals.</p>	LB/CM/KY
7.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership will be held on Wednesday 17 December 2014 at 5.30 p.m. in East Ayrshire Council, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU.</p>	

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 6.50pm

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 11

11 November 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Economic Development & Regeneration Board**

Purpose: To submit the minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development and Regeneration Board held on 1 October 2014.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet notes the minutes attached at Appendix 1.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Economic Development and Regeneration Board was established in August 2010 and consists of key stakeholders and agencies including representatives from the private sector business.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Economic Development and Regeneration Board met on 1 October 2014.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to note the minutes attached at Appendix 1.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications at this time.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no Human Resource implications at this time.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications at this time.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications at this time.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental or sustainability implications at this time.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 Economic Regeneration is a key priority for the Council.

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 There are no community benefit implications at this time.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 No consultation was undertaken in the production of this report.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The attached minutes are submitted for information.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : KY/KS

For further information please contact Sally Agass, Head of Service
(Economic Growth) on 01294 324020

Background Papers

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Meeting:	Economic Development & Regeneration Board	
Date/Venue:	Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 2.00 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Cunninghame House, Irvine.	
Present:	Professor Alan McGregor, Glasgow University (Chair) Karen Yeomans, (North Ayrshire Council) Councillor Marie Burns (North Ayrshire Council) Councillor William Gibson, Leader of the Council (North Ayrshire Council) Malcolm Simpson, Simpslnns Limited Alasdair Dobson, Taste of Arran Jackie Galbraith, Ayrshire College Billy Love, The Scottish Government Barbara Hastings, Third Sector Interface Gordon McGuiness, Skills Development Scotland Councillor Peter McNamara, (North Ayrshire Council) Etta Wright, Jobcentre Plus Sally Agass, North Ayrshire Council Audrey Sutton, North Ayrshire Council Theresa Corriea, Scottish Enterprise Emily Seaman, SIAS Omar Elmi, Irvine Bay	
Apologies:	Elma Murray, North Ayrshire Council Gordon McLean, UPM Caledonian Patrick Wiggins, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company Val Russell, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Jim Reid, Scottish Enterprise	
In Attendance:	Kelly Steel (North Ayrshire Council)	
ACTIONS		
No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Elma Murray, Gordon Mclean, Patrick Wiggins, Val Russell and Jim Reid.	Noted.
2.	Review of the Minute & Action Log The Action Note arising from the Economic Development and Regeneration Board Meeting held on 4 June 2014 were noted and agreed.	Noted.
3.	ED&R Strategy Refresh An update on the ED&R Refresh was provided. The Chair asked all members for their observations on key themes to explore (please refer to attached document).	KY to progress commissioning the work.

4.	<p>Local Transport Strategy – Presentation by Emily Seaman (SAIS)</p> <p>A presentation on Local Transport Strategy was given to the board by SIAS.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the need for improved transport links to Ardrossan harbour. It was agreed that this should be a wider joint partnership including other key organisations i.e. Transport Scotland. A small number of top priorities have to be prepared for discussion at next meeting.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Emily for her presentation.</p>	KY
5.	<p>Building a Better Business Base</p> <p>Alastair Dobson updated the board on 'Building a Better Business Base'.</p> <p>A discussion took place on the reaction to '150 business', has been very well received positively given and that one of the most exciting things is that we are making business's aspire to work to positive changes.</p> <p>It was noted stated that we need to market our plans better to target the wider community.</p> <p>It was agreed that the business sub group would discuss these items at the next meeting</p>	KY
6.	<p>Update on Employability & Skills</p> <p>An update on the progress of Employability & Skills was provided.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the 'Local Employment Partnership'. It was agreed that there is a need to investigate how the Employability & Skills Board chaired by Councillor Burns could become the North Ayrshire Local LEP.</p> <p>A discussion took place on the new 'Skills Building' at Irvine Royal being good for encouraging young people and we should work with SDS and other employers to encourage students.</p> <p>It was also discussed that the work being done by the college is fantastically exciting and we need to get appropriate skills into schools as part of the curriculum as this is vital to change the system.</p>	KY
7.	<p>Third Sector Interface – presentation by Barbara Hastings (Third Sector Interface)</p> <p>A presentation on the work of the Third Sector Interface was given to the board.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Barbara for her presentation.</p>	

8.	For information:- The following papers were submitted for the Boards information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOA Action Plan Quarter 1 Report • CPP Organisational Development Plan • SOA Annual Report 2013 - 2014 	
9.	Any Other Business There was no other business.	
10.	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 10 th December 2014	

KY/KS

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 12

11 November 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Corporate Health and Safety Group and 1st Tier Joint Consultative Committee: Draft Minutes of Meetings held on 23 October 2014**

Purpose: To submit the Draft Minutes of the Meetings of the Corporate Health and Safety Group and 1st Tier JCC both held on 23 October 2014.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to note the draft Minutes contained in Appendices 1 and 2.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Council's Corporate Health and Safety Group consists of Elected Members, Officers who chair the four Health and Safety Planning Groups and safety representatives from the Trade Unions. The Group aims:-

- To engage employee representatives as an inclusive partner in the Council's arrangements for the management of health and safety to create a safe working environment that supports the well being of the Council's employees.
- To provide a forum for Council Elected Members, senior managers and safety representatives to meet on a regular and constructive basis to exchange information and resolve issues of mutual concern.

1.2 The 1st Tier Joint Consultative Committee comprises Elected Members, Officers and Trade Union representatives. Its purpose can be summarised as follows:

- "To provide a forum and procedure for Council members and Trade Unions to meet on a regular and constructive basis to exchange information and resolve issues of mutual concern"; and
- "To promote and develop good relations between the Council, Management, employees and their Trade Unions".

2. Current Position

- 2.1 Both the Corporate Health and Safety Group and 1st Tier JCC meet up to four times per year. The Draft Minutes of the latest meetings, held on 23 October 2014 are appended for information.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to note the content of the draft Minutes contained in Appendices 1 and 2.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Implications for Key Priorities


- 4.6 There are no implications for key priorities arising from this report.

5. Consultations

5.1 No consultations were required.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The attached draft Minutes are submitted for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elma Murray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference :

For further information please contact Angela Little, Committee Services
Officer on 01294 324132

Background Papers

Nil

1st Tier Joint Consultative Committee
23 October 2014

Irvine, 23 October 2014 - At a Meeting of the 1st Tier JCC of North Ayrshire Council at 1.00 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Ronnie McNicol, Tom Marshall and Robert Steel (North Ayrshire Council); L. McDaid, J. Purvis and M. Gettins (Unison); P. Watkins (GMB); J. Jackson (Unite).

In Attendance

A. Young, HR Operations Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); T. Reaney, Procurement Manager (Finance and Corporate Support) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's)

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Robert Barr, John Bell and Peter McNamara (North Ayrshire Council); Colin Turbett and Francis Boyle (Unison); and Paul Arkison (GMB).

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 29 May 2014 were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Presentation - Procurement

The Committee received a presentation from the Procurement Manager on

- the definition of procurement;
- the tender thresholds of £50k for supplies and services and £100k for works;
- governance and legislation;
- criteria for contract award;
- what and how we buy;
- Scottish Government and Scotland Excel contracts;
- collaboration with others;
- what we do with companies below the thresholds;
- how do suppliers know about opportunities;
- what is new going forward;
- what are we doing to help local businesses;
- blacklisting in employment;
- living wage; and
- highlights and successes.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- examination of the tender threshold levels on an annual basis;
- the recruitment of a Community Benefit Officer to develop, monitor and measure the community benefit of tenders and contracts;
- improved insulation in homes to ensure efficient energy consumption; and
- warranties and guarantees that are built-in to contracts to ensure quality.

Noted.

3. Date of Next Meeting

The Group agreed that A. Young and L. McDaid discuss and agree the topic for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 4 December 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 2.00 p.m.

Corporate Health and Safety Group
23 October 2014

Irvine, 23 October 2014 - At a Meeting of the Corporate Health and Safety Group of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Ronnie McNicol, Tom Marshall and Robert Steel (North Ayrshire Council); G. Smith (EIS); J. Jackson (UNITE); and J. Purvis and L McDaid (Unison).

In Attendance

C. Smyth, Acting Team Leader (Health and Safety) (Human Resources and Organisational Development) and E. Lavelle, Occupational Health Nurse (Finance and Corporate Support); W. Turpie, Operations Manager Streetscene (Place); D. Reid, Team Manager (Education and Youth Employment); J. Davis, Manager Business Support (Social Services and Health); A. Hale, Health Improvement Officer and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Robert Barr, John Bell and Peter McNamara (North Ayrshire Council) and Euan Duncan (SSTA).

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Group held on 29 May 2014 were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Health and Safety: Progress Report 1st April to 31st August 2014/15

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the implementation of the Council Health and Safety Action Plan with a summary of main points:-

- campaigns and initiatives;
- Health and Safety Regulatory Framework;
- Design Technology;
- Six-monthly workplace inspections;
- Corporate Health and Safety Audits and current progress;
- statistical analysis overview and incident statistics;
- Health and Safety training;
- Occupational Health Analysis overview;
- Employee counselling service analysis overview; and
- future dates for Corporate Health and Safety Group meetings

Discussion took place on the following:-

- a reduction in incidents during July and August as a result of school holidays;
- the commencement of audits in March 2014 and the preparation of Action Plans for Managers that requires actions completed within 4 weeks;
- information that will be provided to premises Managers on future thematic audits;
- the provision of audits and action plans to Service representatives;
- a fact-finding meeting that has been arranged by Education to discuss aggression/violence towards teachers and a request from EIS to be included in these meetings;
- a short-life working group that was established to look at incidents of violence and aggression in educational establishments, the recording of incidents, the incident reporting format and the defined category list agreed for use within the incident reporting form; and
- concern at the number of staff not presenting for Occupational Health appointments and actions available to Managers to address this.

The Group agreed (a) that C. Smyth and G. Reid liaise and arrange for the short life Working Group to meet with the Head Teachers of Special Schools to discuss the terminology used within the incident reporting form; (b) that G. Reid investigate the status of the group that is meeting to discuss violence and aggression in educational establishments and whether it would be appropriate for EIS to be involved at this point in time; (c) that C. Smyth (i) advise the premises Managers of future thematic audits that will take place; and (ii) provide each Service representative with a copy of the audits and action plans relating to their service; (d) to approve the thematic style corporate audit; and (f) to note (i) that there is no requirement for a meeting in December 2014; and (ii) the frequency of meetings for 2015, as detailed in the report.

3. Health and Safety Groups

3.1 Place

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on progress to date in meeting the actions set out in the Corporate Health and Safety Strategy.

Discussion took place on:-

- training that is provided for staff employed in kitchen environments prior to the commencement of their employment; and
- the provision of information on the location of aggressive/violent incidents;

The Group agreed (a) that future Health and Safety Progress Reports provide a breakdown of the location of incidents of violence and aggression; and (b) to otherwise note the report.

3.2 Education and Youth Employment

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the current position of Education and Youth Employment management of health and safety.

Discussion took place on:-

- the completion of 70% of workplace inspections and the establishment of a timeframe for the completion of the remaining 30% of inspections;
- input from the Campus Police Officer at Caledonia Primary School in respect of road safety and parking issues; and
- consideration of differing closing times for primary and secondary schools to avoid congestion in local areas.

Noted.

3.3 Social Services & Health

Submitted report by the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) on the current position of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Health and Safety management.

Noted.

4. Livewell - Healthy Working Lives

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Healthy Working Lives Programme.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- alcohol awareness raising promotions and the Council's recommendation of zero alcohol consumption during the working day; and
- a weekly mail drop that is made to Care at Home staff that includes information on Healthy Working Lives.

Noted.

5. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held in February 2015. Details of the specific dates will be provided once the Council has agreed the Committee timetable for 2015.

The meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.