ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure

DATE 29 AUGUST 2013

DIRECTOR Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 -

Delegation of Decision Making Powers to

Council Officers

REPORT NUMBER EPI/13/130

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the committee on progress and to seek approval for officers to make decisions timeously through having defined delegated powers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the delegation of decision making powers, on behalf of Aberdeen City Council, for technical and operational matters, relating to the progression and development of Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's) to the Head of Service, Asset Management and Operations
- 2.2 Instruct officers to report back to Committee when the draft short list of flood management measures for the NE LPD has been progressed to approval stage.

3.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate funding issues but the publication of the FRMP with the list of actions is likely to create some budget pressures from 2016 onwards.

Grant funding from the Scottish Government is unlikely to be available to Aberdeen City Council for the first 6 year cycle of the FRMP and therefore actions listed in the Plan will require to be funded from Council budgets.

4.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The NE LPD was established by the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (the ACT), as the body responsible for developing the FRMPs for North East Scotland. The NE LPD includes Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray Councils, Scottish Water and SEPA. The lead authority for the NE LPD is Aberdeenshire. There is both officer and elected member representation on the LPD with one elected member for each authority – Councillor Andrew Finlayson was nominated by ACC with elected members invited to attend the LPD steering group which meets approx twice per annum.

The Act requires the members of the LPD to agree the FRMP. Development of the plan over the next two years will involve the assessment of a large amount of technical data which will involve the following tasks:

Characterisation of the areas vulnerable to flooding – This is essentially building upon work already done by SEPA to identify potentially vulnerable areas (PVAs).

Objective Setting – Producing a long list of possible options for flood management and mitigation. It is intended that during this phase consultation would be carried out as necessary with Councillor Finlayson and individual elected members representing wards with areas vulnerable to flooding.

Short listing of options for flood management and mitigation -The short list will be submitted to Committee for approval, currently scheduled for late 2014.

Once approved the short list will represent those projects expected to be advanced in the period 2016-21 as part of the FRMP. The FRMP will then be revised on a six yearly cycle. There is still considerable uncertainty regarding the possibility of Government funding for any of the short listed projects. However once the list is published there will be a public expectation for action and pressure to take forward the short listed projects.

Because of the increasing number of key milestone and delivery dates that have to be met and with an overall finite and non negotiable timescale, it is important that decisions are made timeously. Appendix A contains the draft programme (managed by SEPA) for the tasks listed above. As most of the tasks in the programme involve a technical and operational understanding, the progression of these tasks would rest with officers of the Council.

5.0 IMPACT

There will be public interest in the short list content, particularly if some of those areas affected by flooding are not short listed for action.

6.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The options list needs to be realistic and deliverable which may mean that some issues are left and not addressed until later cycles of the plan. The list will then be reviewed on a six yearly cycle.

The Act requires the Council to advance projects on the agreed list before addressing new projects.

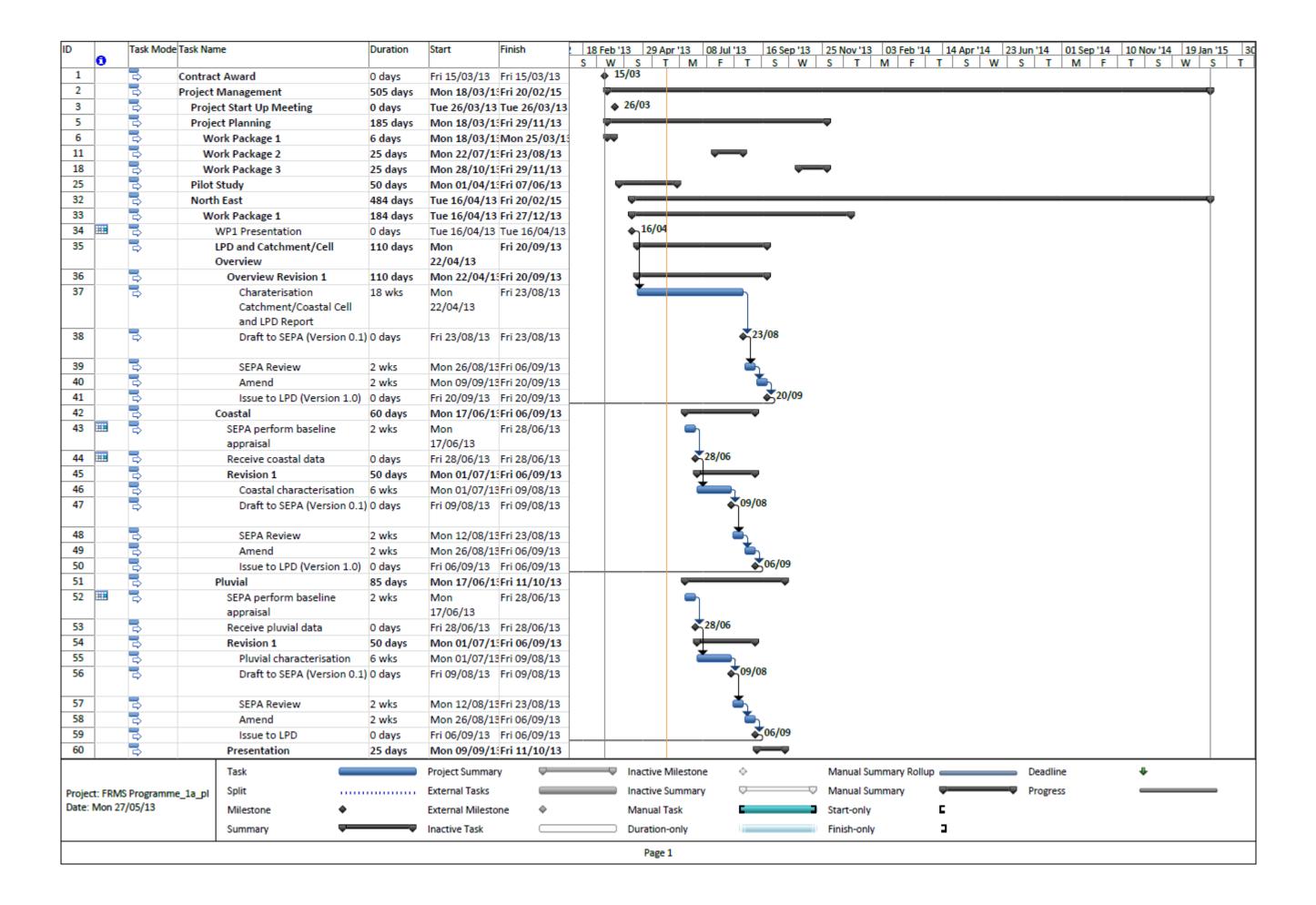
7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

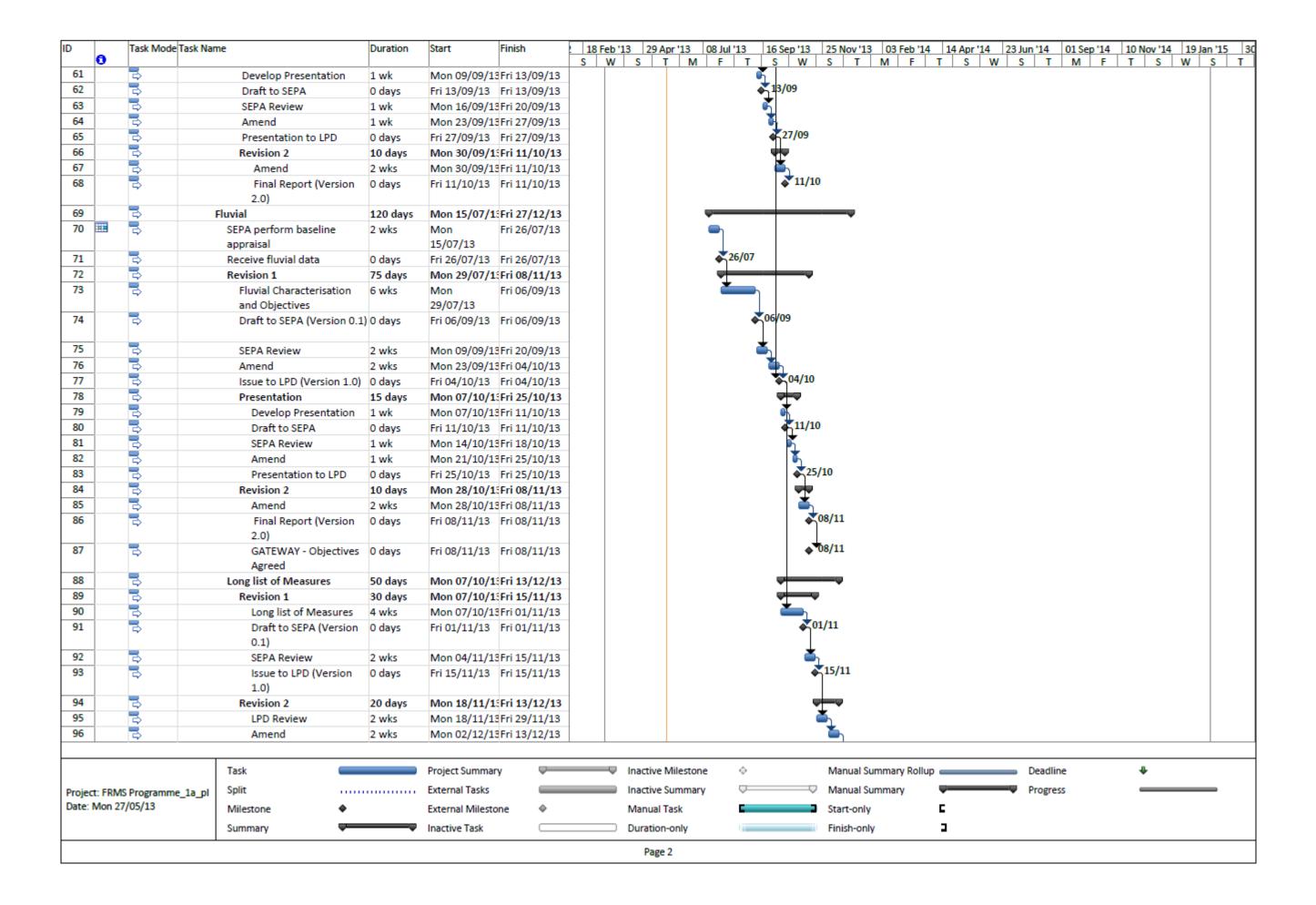
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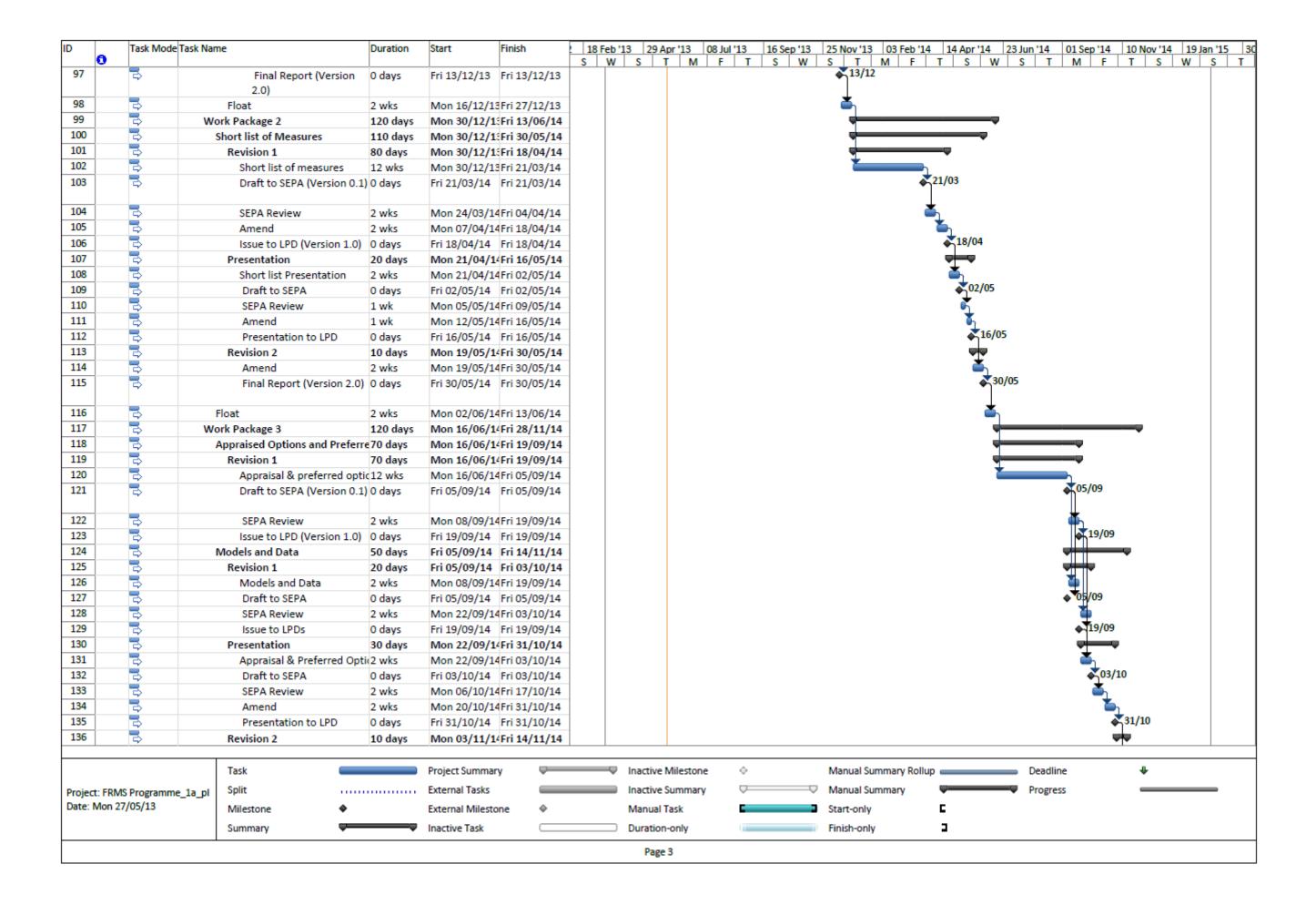
8.0 REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix A (North East of Scotland)







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