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**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 11 JUNE 2019**

**SUBJECT: PILMUIR PUMP STATION OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE)**

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the proposed changes to the scope of operation and maintenance of Pilmuir Pump Station.
- 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 functions of the Council under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee agree the proposed change to the scope of operation and maintenance of Pilmuir Pump Station, as set out in paragraph 3.5 of this report.**

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Forres (River Findhorn and Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme was completed in 2015, and after a twelve month maintenance period it was handed over to the Council to operate and maintain.
- 3.2 This scheme consists of walls and embankments to protect Forres from flooding from the River Findhorn; and a surface water drainage system, including a pump station, to protect properties in the Pilmuir area of Forres
- 3.3 When the scheme was completed an Operation and Maintenance Manual was provided by the Design Consultant Royal Haskoning. As the Council does not have any in-house electrical mechanical expertise, the operation and maintenance of the pump station was outsourced to a contractor with the required qualifications and experience. The scope of the operation and maintenance required is set out in the Operation and Maintenance Manual and currently costs the Council £40,000 per year for the basic testing and monitoring specified. Any additional maintenance works required throughout the year incur additional costs.

- 3.4 The Flood Team has been monitoring the operation and maintenance of the pump station since this contract started in 2016. Based on this monitoring it is considered possible to reduce the current scope of works required, which should reduce the annual operation and maintenance costs. It is estimated that a modification to the scope could save in the region of 50%.
- 3.5 The proposed change to the scope is provided below.
- Future monitoring of the pump station would be undertaken in-house, using an automated telephone alert system. This change would require officers to alert the contractor when a fault occurs, instructing them to attend site and undertake any necessary repairs within an agreed timeframe. This is likely to result in a longer response time than the current system where the contractor responds directly to alerts. A longer response time would only be an issue if a fault stopped all three pumps operating during a surface water flood event in Pilmuir, at the same time as the water level in the River Findhorn is high. The likelihood of all of these factors occurring at the same time is very low.
  - Monthly reports on the general operation of the pump station will be cut and reports would only be required for tests undertaken every six months.
- 3.6 There is a risk associated with this action and while the impact of the risk is high the likelihood of it occurring is considered very low.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

Flood Risk Management is a key action in the Service Plan. "Protecting our Community from effects and fear of flooding".

**(b) Policy and Legal**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**(c) Financial Implications**

The recommendations in this report should reduce the annual cost of operating and maintaining the pump station at Pilmuir.

**(d) Risk Implications**

Reducing the scope of maintenance will increase the risk of flooding but the likelihood is considered low.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

These modifications will be undertaken using existing staff within the Flood Team.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications associated with this report.

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

There are no equalities or socio economic issues associated with the recommendations in this report.

**(h) Consultations**

The Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) The Legal Services Manager, P Connor, Principal Accountant, L. Rowan, Committee Services Officer and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and comments have been taken into account.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Current operation and maintenance of the Pilmuir Pump Station is undertaken in line with the Operation and Maintenance Manual for the Forres (River Findhorn and Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme, at a cost of £40,000 per year.**
- 5.2 Making small changes to the operation and maintenance undertaken could save the Council up to £20,000 per year.**
- 5.3 The proposed changes will increase the risk of flooding but the likelihood of this increase is low.**

Author of Report: Debbie Halliday  
Background Papers:  
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