

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 20 JANUARY 2009**

**SUBJECT: RIVER SOUTH ESK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**Abstract: This report outlines the progress made towards the production of a Catchment Management Plan for the River South Esk.**

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) note the progress that has been made towards production of a River South Esk Catchment Management Plan (CMP);
- b) 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.

**2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Committee is referred to Article 41 of the minute of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 28 August 2007 which records that the Committee agreed:

- a) note the progress that has been made towards auditing information sources and issues relevant to the development of a River South Esk Catchment Management Plan;
- b) authorise the Heads of Economic Development, Roads and Planning & Transport to commit a combined maximum of £22,500 split over three financial years 2007/08 to 2009/10 from their respective divisional revenue budgets, towards the production of a River South Esk Catchment Management Plan, conditional on confirmation that the full funding package of around £67,409 is secured through contributions from the project partners and/or other external funding sources;
- c) authorise the Head of Economic Development in consultation with the Head of Human Resources, to agree a Job Outline and Project Brief with the project partners and, once the funding package has been secured, to advertise for a part time, temporary post for the employment by the council of a River South Esk Project Officer;
- d) note the intention to submit a regular six monthly report on progress being made towards the production of a River South Esk Catchment Management Plan including an opportunity for the council to consider and approve both the initial consultative draft plan and the final draft plan before publication.

### **3 PROGRESS**

- 3.1 The part-time project officer (18.5 hours/week) commenced in April 2008 and the project launched at the Angus show in Brechin during June. A leaflet enclosing a questionnaire asking which current activities require to be managed in the catchment under the headings of environmental, economic and social issues was circulated to around 250 stakeholders. These stakeholders included riverside landowners and land managers, residents within the catchment and members of organisations with an interest in the catchment such as regulatory bodies, angling clubs, walking clubs and schools. The leaflet was also circulated to community councils, elected members and MSPs with a geographical remit covering the catchment area, as well as being available in public venues including local libraries, village halls, Access offices, fishing huts, hotels and museums.
- 3.2 The steering group have met three times since the commencement of the project (April, June and September). The steering group has been widened out to include representation from all sectors relevant to the management of the catchment (Angus Council, 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 and Scottish Water). The project now has its own logo and stationary as designed by Angus Council's Print and Design unit, display panels, and a web page hosted on the Angus Ahead website.
- 3.3 Following receipt of the results of the questionnaire and through feedback from the partners on the steering group an Issues document was drawn up and again circulated to 250 stakeholders for their consideration at the end of October. A copy of the Issues document is available to download at <http://www.angusahead.com/southesk> The deadline for reply was Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. As part of this consultation exercise two public evening meetings were held in Memus and Brechin on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November respectively to publicise the Issues document and allow feedback. These were well attended with 30 and 40 attendees respectively over the two nights.

### **4 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The next stage in the process of developing the catchment management plan is to develop the draft CMP itself. This will include an action plan of measures that will be agreed by the partners on the steering group and with input from other stakeholders as a result of the consultation on the Issues document. A workshop is to be held during February for steering group members to discuss and draw up draft actions which will be assigned a lead partner(s) who will be responsible for implementation. Consultation on the draft CMP is due to be carried out in summer 2009, to allow time to launch the final CMP by December 2009.

### **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.

5.2 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.

## **6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

## **7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 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.

## **8 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

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

- The benefits and importance to society of the environment is recognised.
- Growth in Tourism in Angus is achieved.
- The effects of Climate Change are recognised and appropriate actions taken by agencies and the public to reduce its impact.
- Promote effective use of resources.

## **9 CONSULTATION**

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

## **10 CONCLUSION**

10.1 Progress is well under way and currently on schedule to produce a 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/ NP/KP/FM  
11 December 2008