

The Highland Council
Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee
20 May 2013

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	CS-16-13

Storm Damage 14/15 December 2012 – Update Report

Report by the Director of Transport, Environmental & Community Services

Summary

This report updates Members on the progress of repairs to the damage which occurred to harbours and coastal structures during the storm surge on 14/15 December 2012.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report will update Members on progress in dealing with the damage to coastal structures which are under the ownership of the Council, or for which the Council has maintenance responsibilities.
- 1.2 Members will recall the previous report to the Committee on 8 Feb 2013 which provided details on the Storm Damage to harbours and coastal structures which occurred during the storm surge on 14 & 15 December 2012.

2. Progress

- 2.1 Good progress has been made on repairs to coastal storm damage which occurred in December 2012, with works completed under emergency powers.
- 2.2 The repair work has been undertaken using a combination of internal resources and external contractors, dependent upon the complexity and scale of individual projects.
- 2.3 The use of Emergency Powers permitted the early appointment of contractors, thereby minimizing the period before repairs were effected.
- 2.4 Work has been completed at the following sites:
 1. Portskerra
 2. John O’Groats Harbour
 3. Freswick Harbour
 4. Ackergill Harbour
 5. Staxigoe Harbour
 6. Victoria Street Wick
 7. Scalesburn Wick
 8. Lybster Harbour Road
 9. Latheron Harbour
 10. Dunbeath Harbour breakwater, steps and picnic site
 11. Helmsdale Harbour
 12. Brora Harbour

- 13. Golspie
- 14. Embo
- 15. Dornoch Golf Course

- 2.6 Consultants have been appointed to assess required works at Dunbeath harbour wall.
- 2.7 The total cost of completing the works (including the areas outwith Caithness and Sutherland) is currently estimated at £1.5m which is less than the original estimate of £2.5m. Work is currently underway to collate the cost of individual schemes.
- 2.8 A list of the locations affected and the repair works are detailed in **Appendix A**.

3. External Funding

- 3.1 The Scottish Government activated the Bellwin Scheme and the Council was invited to submit a claim under this Scheme. However it is unlikely that the Council will qualify for funding under the Bellwin Scheme criteria.

4. Other Damage

- 4.1 The emergency works dealt with the repairs to Council owned assets. Damage to other areas of the coastline has been assessed under the Council's current Coastal Protection Policy, which focusses on the protection of property rather than land.
- 4.2 Work at Helmsdale near the old crab factory is being considered for the future and erosion at East Gills Scrabster continues to be monitored.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 The total cost of repair works (including the areas outwith Caithness and Sutherland) is currently expected to be £1.5 million, this figure will be updated once all repair works are completed, and details will be reported to a future Committee.
- 5.2 There are no legal implications arising as a direct result of this report.
- 5.3 There are no equality implications arising as a direct result of this report.
- 5.4 There are no climate change implications arising as a direct result of this report.
- 5.5 There are no risk implications arising as a direct result of this report.

6. Recommendations

Members are invited to :-

- 6.1 welcome the progress made to repair the damage to Council harbour facilities and coast defence structures and:
- 6.2 agree that a further report providing details of final costs will be submitted to a future Committee.

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental & Community Services

Date: 02 May 2013

Report Author: Campbell Stewart.

List of Emergency Works

Works Location	Description of Works	Completed
Portskerra	1. Land slip –remove debris and reprofile face.	Yes
Scrabster – East Gills	1. Erosion to cliff face – monitor. 2. Sea wall repair	Monitoring Yes
John O’Groats Harbour	1. Repair damage to concrete pier and deck 2. Repair collapsed wall 3. Repair navigation lights	Yes
Freswick Harbour	1. Replace rock armour protection 2. Repair concrete damage 3. Repair steps	Yes
Ackergill Harbour	1. Fence missing 2. Concrete steps undermined 3. Wash out to stone pier 4. Cracking on concrete deck 5. Loss of pointing 6. Wall repairs 7. Slipway repairs	Yes
Keiss Harbour	1. Coping stones displaced 2. Corner stones dislodged 3. Wash out of masonry joints 4. Damage to surface at top of slip	Yes
Staxigoe Harbour	1. Pier wall undermined 2. Stone pitching washed away 3. Rock armour displaced 4. Concrete access undermined	Yes
Victoria Street Wick	1. Repairs to River wall	Yes
Scalesburn Wick	1. Damage to wall parapet 2. Protection to property	Yes
Service Bridge Wick	1. Inspection	Yes
Lybster Harbour Rd	1. Damage to road	Yes

Latheron Harbour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rock armour to protect road 2. Repair erosion to harbour wall 3. Repair damage to deck of river pier 4. Replace displaced rock armour 	Yes
Dunbeath Harbour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relocate displaced Dolos (Breakwater) 2. Repairs to steps 3. Replace masonry to harbour wall 4. Repair parapet – consultant’s report commissioned 5. Repairs to picnic site 	<p>1,2,3 & 5 –Yes.</p> <p>4 – Consultants report commissioned</p>
Helmsdale Harbour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigation lights displaced 2. Clear rubble 	Yes
Helmsdale Old Crab Factory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repair coastal erosion; install rock armour Location identified Feb 2013. 	Monitor - Not required immediately
Portgower	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinstate rock armour 	Yes
Brora Harbour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clear debris 2. repairs to displaced rock armour to west of harbour 	Yes
Golspie	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repair damage to promenade 2. Repair damage to Shore Street play Area 3. Repairs to displaced rock armour 	Yes
Embo Harbour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove debris from wave wall 2. Repairs to slipway 	Yes
Dornoch golf course	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rock armour repairs (agreed Feb 13) 	Yes