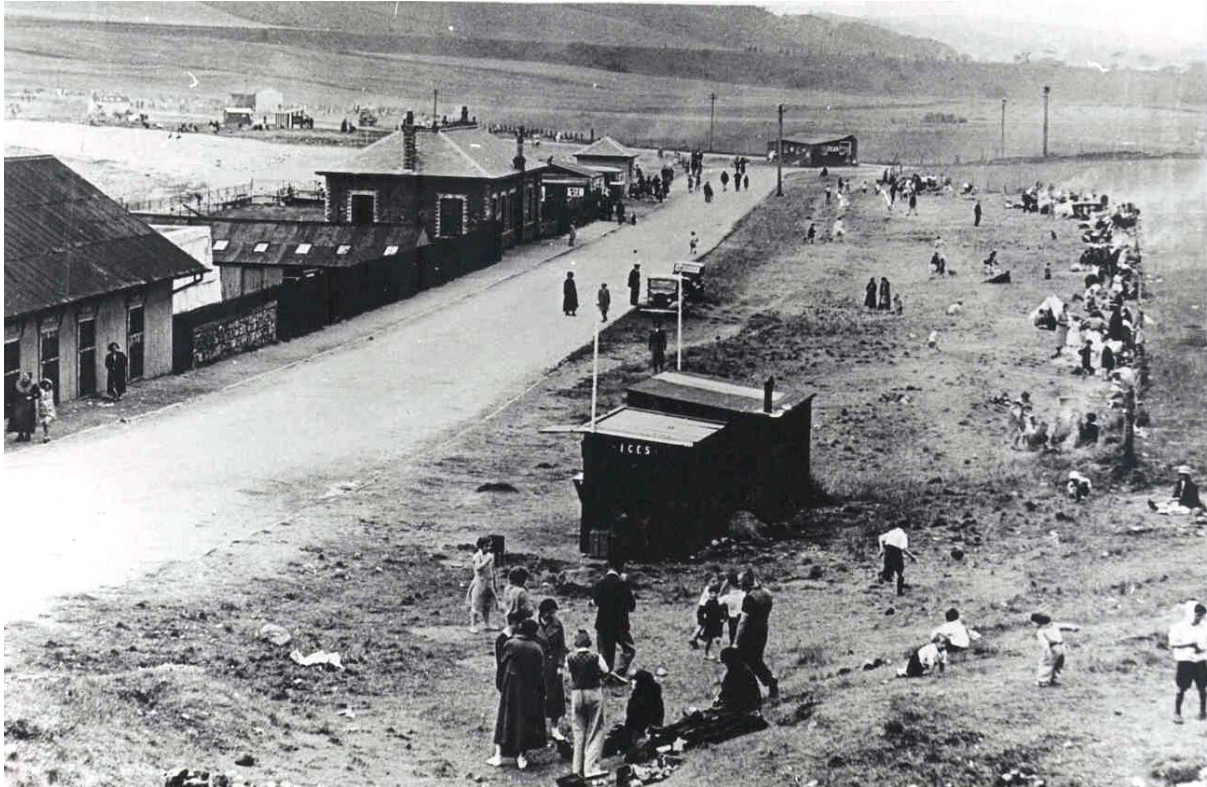


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# SOUTH ABERDEEN COASTAL REGENERATION PROJECT (S.A.C.R.P.)

FINAL COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL



*William Ritchie*

December 2009

Aberdeen Institute for Coastal Science & Management (A.I.C.S.M.)



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Most of the text of this Report was provided by colleagues in the University of Aberdeen i.e. David Green, Alastair Dawson and Tom O'Donoghue. The main contributors from the Council of the City of Aberdeen came from David Fryer with much of sub-project A5.1 being provided by Peter Inglis. Strategic guidance and content was provided throughout the project by Gordon McIntosh.

The compilation of separate reports and extracts was done by Lynda Kingham and Jennifer Marshall of A.I.C.S.M. compilation, graphics, design and binding were done by Alison Sandison of the School of Geosciences in the University.

The support of the many members of the Steering Group is also acknowledged with thanks.

William Ritchie

21-12-2009

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Front cover photo courtesy of Aberdeen City Council.

## **FINAL REPORT ON SOUTH ABERDEEN COASTAL REGENERATION PROJECT**

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## 1. SACRP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### A - Introduction

The South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project is a research project. It was completed in December 2009 by the contractor, Aberdeen Institute for Coastal Science & Management in the University of Aberdeen. The research project was a feasibility study of a series of sub-projects that had been identified by a voluntary committee with a similar title, the South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Committee. The recommendations of this Committee were accepted in full by the South Area Committee of Aberdeen City Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007 (Annex 1). These recommendations became the requirements of a research contract, which went out to open tender, and Aberdeen University were assigned the contract. The contract contained two elements, known as list A, which was the responsibility of the University of Aberdeen, and list B, which were the responsibility of others, mainly Aberdeen City Council, but were included in the bid document as these “B” list projects could have some bearing on the overall objective of the integrated development of the Nigg Bay area (Annex 2). Most list B projects and components of some list A projects were either ongoing, or had begun prior to 2007.



General view of Nigg Bay

## **B – Overarching aim**

Although divided into discrete sub-projects, the overarching aim was to help regenerate the Nigg Bay area by improving amenity, recreational and educational use, landscape quality and, possibly, economic benefit. Most of the area was regarded as semi-derelict, underused and, in places, environmentally degraded. Thus, an implicit aim of the project was to alter this negative perception of the area and engender the beginnings of a community sense that tangible improvements could be made. To encapsulate all the elements in the project under a single theme, the concept of a City Coastal Park, focussed on the improved use of Nigg Bay and its coastline, was proposed by SACRP and approved by the South Area Committee in May 2009.

## **C – Governance and Management**

Governance took three forms:

1. formal reporting to meetings of the Steering Group (composed of interested and knowledgeable members);
2. progress reports to meetings of Councillors in the South Area Committee and its successor; and
3. directly, on a personal basis, to Mr. Gordon McIntosh, on an *ad hoc* basis.

Management of the project was the responsibility of Professor William Ritchie and Mr. David Fryer, but the structure of the project, with several sub-projects and a few “inherited” developments (mainly B list projects), necessitated substantial delegation of responsibility to others, mainly in the University of Aberdeen.

## **D – Sub-Projects**

1. **L.I.S.** The Local Information System is a G.I.S. based compilation of data and information for the Nigg Bay area. It was developed on the basis of testing its value to the project as a whole and ensuring ways by which partner organisations, especially the City of Aberdeen, could access, extract and use the information in the L.I.S. Both these objectives were met by December 2009, but the nature of the sub-project was also designed to ensure that additional layers of information could be added (and exchanged) into the foreseeable future for non-commercial use by both the University and the City of Aberdeen. In addition, the L.I.S. continues to be a core element in further educational and research developments

within the general scope of the SACRP project. It is also an important element in the “Expert Couplet” agreement between the City of Aberdeen and the University in the IMCORE European-funded research programme on best practice Coastal Zone Management. Practical arrangements are in place to ensure that all these ongoing and future uses can be guaranteed. This L.I.S. also contains visualisation and fly-through capabilities for both presentational and educational purposes.

2. ***Geological Coastal Trail*** Substantial information on the geological and geomorphological features of the coastline between Nigg Bay and Cove, including the SSSI, were provided in a well-illustrated report to the Steering Group in November 2009. Additional information on existing paths and possible linkages have also been discussed with a view to completing a network from Cove to Aberdeen Harbour.



General view of Girdleness

3. ***Marine Process Study*** This technical report used the digitised bathymetry of Nigg Bay which was provided by Aberdeen Harbour Board, the wave characteristics from the wave recording buoy in Aberdeen Bay and other sources to apply a “free” software package SWAN to demonstrate how the characteristics of breaking waves in Nigg Bay could be predicted. There is a near infinite variety of input deepwater wave characteristics and directions of approach. Accordingly, only a small number could be selected for this report. Nevertheless, any combination of these input variables can be generated, as required. Moreover, once a specific location has been determined for any development along the coast (or optional

locations for the construction of a boat launch ramp, for example,) appropriate calculations can be made and will become an essential first step in contracting for its construction.

4. ***Marine Centre and Related Constructed Facilities Proposals*** Four proposals are subsumed under this title; and they are inter-related. A building that could be suitable for maritime education (at all levels), community use and possibly with displays for visitors has been under consideration for many years with the disused St. Fitticks Farm being a possible site. SACRP included this proposal in its list of feasibility studies because of its relationship to the proposed boat launch ramp, a small boat harbour and a multi-purpose submerged reef. All of these coastal developments have been assessed and deemed to be not only feasible but also desirable. Ideally, all four proposals should be developed simultaneously, or at least as part of a cohesive strategy, but realistically each could be done separately.

There is agreement that the old derelict fishing station should be part of these plans and that the pre-existing car parking structure in the north angle of the bay also appears to be advantageous. The submerged reef is envisaged as being multi-purpose, i.e. to protect the launch ramp and the small boat harbour, to reduce storm waves in the bay, to create a number of new marine habitats and refuges, to (possibly) generate surfing waves and to provide other recreational uses. Although several technical decisions will be needed, the proposed use of discarded and “dumped recycled” materials, such as building site debris, remains an attractive suggestion.

With the exception of the proposal for the East Tullos Burn Wetland (see below), these integrated “maritime” proposals would provide a focus for much greater use of the bay area with community and, possibly, other social and economic benefits. Total capital costs and some recurrent costs are likely to be high. Nevertheless, on completion, this complex of a Marine Centre Building, launching slip, small boat harbour and submerged multi-purpose reef would rejuvenate the Nigg Bay coastal zone and return it to its former importance as a high amenity and recreational area for the City as a whole.

In relation to all these “marine” proposals, several educational and promotional activities have been completed and several are ongoing. These relate to school, college and university level initiatives. Community interests have also been consulted. There is general support for an enhancement of “marine education”. Part of this support relates to the resurgence of local and City awareness in the maritime history of Aberdeen; a history which is particularly strong in the Torry area. The Marine Centre would act as a focus for several sea-related developments, both cultural and educational. Direct educational interest has been

expressed in creating training modules that would relate directly to employment in maritime industries. The University has a Marine Resource Management degree course and some pilot research has been done on how direct access to the sea at Nigg Bay could be integrated in one or more modules in this course. At most levels, the information held in the L.I.S. would provide an important educational resource.

5. **General Improvements to the Nigg Bay Coastline** Midway through the project, the need for an overarching aim that was more than just “South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration” emerged as the Nigg Bay Coastal Park concept; a concept approved in principle during the project by Aberdeen City Council. In addition to the proposals as described above and the East Tullos Burn Wetland (below), the Coastal Park proposal demanded a significant improvement to the entire beach and littoral area south of the car park and seawards of the Girdleness-Cove road.



South angle of Nigg Bay coast

Surveys of this littoral zone revealed that there was a reasonable area of sand beach but the intertidal areas included areas of both natural boulders and substantial quantities of re-worked building materials, e.g. concrete slabs, bricks and masonry. This volume of material had been either dumped directly on the foreshore, or eroded from the south area of the coastline where, according to local information (Councillor Cooney), vast quantities of material had been dumped, possibly in the 1970s or earlier, and the extensive area below the inland “cliff” (the SSSI), was also capped by up to 20cm of bitumen road materials. Apparently, this was partly justified as a protective barrier to coastal erosion. The present



coastline is a 1 to 2 metre high “cliff” of rubble and bitumen, which is slumping onto the beach during storm conditions. In the centre of the bay, the area above the beach is an amorphous platform, with scattered patches of sand and small dunes. The upper beach and the seaward edge of this low, nondescript platform is composed of shingle, gravel and cobbles, and sea-rounded rubble. Storms shift this material easily and the outlet of the East Tullos Burn is often blocked. Although moderately well used, the car-park area is functional but unattractive. The entire area could be improved greatly. Rubble could be removed from the entire area (although this would be costly due to its “mixture” with natural materials) and used, possibly for the submerged reef. The “bitumen platform” to the south could be broken-up to free drainage; the coastal edge could be re-graded to a lower angle and the entire area remodelled and landscaped into a series of low hills and ridges. With topsoil, this could be vegetated by grasses and shrubs with pathways, picnic areas etc. (Organic fertilizer from the Water Treatment Works might be used to assist this landscaping effort). A lower section of the coastal path would also traverse this area. The central “flat” area above the sand beach is wider and could lend itself to increased elevation with an undulating/low hills topography. Sand addition in this area would probably convert the area to artificial sand dunes. The height, diversity of topography, vegetation and footpaths would alter this little-used, unattractive area in the centre of the bay to an attractive littoral element in the proposed coastal park complex.

#### 6. ***East Tullos Burn***

Although not an A list (Annex 2) project, the proposal to solve the ongoing pollution problems associated with the East Tullos Burn, which reaches its outfall on the coast in the middle section of Nigg Bay, by creating a reed bed wetland proposal has a long history of discussion, mainly between SEPA and Aberdeen City Council. SACRP supported the wetlands proposal in the belief that it would solve the problem of polluted discharges into the bay and also offer the prospect for landscape, ecological, educational and amenity benefits that would be consistent with the Nigg Bay City Park concept. Clearly, this downstream solution would require continuing efforts from SEPA and Scottish Water to monitor and improve input discharges upstream, especially in the Tullos catchment.



Seawards side exit of East  
Tullos Burn

Early concept design studies indicated that a wetland with ponds, stream diversion, planting of appropriate vegetation, footpaths, bunds and weirs, viewing areas and signposting would be expensive. Late in the project, however, additional information appeared to suggest lower costs, mainly by questioning the need for lining of ponds and some other constructional proposals. From ecological, amenity, educational and research (remediation) perspectives, the original reed beds would be encircled by other marsh and wetland vegetational types, leading progressively to shrubs and trees around the upslope periphery. Substantial enhancement of biodiversity could be achieved relatively quickly. Scoping studies included risk assessment and ongoing maintenance costs. In September 2009, the possibility of using European Life+ financial assistance was brought to the attention of SACRP. At short notice, the substantial bid documentation was completed and submitted with the prior approval of Scottish Government to the appropriate European agency. The City Council gave conditional approval and commitment to providing matching funds over a three year period. The estimated cost was in excess of one million euros. Notwithstanding the outcome of the Life+ bid, the wetlands proposal has engendered community and agency support (e.g. SEPA, SNH, N.G.O.'s etc) and could attract external sponsorship funding. A provisional decision on the bid is expected in April 2010 with funding provision from Europe in September 2010. A provisional bid for some matching funding has been made to Greenspace but further details will be needed later for a full submission.

## **E. Forward Strategy**

SACRP was a feasibility research study with several applications and outcomes. Interim discussion with the Director, Mr. Gordon McIntosh, and reporting bodies such as the Steering Group and appropriate formal Council meetings, have demonstrated total support and commitment but, realistically, this needs to be tempered by two further requirements – first, continuing managerial leadership and second, financial provision – both need to be put in place quickly or both motivation and enthusiasm at general and particular levels will be dissipated. The City Council has accepted the need for a Nigg Bay Coastal Park and the development of the East Tullos Burn Wetland. Agreement on upgrading and expanding the coastal trail by adding geological/geomorphological information, both on the ground and in some explanatory “leaflet”, is also in place. The integrated proposal for a Marine Centre, Boat Launch, Small Boat Harbour and multi-purpose submerged reef has also been accepted, in principle. The landscaping of the backshore and coastal platform needs more specification for topographic shaping and the sourcing of suitable constructional materials; most of which could come from recycled sources. All landward areas would benefit from massive tree planting programmes in places, for example, as part of the Wetland proposal, as additional screening of the Water Treatment Works, especially on the seaward side and as part of the landscaping of many areas between the road to Cove and the sea.

In all instances, leadership must come from Aberdeen City Council and officers with responsibilities that include the following services: environment; education; planning; architecture; environmental health and social services. Each project will require a small Task Force. Many members have already been identified within the SACRP. University assistance and expert guidance will be available, especially in information handling and G.I.S, coastal engineering and remediation.

Three sub-projects can be developed quickly: the coastal footpath; the boat launch ramp; and the wetlands proposal. Others are ongoing, such as tree planting and general coastal “clean-up”. Consultation with the local community and educational interests cannot be allowed to lapse and must continue.

The aims of SACRP are clearly attainable. Expertise and knowledge exist to develop beyond feasibility to concept-stage design. Some sources of external funding were identified during the SACRP and others could be identified relatively quickly. Funding applications to external sources cannot proceed until a project has reached at least the concept/design stage when some costs (capital and recurrent), albeit at an estimated level, can be provided.

The rejuvenation of the Nigg Bay area of South Aberdeen is not just feasible, it is attainable and desirable. Accordingly, its importance to the City of Aberdeen should be acknowledged and endorsed at the appropriate governance level in Aberdeen City Council.

## **ANNEX 1**

South Area Committee – 29th November 2007  
South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project

### **ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL**

**Name of Committee** : South Area Committee

**Date of Meeting** : 29th November 2007

**Title of Report** : South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project

**Lead Officer** : Gordon McIntosh, Corporate Director for  
Neighbourhood Services South

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**Author of Report** : David Fryer, Neighbourhood Planner,  
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**Other Involvement** Ian Talboys, Countryside Officer, NS South

Anne-Marie Gauld, Environmental Planner,

Strategic Leadership

Judith Stones, Keeper of Archaeology, NS

Central

Chris Croly, Assistant Keeper, Research,

Museums and Galleries, NS Central

### **Consultation undertaken with**

Councillor Jim Kiddie – Local Member for Torry/Ferryhill

Councillor Yvonne Allan - Local Member for Torry/Ferryhill

Councillor Irene Cormack - Local Member for Torry/Ferryhill

Councillor Alan Donnelly - Local Member for Torry/Ferryhill

Councillor Kate Dean for Loirston/Kincorth

Councillor Neil Cooney for Loirston/Kincorth

Councillor Callum McCaig for Loirston/Kincorth

All other Members of the City Council (for information)

The Chief Executive

Corporate Director for Resources Management

Corporate Director for Strategic Leadership

Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services North

Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services Central

City Solicitor

City Chamberlain

Head of Service Community Planning & Regeneration

Head of Service Planning & Infrastructure

Head of Service for Policy and Planning –Adult Services

Head of Service Economic and Environmental Sustainability

Strategist (Major Projects), Strategic Leadership

Scottish Enterprise Grampian  
Aberdeen Harbour Board  
East Grampian Coastal Partnership  
Torry Community Council  
Old Torry Community Forum  
Old Torry Heritage Society  
Ferryhill Heritage Society  
Ferryhill Community Council  
Cove & Altens Community Council  
Nigg Community Council  
Kincorth Community Council

## **Summary of Report**

This report advises Members of the next step for the scoping study prepared by the South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project (SACRP) for the South of the City Urban Regeneration Company (South URC) Interim Board, and the related development of a European-wide environmental project – COREPOINT 2.

## **Recommendations**

Members are recommended to: -

- 1 Agree to progress the development work as set out in the Scoping Report as set out in section 2.2 – 2.6 of the main consideration of the report
- 2 Endorse the formal creation of the South of the City Archaeological and Environmental Heritage Trail as set out in set out in sections 2.3 – 2.5 of the main consideration of the report
- 3 Endorse the involvement of the City Council with the University of Aberdeen in the progress of the INTERREG IVB European-wide initiatives, as set out in section 2.7 of the main consideration of the report.

## **Links to the Community Plan and to Vibrant, Dynamic & Forward Looking**

The report will be in line with the Council's policy on effective use and management of its resources, property assets and the corporate objectives of working with others to secure environmental improvements, economic development opportunities and community regeneration initiatives at appropriate locations.

## **Implementation**

Site specific projects will be led and financed by the organisations that own their land within the coastal and riverside zones.

## **Resource Implications**

## **People**

The regeneration of Torry, the River Dee areas, and the coastal zone will provide access to linked, high quality environmental projects, for example, The Duthie Park, The Wellington Suspension Bridge, The Torry Battery, etc.

## **Finance**

In the current financial year, the City Council has made an allocation of Non-Housing Capital Plan Finance for the South of the City Urban Regeneration Company (South URC) under the direction of an Interim Board. Funding for projects is delegated to the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services South. A one-off budget of £10k. for this study was endorsed by the South URC Interim Board following a report and consultations at their meeting held on 19th March 2007. No projects identified in this study have been fully costed at this stage. This aspect of the work is to be progressed for a meeting of the South URC Interim Board. The potential costs to complete further academic investigative works will involve an academic organisation that will be identified through tendering this aspect of the work. A budget to undertake this developmental work can be contained within the overall budget agreed by the full Council on 26th October 2006 and conditions for the award of this work are detailed in the main consideration of the report. There are elements of professional work that are costed in kind, and it is the view of the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services South that these will be contained within the budgets agreed for the continuation of existing work programmes undertaken with the South area. It would be for the Corporate Directors for Strategic Leadership, Resources Management and Neighbourhood Services Central to authorise the use of in-kind work within their portfolios as outlined in the scoping report.

**Systems & Technology** None

## **Property**

The City Council and the Aberdeen Harbour Board own almost all the land and buildings in Torry along the riverside and coastal zone areas of the South of the City.

**Other Equipment** None

**Other** None

## **Other Implications**

## **Health & Safety**

None in this report. Any project will be subject to full assessment of all aspects of safety management.

## **Risk Management**

Failure to achieve investment for the coastal zone areas will only continue the historic decline of Torry and the coastal zone areas themselves. The lack of investment may even be prejudicial to the City Council's potential new duties under the proposed new legislation affecting Coastal Zone Management that is currently being developed at European Parliament level, prior to cascading to the Westminster Parliament and then onwards for consideration by the Scottish Government for issues that are to be devolved.

**Human Rights/ Equalities/Diversity  
Impact Assessment**

Securing the environmental and community regeneration of the wider area of the South of the City will enhance the mainstreaming of equalities in the community. A full impact of this aspect of policy development will be contained within the emerging information and communications strategy being prepared for the proposed South URC.

**Sustainability**

The implementation of key projects identified within the scoping report will be based on sustainable outcomes. The potential to attract visitors to a range of projects and sites across the City and the North-East will be integral to developing these initiatives.

**Environmental**

The outcomes from the Scoping Report and COREPOINT2 initiative will enhance the physical and natural environment of the South of the City, along the length of the River Dee through to Cove. All groundbreaking works, whether terrestrial or marine, associated directly or indirectly with the SACRP, will be discussed well in advance with the Keeper of Archaeology. Archaeological field evaluation or excavation will be required in certain areas and costs must be met from Project funds. Torry Battery is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Any planned work in or around it must be discussed in advance with Historic Scotland and the consent of Scottish Ministers must be sought.

**Social**

Environmental projects will assist community regeneration in the South of the City where Torry is a focus for early action initiatives involving community organisations.

**Economic**

There is a need for physical and environmental regeneration initiatives that will attract new, inward investment for new and existing projects. As tourism accounts for a major source of income and economic activity in the City and the North-East, then added value will be derived from these projects.

**Construction**

All materials being utilised will be in accord with the sustainability policy of the City Council.

**Signature** .....  
Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services South  
Date:....19th November 2007.....



## **Main Considerations**

### **1.0 Context**

- 1.1 The regeneration of Torry requires action on social, economic and environmental fronts. Torry sits in a unique environmental setting, but one that has been undervalued and abused over the years. If we are to be seen to be serious about regeneration by both investors and the residents of Torry, then we need to address the environmental negatives and enhance the environmental setting of the regeneration area.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the full Council on 25th October 2006; Article 12 refers, Members adopted a series of linked recommendations for the creation of the South of the City Urban Regeneration Company (South URC) that would give a focus of social, economic development and environmental initiatives for a defined area of the south of the City. The formation of an Interim Board to oversee this development, with linked identifiable heads of spend to the total budget allocation approved by full Council on 28th June 2006 was also agreed.
- 1.3 At the meeting of the South URC Interim Board on 19th March 2007, Members agreed to set up a short term, multi-agency Scoping Committee under the Convenorship of Professor Bill Ritchie of Aberdeen University. The Scoping Committee were requested to identify and link a series of environmental projects within a coastal zone setting that would compliment the emergence of policy initiatives around new European-led developments, based on principles of Integrated Coastal Zone management and Marine Spatial Planning. Such works would also need to incorporate the principles of agenda 21 where a plan of action can be taken to consider human impacts on the environment.
- 1.4 The Scoping Committee consisted of a range of partner organisations and met four times between April and September and is now dissolved having presented its findings. The recommendations of the Scoping Committee were presented to the Interim Board of the South URC on 12th September 2007, and Members requested that a report with for recommendations for implementation be prepared for the next meeting of the South Area Committee. A copy of the final Scoping Report is attached as appendix A and has been circulated to all Members of the City Council for information given the significant importance of some projects to the City and the North-East, like the Torry Battery and the Duthie Park.

### **2.0 Next Steps**

- 2.1 This report to Members sets out recommendations that form the basis on which to take forward a comprehensive approach to coastal zone management as outlined by the findings of the Scoping Committee, and will be achieved by the City Council working in conjunction with partner and community organisations.
- 2.2 To meet the requirements of Standing Orders of the City Council, the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services South will undertake a tendering exercise to identify an academic partner that can work with the City Council to develop the more detailed assessment of projects envisaged in the findings of the Scoping Committee. A budget to pay for this work is within the agreed heads of spend approved by full Council on 25th October 2006, and if Members are minded to accept the recommendations in this report, then the Corporate

Director for Neighbourhood Services South in conjunction with advice from Legal and Democratic Services will progress this appointment.

- 2.3 The principle focus for issues identified in the Scoping Report stretch from the areas of the Harbour southwards past Cove. The River Dee, which is designated at a European level for its attributes, links both this study to the economic development activities of the Harbour, which plays a significant feature in the economic life and prosperity of the North-East. The river acts as a long winding thread that runs past areas of outstanding natural beauty in the North-East before reaching areas of business activity and residential use, hence it is now the considered view of the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services South that recognition needs to be given to both of these aspects through the formal designation of the South of the City Archaeological and Environmental Heritage Trail. Such a trail would include key physical and natural features within the coastal and riverside zones, like the Torry Battery where there is an outstanding need to enhance this Scheduled Ancient Monument with viewing platforms, better controlled access, and parking; a possibility of lighting could also be explored given its prominence as a feature at the mouth of the Harbour. A second significant example is The Duthie Park which is subject to a separate report to Members for the commemoration of its 125th Anniversary. The agreed designation of this proposed trail can enhance the work in hand to secure external funding for the restoration of The Duthie Park, with the promotion of the numerous local features that are an attribute to the City and the North-East, some of which are recognised at a world-wide level. One further example is the Wellington Suspension Bridge which is now in the process of restoration works, and forms a unique record of a Listed Grade A structure that spans the Dee linking Torry and Ferryhill.
- 2.4 Key to the development of the Archaeological and Environmental Heritage Trail will be the City's Sites and Monuments Record, as well as the wide range of historical and archaeological expertise within the City Council's Archaeological Unit. Archaeological Unit staff will be integral to the planning of all aspects of both the proposed trail and the propose Local Information System (LIS), to ensure best uses of resources and unnecessary repetition of research effort.
- 2.5 Sites such as St Fittick's Church and Torry Battery are the most obvious and visible evidence of heritage, however, there are many other known historic and archaeological sites within the scoping area as well as some as yet undiscovered. All groundbreaking works within the area will be discussed in advance with the Keeper of Archaeology and costs of pre-development archaeological work will be fully costed into individual project strands.
- 2.6 The proposed designation and linked interpretation of this trail will enhance a range of smaller projects across the south of the City, like the St. Fitticks Community Park, the Bay of Nigg, the churches in Torry and Ferryhill, the Victoria Bridge, the Allandale Cemetery, etc. There is a need to create riverside walks on both sides of the Dee where they do not exist now in a safe and satisfactory manner in keeping with the aspirational intent of promoting and protecting the amenity of the riverside. To link such initiatives will assist in the promotion of works (large and small) and will help identify and secure the required capital and revenue funding that will assist in local and community regeneration initiatives. These initiatives can help to provide a continuing focus for Aberdeen and the North-East as a tourist designation in Scotland. To push forward on the process of project development, the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services South has requested that provisional costings for a range of projects be prepared for submission to the Interim Board of the South URC for their next meeting on Thursday 6th December for consideration and prioritisation.

- 2.7 One further aspect of the development of environmental projects in the South of the City has also been initiated. Following discussions at the Scoping Committee, the City Council, through the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services South has made an in-principle bid to join the creation of a new and emerging European-wide initiative for the development of environmental projects. The working title for this project is the Innovative Management for Europe's changing Coastal Resource from the INTEREG IVB NEW Programme, and provides a much more comprehensive and integrated development of the earlier NORTAIL projects of some five years ago. The total bid from all the partners across Europe is being led by the University of Cork. If the total bid is accepted by the European Parliament, the City Council would work with the University of Aberdeen as an expert couplet.
- A future option allows for the City Council to become a full Member of the project if it so wished, and this aspect of the project will be the subject of a report back to Members in due course. The City Council bid is for staff time in-kind, and if approved allows the City Council to re-claim up to 50% of staff costs in participating in the project.
- 2.8 The City Council is the only local authority in Scotland bidding to be part of this new initiative and one aspect of work involves a series of workshops in each of the participating areas, so at one point in the overall programme, the City and the North-East would have an opportunity to present itself and its amenities to a European-wide audience. The development of the projects identified in this report will help the City Council to promote a wider dialogue within Europe on all matters affecting Aberdeen with regard to regeneration and economic development initiatives.

## **ANNEX 2**

### **SOUTH ABERDEEN COASTAL REGENERATION PROJECT**

#### **LIST A**

##### **DELIVERABLES**

**A1 Chairing and Leading General Steering Group**

There are no specific outputs other than notes, minutes, proposals and reports to Aberdeen City Council and other partners.

**A2 Creating and Developing a Local Information System**

The main deliverable is a functional, well-populated GIS based Local Information System which can be used by Aberdeen City Council and other partners in an interactive mode. The LIS will be an important information tool for other projects.

**A3 Terrain Assessment, Including SSSI Status**

The main deliverable will be a draft field handbook/guide of the geological and geomorphological features of interest between Nigg Bay and Cove. This guide will be complementary to the development of the coastal path. Within this area the SSSI at Nigg will need a condition report.

**A4 Marine Process Study**

The main deliverable will be a compilation of existing and ongoing hydrodynamic information for Nigg Bay, incorporating existing bathymetry and other data from Aberdeen Harbour Board and other sources. During this one-year scoping period wave parameters from the newly positioned buoy in Aberdeen Bay will be compiled and translated into process information which could be the first-step in assessing the range of possibilities for constructional proposals within and around Nigg Bay.

**A5 Comprehensive Study of marine Centre Proposal**

Towards the end of the scoping period this committee will provide Aberdeen City Council with a range of options for the development of a “marine centre” somewhere along the shoreline of Nigg Bay, probably on the north side. The three

main elements of this proposal are – an educational/visitor centre; a small boat harbour; a multi-purpose reef (possibly composed in part of recycled materials).

**A6 Liaison with other Coastal Developments in the City and Council**

There are no tangible deliverables. The project is designed to ensure integration and awareness of other coastal developments along the coastline of Aberdeen City, at the outlet of the River Don and northwards along the sediment cell of Aberdeen Bay.

**A7 Possible EU Linkages**

There are no specific deliverables but possibilities exist to incorporate best practice for sustainable coastal development as derived from European Experiences with all List A and List B projects. Knowledge of other initiatives such as EU Blue Flag and other status designations is also of importance to the project as a whole.

**LIST B. Projects mainly the responsibility of Aberdeen City Council and others**

<b>SHORT TITLE</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>NOTES/INTERNAL LINKS</b>	<b>SACRP REF.</b>
Executive Secretary to Projects and General Steering Group	D Fryer	City Council	B1
Coastal Clean-up	I Talboys	City Council	B2
Marine and Coastal Ecological Baseline	I Hay	Coastal Partnership	B3*
East Tullos Burn and Wetland	C Gray	SEPA	B4*
Interaction with Water Treatment Plant	D Fryer	City Council	B5
Initial Water Quality Assessment	I Hay	Coastal Partnership	B6*
Access and Car Parking	I Talboys	City Council	B7
Development of Options for Torry	D Fryer	City Council	B8*

Battery Area			
Heritage/Cultural trails etc	C Croly	City Council	B9
Improved Coastal Path to cove	I Talboys	City Council	B10a*
DoOnies Farm	G Lennox	City Council	B10b
Branding and Image Development	D Fryer	City Council	B11
Landscaping Requirements	A.M. Gauld	City Council	B12
Possible Input to European Funded Projects	A.M. Gauld	City Council	B13
Links to other Educational/Vocational Links in Area	P Inglis	City Council	B14

Items marked \* are likely to need various levels of additional input after initial appraisal.

Both A and B lists include reference to possible linkages with EU funded opportunities notably COREPOINT(2), ENCORA, SURF etc