

This second briefing note is an update on the work being carried out to achieve the Partnership's objectives of reducing flood risk, improving river water quality and habitat, enabling economic development and integrating investment planning.



The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership

Making regeneration a reality

In implementing its Surface Water Management Plan methodologies, the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP) is relieving pressure on the area's existing drainage systems, allowing them to work more effectively by removing the need for them to handle as much surface water. These new ways of managing surface water also provide economic and social benefits, including support for modern urban development, new water-based features for local communities to enjoy and improved natural habitats for wildlife. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) are a key component in achieving this and are featured at the successful MGSDP projects in Toryglen, Ruchill and South Dalmarnock.



Work under way in July 2008 on the creation of attenuation ponds at Toryglen and (inset) the final plans.

- Development constraint within Toryglen removed
- Significant community and stakeholder consultation and input
- Partnership working between Glasgow City Council, Scottish Water and SEPA
- The scheme has been designed to drain five development sites covering 44.3ha (the size of 36 football pitches)
- The main pond covers 5120 square metres (equivalent to four Olympic swimming pools).

The **Toryglen** SUDS project to improve drainage and allow sustainable regeneration to progress is one of the projects to come out of the MGSDP, which emerged after the flooding in the East End of Glasgow in 2002 and has been endorsed by the Scottish Government as the type of multi-agency approach needed to protect homes and businesses.

The lack of capacity in existing drainage systems and the corresponding risk of flooding and pollution had been holding back the regeneration of Toryglen on the south side of Glasgow.

To solve the problem Glasgow City Council and Scottish Water – two of the key partners in the MGSDP – worked together to include regional SUDS in the regeneration masterplan.

SUDS are a modern approach to managing excess surface water and reducing the risk of flooding and pollution entering streams and rivers. They use natural methods such as ponds and wetlands to store water, providing base level of treatment and then control its release. Their use also has the benefit of contributing to biodiversity and nature conservation.

In Toryglen this has resulted in a long-term strategy which has created a new surface water drainage network connecting proposed development sites – such as areas being considered for a new retail park, an indoor sports training centre and residential developments – with a pond and other storage areas which will hold surface water during prolonged heavy rain. In addition the pond and surrounding open space has

continued on page 2

"I have been impressed by the strategic approach adopted by the partnership and the level of co-operation between all members to alleviate and manage flooding in Glasgow and the surrounding areas. This level of partnership working is something which the Scottish Government's planned flooding legislation will encourage alongside other measures to protect Scotland's homes and businesses."

Michael Russell MSP,
Minister for the Environment

"The partnership has been encouraged by the Scottish Government's interest in our innovative approach to flood management and hopes that their support continues through their emerging legislation. We need to have the policies and procedures in place quickly to ensure that we can progress our plans to reduce the risk of flooding and unlock urban development."

Steve Inch,
Chair of MGSDP

Making regeneration a reality

continued from page 1

been designed to enhance the amenity of the local area and biodiversity.

Ironically it was wet weather at the end of the summer that delayed the final stages of completion – the landscaping and planting.

At **Ruchill** the SUDS involved a cascade of ponds in Ruchill Park; a network of paths and extensive landscaping. There was also extensive consultation through a Participation Plan involving the local community, which has been very supportive of the resulting amenities. The primary objective, to unlock the development potential of the area, has also been achieved.

Inspirational plans for **Dalmarnock** will be replicated city-wide as part of the MGSDP.

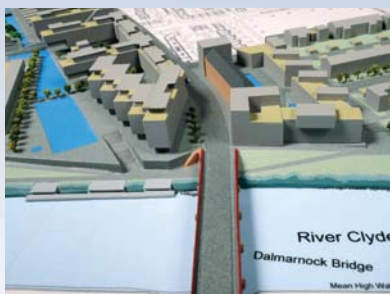
Last year Glasgow City Council, SEPA, Scottish Water and Clyde Gateway set out to integrate SUDS into the design plans for South Dalmarnock in a way that reflected local aspirations for quality, sustainability and diversity in the regeneration of the area and the rest of Glasgow's East End.

The plan involves creating a sustainable community with new water-based features, attractive housing and access to open space and recreational areas.

This concept is scheduled to be a reality by 2014, in time for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.



Ruchill SUDS.



SUDS have been incorporated into the plans for Dalmarnock.

National importance

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is a strategy for Scotland's long-term spatial and economic development.

Early in 2008, the NPF process initially identified both Commonwealth Games Infrastructure and the MGSDP as two essential national developments that would be required for Scotland's future.

This welcome development in the evolution of the MGSDP highlights its strategic importance in a national context.

Although the final list of national developments is not due to be confirmed until spring 2009 after a consultation and study period, the early inclusion of the MGSDP highlights its importance and elevated status in planning for Scotland's future.

Partnership commended for collaborative working

A multi-agency approach is one of the recommendations in the report by the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs and Environment Committee, following its inquiry into flooding and flood management. The report, published in May, makes twenty six recommendations that it considers will allow the current fragmented approach to flood management to be replaced by a more integrated one.

The partnership way of working was highlighted when committee members visited Glasgow to learn about the MGSDP. During the visit the Partnership emphasised that the key issues in effective flood management were streamlined legislation and flexibility in funding. This would assist the key stakeholders, local authorities, Scottish Water and SEPA, to work in a more effective and collaborative way to develop and implement sustainable flood management solutions.

The actions being taken by the MGSDP were commended by the Committee and the Partnership was quoted as an exemplar within the consultation documentation.

For additional information



www.scottishwater.co.uk



www.sepa.org.uk



www.scottish-enterprise.com



www.glasgow.gov.uk

Further update in Spring 2009



Printed on recycled paper