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**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 30 APRIL 2024**

**SUBJECT: COASTAL ADAPTATION PLANS**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND  
FINANCE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of Moray Coastal adaptation plans.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III/(F) (19) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee agree to:**
  - (i) **adopt the Coastal Adaptation plan for managing coastline falling within the Moray council area; and**
  - (ii) **progress the case studies set out in section 6.2-6.4 of this report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Moray has approximately 190km of coastline, 60% of which consists of soft material susceptible to erosion. At a meeting of this Committee on 8 February 2022, members agreed to the development of Coastal Adaptation Plans for Moray, using £160,000 grant funding from Scottish Government (Paragraph 8 of the minute refers).
- 3.2 Moray Council is the first Local Authority in Scotland to develop Coastal Adaptation Plans. The guidance for the development of Coastal Adaptation Plans was developed in parallel with the development of the Moray Plans and Officers have worked closely with SEPA and Scottish Government throughout this process.

3.3 The Plans have been developed in two parts; an overarching Regional Plan, covering the entire Moray Coastline; and Local Plans for communities affected by coastal change. The local plans have been split into the following areas:-

- Culbin to Netherton Coast
- Kinloss to Hatton Coast
- Roseisle to Burghead (South)
- Burghead to Cummington Coast
- Hopeman to Covesea Coast
- Lossiemouth to Binn Hill Coast
- Kingston to Lower Auchenreath Coast
- Portgordon to Buckpool Coast
- Findochty to Seatown Coast
- Cullen to Muckle Hythe Coast

3.4 The plans identify areas at risk of coastal erosion and flooding, along with potential Triggers and Actions that can be undertaken.

3.5 The Plans adopt an Adaptive Pathway approach to allow flexibility in making decisions based on coastal change. Actions that may be considered include no intervention, replenishing natural defences, designing new defences, and making space by relocating assets to a safer distance from the coastline. The Adaptive Pathway will be developed following Triggers/Actions being met for that area.

#### 4. **REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS**

##### Coastal Adaptation Regional Plan

4.1 The Regional Plan sets out an overview of the coastal processes, flood and erosion risk to the coastline, now and in the future. It has been developed with information from the national datasets from SEPA, Dynamic Coast and data held by Moray Council. A copy of the Regional Plan is provided in **Appendix 1**. The Regional Plan details how the Moray coastline has been split into eleven community areas, which allows each of those areas to have their own Local Plan detailing the condition and potential issues specific to that section of coastline.

##### Coastal Adaptation Local Plans

4.2 The adaptation principles in the Local Plans are to reduce future risk through land-based initiatives and reduce the current and future risk to communities through an Adaptive Pathway process. The Local Plans divide the community areas into separate coastal units, these are based on the type of coastline (natural/ engineered or hybrid) and what risks are contained within the unit.

- 4.3 Triggers are allocated to each of the coastal management units. These Triggers are based on the risk from:-
- Coastal flooding based on sea level rise
  - Wave overtopping
  - Erosion
- 4.4 When a Trigger is reached, several identified actions will be assessed to establish the most appropriate measure for that unit. These actions may vary from:-
- Undertake further investigation
  - Undertake a Flood Study
  - Review Adaptation plan in line with revised policies/ Data. As with other flood mitigation measures, any works identified through the assessment process will be subject to funding and committee approval. The Local Plans for these coastal units have been uploaded to CMIS as additional meeting documents.

## 5. **ENGAGEMENT**

- 5.1 The Regional Plan and Local Plans have been developed in consultation with internal stakeholders, including Transportation, Open Spaces, Climate Change, Strategic Planning and the elected member representative for Flood Risk Management.
- 5.2 Engagement on Kingston, Lossiemouth, Cullen, Buckie and Portgordon Plans was undertaken at events held between the 26-29 June 2023 at Cullen, Lossiemouth, Buckie and Speymouth. Feedback from these events is provided in **Appendix 2**. Engagement events for the other six Plans were undertaken on 15 April 2024 at Findochty Town Hall and 16 April 2024 at Findhorn village centre.

## 6. **FUTURE PROJECTS AND FUNDING**

- 6.1 Moray Council has been given an allocation of £226k from Scottish Government Distribution of Coastal Change Adaptation Capital Grant to develop three Case Studies within Moray. The grant funding covers all external costs. Moray Council staff time will be covered through existing resources within the Consultancy Team. The Case Studies are detailed below.
- 6.2 **Natural Restoration of Kingston Coastline/Kingston Beach Recharge:-**  
The purpose of this project is to assist in the recharge of shingle along the west beach at Kingston. The recharge is to be designed in such a way to act as a feed of shingle while erosion takes place rather than adding directly to the existing shingle. It is anticipated that this will halt the rate of erosion and provide needed shingle to a SSSI/SAC, without using imported material from outside the sediment catchment. This project was agreed at a meeting of this committee on 6 February 2024 (paragraph 13 of the minute refers). Grant

funding for this project from Scottish Government has since been confirmed at a value £75,607.50.

- 6.3 **Monitoring Moray Coast:-** The purpose of this project is to install a number of Coastal Photo Points to allow the public to take photographs of our coastline, which will allow everyone to build up a picture of change along the Moray Coastline. The Points will allow the opportunity to capture timeline change. These would then be uploaded to Coastal Snap so data is available for all. Case Study funding for this project is £30,392.50.
- 6.4 **Near-Real Time Coastal Resilience Modelling:-** This project will deliver a near real-time approach to quantify coastal resilience through continuous monitoring. The aim of the study is to use satellite imagery and drone photographs to predict the change in the coastline. The new approach will extend existing capability in monitoring coastal change and key attributes of the coastal environment to integrate them into a coastal resilience index. This improved and continuously updating record would allow both long-term trends and the impact of individual storms to be quantified, and the impacts of future sea level rise and storm conditions to be anticipated. The Case Study funding for this project is £120,000.
- 6.5 Applications for grant funding from Scottish Government and other organisations become available throughout the year. The deadlines often preclude submission of a report to the service committee. It is requested that delegated authority is granted to the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services to approve grant funding applications where they align with the Coastal Adaptation plans.
- 6.6 The Coastal Adaptation Plans will be reviewed in six yearly cycles to coincide with the review of Local Flood Risk Management Plans, the next review will be undertaken in 2027/28.

## 7. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

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(b) **Policy and Legal**

There are no legal or policy implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

(c) **Financial implications**

All costs associated with the recommendations in this report are covered by the grant funding received from Scottish Government..

(d) **Risk Implications**

The Coastal Adaptation Plans set out a structured method of managing coastal change. If the Plans are not agreed there is a risk that ad hoc measures could be implemented that have a negative impact on other sections of the coastline.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

Development of the Adaptation Plans is undertaken using existing staff resources from Consultancy.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

There are no equalities/socio economic implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

**(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

The Coastal Adaptation Plans provide a procedure for Officers to manage coastal change in a sustainable way. The Plans have been reviewed by the Climate Change Officer.

**(i) Consultations**

Depute Chief Executive (Economy Environment and Finance), Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Head of Economic Growth and Development, Chief Financial Officer, Legal Services Manager and Lissa Rowan, Committee Services Officer have been consulted and their comments incorporated into the report.

**8. CONCLUSION**

**8.1 Coastal Adaptation Plans have been developed for Moray's coastline, which set out how Moray Council will manage coastal change. These Plans include a Regional Plan that covers the whole coastline and eleven Local Plans that provide details of individual coastal areas.**

**8.2 Moray Council has been allocated £226k from Scottish Government Distribution of Coastal Change Adaptation Capital Grant to develop three Case Studies within Moray.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-524642768-1057