

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 14 DECEMBER 2004

STATUS OF FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEMES

Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform Committee of the status of the Crookedholm, Riccarton, Galston Flood Prevention Scheme and of the Ministerial visit by Lewis Macdonald, Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, on 6th December 2004 for the inauguration.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** East Ayrshire Council's Development and Property Services Department (Roads and Transportation Section) is working hard to mitigate the effects caused by flooding to business and residential communities. Since 1996 flood defences consisting of walls and earth bunds have been constructed at Riverbank Place, Glencairn area, Fairyhill Road, Burnside Street and Stoddard International, Kilmarnock, to mitigate flooding from the Kilmarnock Water and the River Irvine.
- 2.2** The next phase was the £9M plus of flood prevention works that started last August in 2003 in the Kilmarnock and Crookedholm areas that are now nearing completion. The Scottish Executive made funding available in March 2003. The scheme provides flood protection for the Glencairn area of Kilmarnock and Crookedholm.

3 PROGRESS OF WORKS

- 3.1** The Flood Prevention Scheme is expected to be substantially complete by the week commencing 6th December 2004.
- 3.2** Works includes the erection of floodwalls along both sides of the River Irvine upstream from the Riccarton bridges to the existing walls at Glencairn, and downstream on the Scottish Power side. The parapets of the Riccarton Bridges will also be strengthened and raised.
- 3.3** Embankments and walls to protect Crookedholm have been built and a floodwater holding scheme has been put in place at East Holmes near the meeting of the Cessnock Water and the River Irvine, between the river and the A71. The East Holmes scheme will hold water when the river is in flood. This area will form a reservoir behind the banks along the River Irvine and the Cessnock Water. The scheme will reduce the level of flood protection that would otherwise be required at Crookedholm, reduce the impact of flood protection works at Crookedholm and increase the effectiveness of flood prevention works in Kilmarnock.

4 MINISTERIAL VISIT

- 4.1 The inauguration of the Flood Prevention Scheme will be undertaken by Lewis Macdonald, Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development on the 6th December 2004 when a plaque will be unveiled to commemorate the opening.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has powers to carry out flood prevention works. Major schemes undertaken directly by the Council on privately owned land require submission of a Flood Prevention Scheme to the Scottish Ministers under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The construction of the Flood Prevention Scheme is funded within the approved capital programme allocation for flood prevention measures.
- 6.2 The estimated cost of £9m plus for implementing the Flood Prevention Scheme is subject to 50% grant by the Scottish Executive.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is requested to:
- i) note the status of the Crookedholm, Riccarton, Galston Flood Prevention Scheme and the Ministerial visit by Lewis Macdonald, Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
29 November 2004
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on the contents of this report, please contact John McRobert, Roads & Transportation Division, on 01563 576310

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