REPORT NO 1016/04

ANGUS COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 SEPTEMBER 2004

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ANGUS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT
This Report gives an update on the Shoreline Management Plan for the Angus Coast and recommends that the document be approved as an Angus Council policy document.

1 RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

(i) to approve the Shoreline Management Plan as a policy document for Angus Council.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The background to the initial Shoreline Management Study was detailed in Report No 489/01 and approval to proceed was given by the Roads Committee on 26 April 2001. Approval to proceed with consultation prior to the production of the Shoreline Management Plan for Angus was given by the Roads Committee on June 13 2002 (Report No 731/02).

3 DETAILS

3.1 The Shoreline Management Plan provides a “broad brush” assessment of the coast and coastal management options, particularly focussing on coastal defences against the threats of erosion or marine flooding. The plan is based on “coastal cells”, which are defined using a knowledge of natural coastal processes, rather than administrative boundaries, (e.g. those between neighbouring Councils). Thus this document provides a detailed strategic assessment of the coastline within the area covered by the plan (viz. Milton Ness at St Cyrus to Brought Ferry Castle near Dundee).

3.2 The Shoreline Management Plan is a non-statutory document which summarises information about the Angus coastline. It provides the basis for coastal defence policies and their future implementation for the entire 55 kilometres of the Angus coastline.
3.3 The plan identifies preferred management options along the coastline taking into account natural coastal processes, the need for coastal defence, environmental considerations, planning issues, and the current and future use of the land.

3.4 There are a variety of coastal defences in Angus which have been put in place over many years and have differing periods of residual life. The plan therefore gives an Angus-wide strategic approach to replacement or improvement of existing coastal defence schemes.

3.5 With advice from UK Consultants H R Wallingford who are internationally recognised experts on Coastal Management and Engineering, the Angus coastline was divided into eight “coastal process units” based on the natural coastal regimes. The coastal process units were then further sub-divided into 22 “Management Units” (i.e. sections with common land use and coastline characteristics).

3.6 Based on a set of management objectives drawn up with the assistance of H R Wallingford strategic coastal defence policy options were then derived for each Management Unit.

3.7 The possible generic strategic policy options considered for each Management Unit are:-

- No active intervention
  - basically do nothing.

- Limited intervention
  - Reducing the risk through working with natural processes to allow for natural coastal change. Measures may include dune management and repair of existing defences when damaged.

- Hold the line
  - maintain or enhance the existing level of coastal protection, whether for natural or man made coastline.

- Managed realignment
  - identify a new line of defence and, where appropriate, construct new defences landward of the original line.

- Advance the line
  - construct new defences seaward of existing defences with associated land reclaim.
3.8 Angus Council is only the fourth Council in Scotland to produce a Shoreline Management Plan and the work which had been done on the Consultation Draft Plan was viewed very favourably by the Scottish Executive in assessing the application for grant-aid funding for the recently completed Coast Protection Scheme at Carnoustie.

3.9 Copies of the final consultation draft of the Shoreline Management Plan for Angus were distributed in March 2004 to stakeholders, statutory consultees, Community Councils, local libraries and ACCESS offices and feedback was encouraged.

3.10 Two copies of the Final Consultation Draft were also placed in the members’ lounge at that time.

3.11 All of the comments received from consultees have now been considered and alterations have been made to the plan where necessary.

3.12 A copy of the final proof of this first edition of the Angus Shoreline Management Plan has been placed in the Members’ lounge.

3.13 Subject to Committee approval, copies of the final document will be printed and distributed to consultees as well as local libraries and ACCESS offices. Copies of the Plan in CD-ROM format will also be available on request from the Roads Department and arrangements will be made to make the Plan available on the Internet.

3.14 It is anticipated that the Shoreline Management Plan will become a primary reference document and source of information for anyone interested in or affected by the natural processes governing the coastline.

3.15 The Plan will be reviewed at intervals throughout its 50 year life. It is likely that these reviews will take place every 5 or 6 years. However, an exact timescale has not been given to allow the document to be altered at the most appropriate times and not just at predetermined dates. The first review of the Shoreline Management Plan will take into consideration the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy which was launched in 2004. Subsequent reviews will incorporate any significant new coastal literature or research findings.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications other than the production cost of the thirty hard copies of the final plan for distribution to public access points. These will be contained in the Roads Department’s Departmental Administration budget for the current year.
5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report or from the Shoreline Management Plan itself.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance, the Director of Planning & Transport and the Director of Leisure Services have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

R W McNeil
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

NOTE

The following background papers, as identified by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:-


SC/JSG
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REPORTS/shoreline.m’ment.study