

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 June 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Restoration Scoping Study – Upper Clyde Catchment
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ Seek approval for the Council to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with SNIFFER (Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research) to allow the Council to manage a SEPA funded Restoration Scoping Study of the Upper Clyde Catchment.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) be authorised to enter into the SNIFFER Memorandum of Understanding, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services as appropriate, in terms which are in the best interests of the Council.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (FRM Act) introduces significant new duties on SEPA, Scottish Ministers and South Lanarkshire Council. One of these new duties is the requirement to consider what contribution natural flood management techniques can make to managing flood risk.
- 3.2. Although the concept of using natural flood management techniques has been around for many years, the implementation of this approach will require changes to how flooding is considered and managed across Scotland. This change needs to be supported by the development of new tools, expertise, research and demonstration projects, as well new policies and delivery instruments.
- 3.3. Restoration and demonstration projects can significantly improve our understanding of the science and help address practical implementation issues. The Clyde catchment has been identified as a suitable location for the demonstration of natural flood management techniques.

4. Restoration Scoping Study

- 4.1. A number of towns and communities located in the Clyde catchment are at risk from flooding, including Crossford, Rosebank and Dalserf. As part of its flood management responsibilities, the Council is keen to consider how more sympathetic catchment management and restoration can contribute towards reducing flood risk.
- 4.2. If the flows in the Clyde or other catchments in the area were managed more sympathetically it may provide an opportunity to reduce flood risk in a number of towns across South Lanarkshire and adjacent Local Authorities. The proposed Restoration Scoping study will therefore investigate natural flood management potential in the upper Clyde. The study will be desk based and will not involve physical works at this stage.

5. Terms of Agreement

- 5.1. SNIFFER will provide funding of £33,000 exc. VAT in the financial year 2011/12 toward the cost of this project. The project will be managed by South Lanarkshire Council who will lead on the procurement process and management of the contract.
- 5.2. The Council will establish a project steering group for the duration of this project, which is due to be completed by 31st March 2012. The terms of reference of the steering group will be discussed and agreed with SNIFFER and SEPA prior to the funding being transferred.
- 5.3. SEPA will provide general support and technical advice to the project and representatives from SEPA will be invited on the project steering group.
- 5.4. Regular progress reviews will be reported to the steering group for the duration of the project. This will include monthly updates, reporting any obstacles to progress and any appropriate action being taken to address such obstacles.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. SNIFFER will provide funding of £33,000 exc. VAT to enable the project to be undertaken.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no risks associated with this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in the report.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

20 May 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Improve the quality of the physical environment
- Improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire
- Working with and respecting others

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- Memorandum of understanding with SNIFFER
- Restoration scoping study – upper Clyde catchment, project specification

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: - David Reid

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