REPORT TO: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 17 MARCH 2020**

SUBJECT: **FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET 2020-2021**

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To ask the Committee to agree the Flood Risk Management Schedule of Clearance and Repair for 2020/2021 and the programme of Capital works for Flood Risk Management and Harbours for 2020/2021.

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 function of the Council under Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee agree:

(i) the Flood Risk Management Schedule of Clearance and Repair for 2020/21; and

(ii) the Capital programme of work for Flood Risk Management and Harbours for 2020/2021.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (the Act) requires the Council to deliver the actions within the Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside, and North East Local Plan Districts.

Revenue

3.2 The Act places upon the Council a duty to assess relevant bodies of water (other than canals) in its area for the purpose of ascertaining whether the condition of any such body of water gives rise to a risk of flooding. Where a water body gives rise to flood risk, and the Council considers clearance and repair works would substantially reduce that risk, the Council must prepare a

schedule of those works and carry them out.

Review of Progress

3.3 Work has been ongoing throughout the year to deliver the Schedule of Clearance and Repair agreed for 2019/20. At the time of drafting this report, the current committed expenditure is £241,978. No significant over or underspend is expected.

3.4 General Maintenance of the Council's Flood schemes has been ongoing throughout the year, with emphasis this year on clearance of a number of flood plains through Elgin.

3.5 There has been significant expenditure due to reactive works being required at the Tyock Burn where emergency clearance was required during the flood events of July and August 2019. Lhanbryde ponds have also required significant unplanned expenditure due to leaks found in the pond embankment. These reactive works have affected our ability to deliver some of the other works within the clearance and repair programme– namely the flood modelling updates, and Tyock Burn culvert maintenance. This works will now be undertaken in 2020/21.

3.6 Pilmuir Pumping Station maintenance regime has been retendered with reduced scope and a 50% reduction in annual maintenance costs, as agreed by this committee on 11 June 2019 (paragraph 9 of the minute refers).

Proposed work for 2020/21

3.7 Including the savings identified in paragraph 3.6, the 2020/21 Flood Risk Management annual revenue budget has been reduced to £247,000, as agreed by Moray Council on 12 February 2020 (paragraph 10 of the draft minute refers) . This reduction will impact the tasks listed below.

- Asset Management - CCTV Survey and Asset Data Gathering, will no longer be undertaken.
- £11,000 Reduction in Reactive Works.

Blockages or restrictions to assets that would have been identified by surveys will now be dealt with on a reactive basis and all reactive work will be prioritised based on risk. This budget does not include an allowance for damage to assets or clearance and repairs following a significant flood event. Should such an event occur the position will be reviewed.

3.8 The proposed Schedule of Clearance and Repair is provided in **APPENDIX 1,** which includes specific works, recurrent works, reactive works and allowances for telemetry and topographic surveys. With continued development of the Council's Asset Management System, we have a strong regime of risk based inspections that identify potential flooding issues. Reports from other sources, such as the public continue to inform the Schedule. The Schedule will be published on the Council's website if the recommendations in this report are agreed.

3.9 The Schedule includes the operation and maintenance of the flood schemes in accordance with their manuals. This covers schemes in Aberlour, Rothes, Elgin, Forres (2 schemes), Dallas, Newmill and Lhanbryde.

Capital
Review of Progress in 2019/20

3.10 Work to the North Pier of Buckie Harbour started in 2018/19 and was completed in June 2019. The works were postponed between December 2018 and April 2019 to reduce the risk of increased costs due to adverse weather conditions. Maintenance work is substantially complete at Portknockie and Burghead harbours.

3.11 Portknockie landslip repairs have been completed within the agreed budget, including work to repair an additional slip identified on clearance of vegetation. The duration of these works was approximately six months longer than originally planned, due to contractor staffing issues.

Proposed work for 2020/21

3.12 During 2020-21 the Flood Risk Management Team will undertake a number of Capital Projects as highlighted in **APPENDIX 2.** The Capital Projects include significant maintenance works at Cullen Harbour, and maintenance work at Findochty Harbour.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

Flood Risk Management is a key priority in the 10 year plan “Growing, diverse and sustainable economy.”

(b) Policy and Legal

The proposal forms part of the Council’s statutory duties with regard to the Act. The Council has a duty to implement the actions from the Local Flood Risk Management Plans. The Council can do works not included in the Plans that will manage flood risk, provided it does not compromise the delivery of those actions in the Plan.

(c) Financial implications

No allowance has been made for dealing with the consequence of exceptional rainfall/flood events. This will need to be addressed if such events arise.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications as a result of this report other than to recognise that flooding and coastal issues are unpredictable and the items in **APPENDIX 1** will be carried out in recognising this uncertainty.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications as a result of this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications as a result of this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

(h) Consultations

The Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Legal Services Manager, P Connor, Principal Accountant, Development and Operations Manager for Harbours, L Rowan, Committee Services Officer and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and comments have been taken into account.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Council has a duty under the Act to implement Flood Risk Management Plans including clearance and repair of water bodies. The proposed Allocations for 2020/2021 Flood Risk Management Revenue Budget take account of both. Capital works identified in the Capital Plan for Harbours will be progressed in 2020/2021.

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Background Papers:
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