

AGENDA ITEM NO 7

Report No 446/09

ANGUS COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

2nd June 2009

SUBJECT: RIVER SOUTH ESK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

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| <p>Abstract: This report outlines the progress made towards the production of a Catchment Management Plan for the River South Esk.</p> |
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1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- a) consider and approve the consultative draft River South Esk Catchment Management Plan (CMP) and;
 - b) note the intention to submit one further report allowing the opportunity for the Committee to consider and approve the final CMP before its launch which is currently planned for December 2009.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Committee is referred to Article 41 of the minute of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 20 January 2009 which records that the Committee agreed:
- a) to note the progress made towards the production of a River South Esk Catchment Management Plan
 - b) to note the intention to submit two further reports on progress being made towards the production of a River South Esk CMP allowing the opportunity for the council to consider and approve both the initial consultative draft CMP and the final CMP before publication.

3 PROGRESS

- 3.1 The part-time project officer (18.5 hours/week) has now been in post for one year. Considerable progress has been made towards the development of a River South Esk CMP since the last Committee report in January 2009. In addition to the feedback on the Issues Document at the two public meetings held in November 2008, where there were 70 attendees over 2 nights, a further 13 consultation responses were received from a mailshot of approximately 250 stakeholders. These responses have been taken into account in the drawing together of the draft CMP.
- 3.2 A one-day workshop for Steering Group members (see Appendix 1 for a list of the steering group members) was held in February 2009 to start the process of 'turning issues into actions'. This process included re-visiting the key issues following the close of the Issues Document consultation period, and drafting the Strategic aims, Catchment objectives and Actions that have formed the draft CMP. Following the

February workshop a series of 5 one day meetings were held over a 5 week period during March and April for Steering Group members and some additional organisation representatives to complete this process. There were 46 attendees in total over the series of meetings. The themed meetings, which are now replicated as sections in the draft CMP, covered the following; Water quality, Water Resources, Flood Management, River Engineering, Habitats and Species, Socio-Economic, and Catchment Management Plan Delivery. These have now all been pulled together to form the enclosed draft CMP. Copies of the draft CMP have been e-mailed out to all Committee members and two copies are also placed in the members lounge.

4 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The next stage is for the Steering Group to meet during June 2009 to sign off the draft CMP, so that it is ready for stakeholder consultation during July and August. During the consultation period there will be a further public meeting(s) during which the public will be invited to discuss the draft CMP. Following the close of the consultation period, revisions will be made during autumn with a view to publishing and launching the final plan in December 2009. This will include the opportunity for the Committee to consider and approve the final plan at the November Infrastructure Services Committee.

5 PROJECT FINANCES

- 5.1 The project budget is on target for the period of the project, currently scheduled to end with the launch of the final CMP in December 2009.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The River South Esk CMP will inevitably have short, medium and long term resource implications for a range of agencies as well as individuals but it is not possible to assess these at this juncture. The extent of resources required in order to address the action plan will be assessed following publication of the CMP. It will be necessary thereafter for consideration to be given to the extent to which these resource requirements can be addressed by the Council and Partners and thus the pace of implementation of the action plan.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An [equalities impact assessment](#) is not required.

9 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

- 9.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus.

- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Law & Administration and Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

11 CONCLUSION

- 11.1 Progress is well under way and currently on schedule to produce a final catchment management plan for the River South Esk by December 2009.

ERIC S LOWSON
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

ECDEV/DV/SMW/FM
28 May 2009

Appendix 1**List of steering group members**

Angus Council
Cairngorms National Park Authority
Littlewood Landcare (Carol Littlewood previously of Angus Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group)
Esk District Salmon Fishery Board
Esk Rivers and Fisheries Trust
Forestry Commission Scotland
Macaulay Institute
National Farmers Union Scotland - Angus Branch
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
Scottish Water