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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14 May 2019

### Cabinet

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**Title:** Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme

**Purpose:** To update Cabinet on the feedback received at the recent community engagement event held during February 2019 and to outline the proposed next steps in the development of the Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme.

**Recommendation:** That Cabinet:

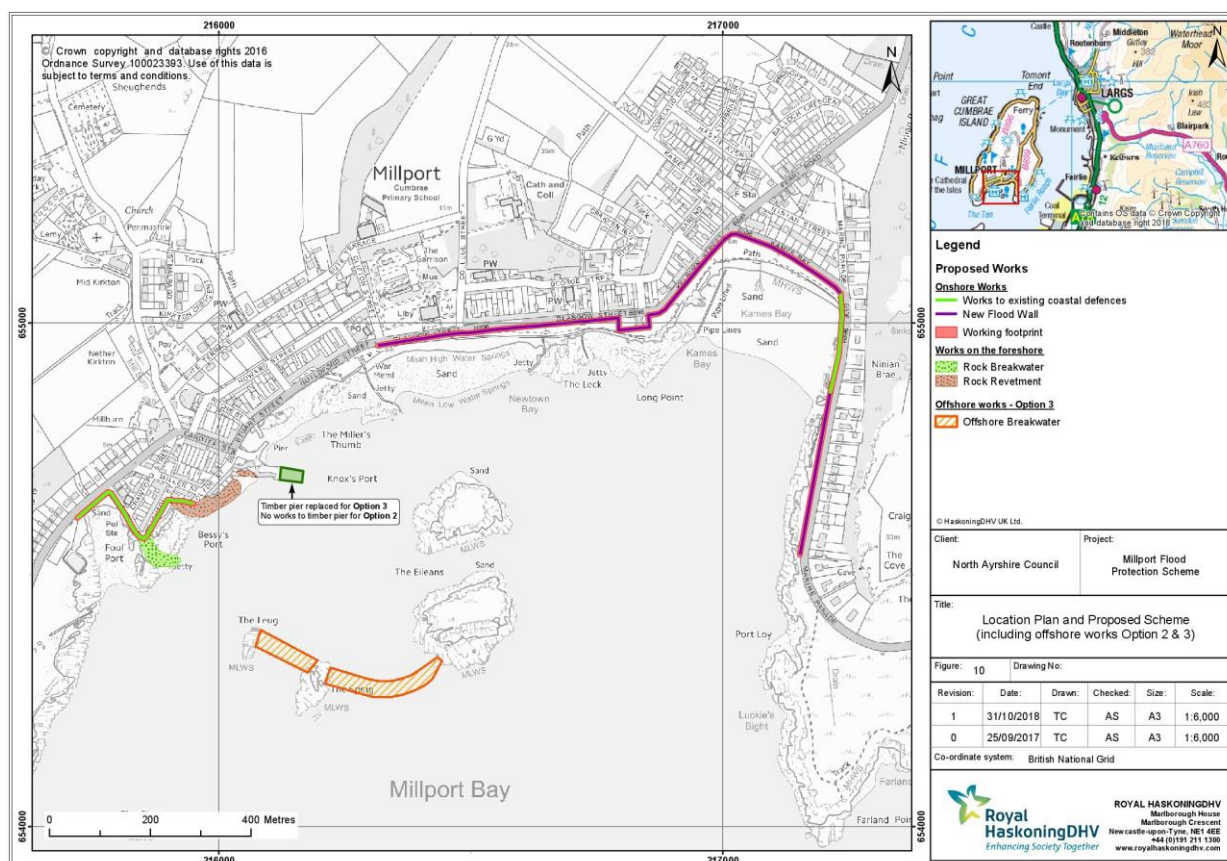
- a) notes the work carried out which includes extensive engagement, and which has helped to develop community support for the proposed Scheme;
- b) notes the mostly positive feedback on the preferred option following the engagement process and agrees a final non-statutory engagement event will take place in August 2019;
- c) agrees to receive a further progress report in early 2020 with the intention of considering formally notifying the Scheme at that time;
- d) notes the outline Scheme delivery timeline detailed at para 2.15.

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The requirement for a coastal flood protection scheme for Millport was included within the Ayrshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan produced in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Since then work has been progressing to develop a potential design solution for an appropriate flood protection scheme.
- 1.2 Three design solutions were presented to Cabinet at the meeting of 11 December 2018. The preferred solution was option 2 which comprises off shore breakwaters connecting small islands in Millport Bay plus onshore flood walls along the Millport shoreline as shown in the diagram overleaf. The preferred solution not only provides the required element of flood protection, but it also creates an area of sheltered water which could allow the potential future development of a marina supporting the desire for step ashore facilities under the auspices of the Ayrshire Growth Deal.
- 1.3 At the meeting of 11 December 2018 Cabinet noted and agreed that officers should undertake further community engagement to progress with the outline design of the onshore elements of the Scheme. In addition, Cabinet agreed that officers should continue to work with the local community with regards to their aspirations for coastal tourism through the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

- 1.4 Successful community engagement design workshop events took place during February 2019 when the local community were able to help co-produce and influence the design of the onshore elements of the flood protection works. The valuable feedback received will now be used to further develop the proposed landscape design and onshore elements of the Scheme.
- 1.5 A final informal community engagement event is planned for August 2019 to help finalise the proposed design prior to the formal notification of the proposed Scheme, planned for January 2020.



Plan of preferred solution showing offshore breakwater and location of onshore works

## 2. Background

### Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme

- 2.1 At its meeting of 11 December 2018 Cabinet agreed with the Scheme Recommendation Report's findings and confirmed the recommended Option 2, as the preferred solution. It was also agreed that officers would carry out a community engagement event based on that option. Cabinet also agreed that officers would continue to work with the community with regards to their aspirations for coastal tourism through the Ayrshire Growth Deal.
- 2.2 A community engagement event was held in Millport on 12 and 13 of February 2019 followed by a student consultation involving Largs Academy students. The events were delivered by the Millport Flood Protection Scheme Project Team and sought views on the preferred option and carried out design workshops on the onshore elements of the Scheme.

- 2.3 The February 2019 community engagement events were very successful, with very good engagement. There were between 170 and 200 visits made to the design workshops. Twenty-nine questionnaire responses were received, plus a further nine responses from students. A large proportion of local residents took an active role during the design workshops and provided their feedback during those discussions.
- 2.4 The Council's preferred option had positive community support which was confirmed verbally during the community engagement days as this option facilitated potential future marina/regeneration opportunities. There is also still a strong desire within the community for preserving the Millport timber pier if the community can secure funds.
- 2.5 The predominant focus of the engagement event was on the community design workshops where the local residents discussed the onshore elements of the Scheme and took great interest and an active role. A visualisation video had been prepared which helped the residents to understand the proposed sea wall layout, access points to the beach and to get a sense of the wall heights at each location.
- 2.6 Individuals provided very useful comments on the proposed onshore works during the workshop sessions and their input has provided a good basis on which to take forward the landscape design.
- 2.7 Various questions and issues were raised at the events highlighting that more focused information is required in areas such as: the size, location and appearance of the onshore walls; access to the beach for people (including those with disabilities) and vehicles; drainage; seating and other improvements that can be incorporated into the scheme; and safety.
- 2.8 The overall response to the engagement was generally positive. However, the proposed flood protection scheme will impact on a large and disparate group of people who are likely to have varying attitudes towards supporting the Scheme depending upon how they see themselves affected by the proposals. The responses highlighted the need for more developed proposals for the onshore aspects of the Scheme which will provide answers and clarity to the issues and questions raised by local people. The goal of the engagement process is to minimise levels of objection to the Scheme when it is finally notified.
- 2.9 A view was also expressed during the engagement that residents of the Crichton Street, Clyde Street and Cross House areas should have more direct engagement in the process.
- 2.10 Officers from Economy and Communities also presented a potential marina proposal, made possible by the flood protection scheme development.
- 2.11 Preliminary works had been commissioned to provide an indicative proposal for the location, size, phasing and development of a marina. This included identifying a marina operational structure that suits the Millport community aspirations in marine tourism development. Over 50 responses to date have been received in response to the marina consultation feedback survey. Responses are positive in support of the proposed marina development, its location and community led operating model.

- 2.12 With considerable community and visitor support for a marina development at Millport and a clear strategic fit within the AGD's marine tourism project identified in the Heads of Terms the project is well positioned to be further developed. This will include the development of more detailed technical design and feasibility to inform the submission of the full business case to Scottish Government, further reports to Cabinet will set out the proposals in due course.
- 2.13 A fourth community engagement event on the flood protection scheme (predominately onshore aspects) is proposed for mid-August 2019. This will afford the opportunity to provide answers and clarity to the issues and questions raised by local people in February and will also allow residents of the Crichton Street, Clyde Street and Cross House areas to be involved in a more direct engagement in the process. This is also ideal timing to connect with the seasonal residents as well as to present an updated design to local people. The visualisation video will be updated to assist the discussions. This additional event is expected to reduce the potential for objections to the Scheme by giving the community and visitors to the island the maximum opportunity to collectively influence the finishing touches of the Scheme in a fashion that will be well supported when the Scheme is formally notified.
- 2.14 On the conclusion of the final informal community engagement event in August 2019, officers will utilise the feed back received to progress to the next stage in the process which will be to complete the initial Scheme design and complete the required Scheme formal notification documents with a view to seeking Cabinet approval in early 2020 to move to formal notification of the Scheme.
- 2.15 An indicative timescale is detailed below with the proposed fourth community engagement details added. The key milestones have remained unchanged from the 11 December 2018 Cabinet Report: -
- August 2019 - fourth Community Engagement (predominately – onshore aspects)
  - December 2019 - Completion of scheme design, EIA and other scheme notification documents
  - January 2020 - Formal notification of scheme
  - April 2020 - Conclusion of FPS consultation period
  - September 2020 - Cabinet approval to progress the detailed design\*
  - October 2020 to April 2021 - Detailed design
  - April 2021 to June 2021 - Tender period
  - August 2021 - Construction commences
  - March 2023 - Scheme completed and operational.

\* It should be noted that the above timescale does not include a public hearing or inquiry and if either is required this would delay the project by around a year, possibly longer in the case of a public inquiry.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the work carried out which includes extensive engagement, and which has helped to develop community support for the proposed Scheme.

- 3.2 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the mostly positive feedback on the preferred option following the most recent engagement process and agrees a final non-statutory engagement event will take place in August 2019;
- 3.3 It is proposed that Cabinet agrees to receive a further progress report in early 2020 with the intention of considering formally notifying the Scheme at that time.
- 3.4 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the outline scheme delivery timeline detailed at para 2.15.

#### 4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

<b>Financial:</b>	The costs associated with the delivery of the proposed Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme are estimated at £27.5M and will attract 80% funding from Scottish Government with the remaining 20% funding being the responsibility of the Local Authority. The required funding is allocated in the Council's approved Capital Investment Plan. The costs involved in further community engagement will be met from this allocation. There is no financial allocation to secure the local community's aspirations to retain the existing timber pier structure, which will only be possible should the community be able to secure funds. The potential Marina development will form part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal business case.
<b>Human Resources:</b>	None.
<b>Legal:</b>	The Flood Protection Scheme is being developed in accordance with the approved Ayrshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Act 2009. Access to the timber section of Millport Pier has been prohibited due to safety concerns and to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.
<b>Equality/Socio-economic Duty:</b>	An Equality Rights Impact Assessment will be carried out during the detailed design stage of the project.
<b>Children and Young People:</b>	A Children's Rights Impact Assessment will be carried out during the detailed design stage of the project.
<b>Environmental &amp; Sustainability:</b>	The Flood Protection Scheme will protect the environment and fabric of Millport against flooding in the long term.
<b>Key Priorities:</b>	The Flood Protection Scheme will protect the safety of residents in the affected areas and will also help develop the economy of Millport which aligns to the new draft Council Plan 2019 – 2024.
<b>Community Benefits:</b>	The actions are being taken in order to improve safety and contribute to the development of the local economy. They also support the potential development of step ashore facilities allied to the Ayrshire Growth Deal proposals.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 To date, three community engagement events have been held with stakeholders, including the most recent event which took place on 12 and 13 February 2019. These events have greatly influenced the development of the proposed flood protection measures.
- 5.2 In addition to the above a forum was established involving stakeholders, elected members and officers (including Economy and Communities) to discuss issues relating to the impact of the proposed flood protection scheme. This has afforded the opportunity to consider the views of the local community with regards to the impact of any flood protection scheme on the local economy and has also allowed discussion to take place concerning the Millport timber pier and the potential for the later development of a small marina in the sheltered bay.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON  
Head of Commercial Services

For further information please contact **Arthur Cowley, Senior Manager (Structures, Lighting, Flooding & Design)**, on **01294 300030**.

### **Background Papers**

N/A