



REPORT TO: ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 8 FEBRUARY 2022

SUBJECT: ADAPTATION PLAN FOR COASTAL EROSION - KINGSTON

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the change to the tidal lagoon at Kingston and the government funding available to develop a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan.

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 the Committee agree to progress the development of an adaptation plan for the Moray coastline, starting with Kingston as outlined in paragraph 3.10.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Kingston on Spey is located on the west bank of the River Spey as it flows into the Moray Firth. The village of Kingston sits behind a small tidal lagoon. To the north of the lagoon is a shingle ridge that reduces the impact of wave energy before they reach the landward bank of the lagoon.

3.2 The community has previously raised concerns about the condition of the shingle bank and the potential for erosion on the landward bank. This has been investigated by officers and the findings of the investigations reported back to both the community and members as detailed below.

3.3 At a meeting of this Committee on 25 June 2013 it was agreed that officers continue and extend monitoring the migration of the shingle bank at Kingston and report back to this Committee reassessing risk if any significant changes occur at the lagoon in front of Kingston or if the trigger level of 25m is reached (para 12 of the minute refers).

- 3.4 It was agreed at a meeting of this Committee on 30 September 2014 that there is no economic case for progressing works to the landward side of the lagoon at Kingston and that monitoring should continue, as is consistent with a dynamic coastal river system (para 9 of the minute refers).
- 3.5 At a meeting of Policy and Resources Committee on Tuesday 20 January 2015 members agreed Moray Council's policy on erosion (para 6 of the minute refers). The policy on erosion is provided below.
- The Council may undertake erosion protection work where its assets are at risk. These assets may typically be buildings, bridges, roads and flood and coast defence infrastructure.
 - The Council may take action where the consequence of erosion would significantly increase flood risk, for example, where a sea defence or flood bank is at erosion risk placing property or other receptors listed in the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 at significant flood risk through breaching and/or wave overtopping.
 - Coastal erosion affecting a community would remain the subject of an option appraisal on a case-by-case basis, the business case supporting proposed works being considered by Committee and if approved, then being considered by the Asset Management Group using the gateway process; and
 - Except as provided above, and recognising that the primary responsibility lies upon landowners, in most cases the Council will not take action where river or coastal erosion, or landslips affect only private land including built assets thereon.
- 3.6 The shingle ridge has been monitored by the flood team since 2013 and in that time there has been some movement due to wave action but until recently this movement has not been considered significant. On the weekend of 29-31 October 2021 a significant storm event occurred, which pushed shingle from the ridge into the lagoon, over a length of approximately 75m. This action reduced the width of the lagoon by approximately 30m in some places. This event also caused minor erosion of the natural bank at the back of the lagoon, which has exposed bare earth.
- 3.7 Managing coastal erosion risk is a complex process due to the nature of the shingle bank and sediment movements. In this location, this is due to the high sediment load which is carried down the River Spey combined with the sediment drift along Spey Bay. This area of coastline is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special area of Conservation (SAC), which means there will be restrictions on the type of works that could be undertaken at the site.
- 3.8 The change in erosion at Kingston has not increased the risk to Council owned assets and does not significantly increase flood risk. As such, the circumstances at Kingston do not meet the criteria for undertaking works, as set out in the Council's erosion policy. It is therefore proposed that in the short term we continue to monitor the shingle bank and any further erosion that occurs on the landward side of the lagoon.

- 3.9 Scottish Government announced early in 2021 the coastal change adaptation budget of £12 million, which will be allocated to Local Authorities over a four year period, starting in 2022-23. When each authority will receive funding will depend on how urgent the need for action is. Scottish Government has made this funding available as it is considered essential that future actions are planned and address the uncertainty of climate change. Actions need to take account of the best scientific evidence and be planned taking an adaptive pathways approach. All options will be considered when developing this plan, including 'no action', modelling, works, emergency planning and flood resilience.
- 3.10 Moray Council has been advised that it will receive funding in 2022/23 and this will be £160,000. Funding will need to be used in the financial year it is received to develop a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan for the Moray coast line. It is proposed to start the Adaptation Plan at Kingston, as based on the findings from Dynamic Coast 2, this is the most active part of Moray's coastline. The funding would cover the work needed to develop and publish the Adaptation Plan. It is anticipated that additional capital funds will be made available after 2025 to implement actions identified in the Adaptation Plan.
- 3.11 An Adaptation Plan allows for the planning and preparation of coastal change management measures, which can adjust efficiently as the future climate change and science progresses and more information on risk becomes available. Such plans can be made up of a series of actions that might be taken at various points in time.
- 3.12 Coastal Change Adaptation Plan for Moray will be based on the pathway structure. "Pathway", in relation to adaptation, is an approach designed to schedule adaptation decision-making, identifying the decisions that need to be taken now and those that may be taken in future.
- 3.13 This approach supports strategic, flexible and structured decision-making. The pathways approach allows decision makers to plan for, prioritise and stagger investment in adaptation options. Trigger points and thresholds help to identify when to revisit decisions or actions.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

"Empowering and Connecting Communities".

(b) Policy and Legal

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

(c) Financial implications

The production of the Adaptation Plan will be delivered in the allocated Coastal Adaptation Planning capital costs which will be received as part of the general capital grant.

(d) Risk Implications

If mitigation works are undertaken at Kingston before the Adaptation Plan is developed, there is a risk that more sustainable management solutions could be undermined.

It should be noted that by undertaking this process it will allow long term coastal risk to be sustainably managed.

(e) Staffing Implications

Development of the Adaptation Plan will be undertaken within existing flood team resources and is part of the 2022/28 Local Flood Risk Plan for Findhorn/Nairn and Speyside.

(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 Adaptation Plan being developed will help support the council in managing the effects of climate change with particular reference to sea level rise and coastal erosion. The Adaptation Plan will help inform wider council policy going forward with regards to the effects of climate change.

The plans output may have an effect on biodiversity and where this could be an issue the adaptation plan will highlight the potential risk.

(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.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 A significant change has occurred at the tidal lagoon in front of Kingston, including erosion of the landward bank.

5.2 Moray Council is likely to receive government funding within the next two years to develop an Adaptation Plan for the Moray coastline, starting at Kingston.

5.3 An Adaptation Plan will identify the long and short term actions required to manage this coastal area.

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Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-524642768-516