



The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership

Enhancing the natural environment

Modernising metropolitan Glasgow's ageing drainage and sewerage network is not simply about applying 'hard' engineering solutions to solve the problem. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment is also a key consideration within every project undertaken. The partnership's overarching aim is to provide a holistic approach to managing surface water which will reduce flood risk and unlock development potential while improving water quality and allowing residential areas to harmonise with the natural landscape and greenspace areas.

Gartloch and Gartcosh Hydrological Study

The Gartloch/Gartcosh corridor, which takes in north eastern Glasgow and parts of western North Lanarkshire, has been identified as a community growth area with development potential to build around 4500 new houses.

This expanse of land is a complex mix of lochs, wetlands, woodland, nature reserves, including sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), and post industrial sites where mining once took place.

Long-term, the vision is to create new residential communities and blend them with the existing natural surroundings to form a wetland corridor where flora, fauna and people can co-exist in an ecologically sound environment.

Developing a nationally important wetlands park and a wider network of recreation sites will bring significant environmental, community and economic benefits to the Gartloch/Gartcosh corridor, Glasgow, North Lanarkshire and the wider Clyde Valley.

In order to start the community master-planning process, Glasgow City Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, along with consultative partners the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Water, have commissioned a study to better understand the area's hydrology and its impact on development potential.

The scoping study and main study will take around two years to complete. At the end of this process there will be a more precise assessment of sites suitable for residential use which will aid integration of new housing with the wetland environment that the Green Network Strategy seeks to enhance.

This approach will not only achieve the sustainable development aims associated with creating community growth areas but will also fulfil the underlying objectives of the MGSDP.



The hydrological study will help inform plans to integrate businesses and residential communities with their existing natural surroundings

Working together for Clyde water environment

Protecting and enhancing the natural waters of the Clyde area is a huge task involving many organisations and communities. SEPA is urging all those with an interest in the water environment to get involved by reading the Clyde area management plan.

They are asked to provide feedback on the plan on how they can help, and how they can work with others, to achieve the plan's aims.

SEPA's Robert Kerr, Chair of the Clyde Area Advisory

Group, said: "The plan encourages best practice and continued improvement in water quality through both regulation and voluntary actions. Existing initiatives, like the MGSDP will help to achieve improvements in the water environment."

The local plan for Clyde advisory area is available from www.sepa.org.uk/consultation. Responses to the consultation must be submitted before 22 June 2009 to RBMP@sepa.org.uk.

Agreement on new approach to SUDS reaches key stage



Geoff Aitkenhead, Asset Management Director, Scottish Water and Steve Inch, Executive Director, Development and Regeneration Services, Glasgow City Council, agree on the delivery, ownership and maintenance of the South Dalmarnock SUDS scheme

The MGSDP recently reached a key stage in establishing a new way forward for the operation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) when Glasgow City Council and Scottish Water agreed in principle on the delivery, ownership and maintenance of the South Dalmarnock SUDS scheme – the first collaborative SUDS scheme involving all MGSDP partners.

To achieve this aim partners have developed design guidance for the SUDS and engaged consultants to produce an operating framework for the South Dalmarnock scheme. The result was an agreed way forward based on the council owning the scheme and maintaining the above-ground parts of it, and Scottish Water maintaining the below ground infrastructure and hydraulic elements.

The MGSDP partners recently appointed MWH-Halcrow to establish and operate a programme management office (PMO) for the MGSDP project. The PMO will be a small team of people, operating at an overarching level across the breadth of the project, providing project management support and expert technical advice. They will facilitate, coordinate and monitor the overall delivery of the MGSDP project development work, such as feasibility studies, SUDS schemes and engineering projects, which together will define and deliver the objectives and benefits of the MGSDP. The PMO will be based in Scottish Water's offices in Balmore Road, Glasgow.

This project will establish a new approach to surface water management in urban areas. By integrating it with other infrastructure requirements, such as open space, greenspace and access, SUDS will form a key element of an infrastructure that will bring biodiversity, movement and high quality place making into the heart of development.

Although the legal aspects of the arrangements have still to be finalised, the agreement of these basic principles will be the foundation for further discussions and is a very important development in the way forward for surface water management planning within the city and beyond for years to come.

Flood risk management bill introduced

The Scottish Government has progressed well with its introduction of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Bill in response to the requirements of the European Community Flood Directive. In doing so, they have taken the opportunity to modernise our approach to flood risk management in Scotland. The new legislation will change the way that flood management is organised; creating a statutory framework that will ensure that all organisations involved in flood management will co-ordinate efforts to deliver sustainable ways of dealing with flooding and its consequences. By protecting and working with the environment the Government intends to provide an approach that will maximise social and economic resilience against flooding.

The key to promoting the required co-ordinated set of actions will be the creation of flood risk management plans. As the competent authority SEPA will have the responsibility to coordinate the planning process. As responsible authorities, Scottish Water and local authorities will have a key role in this process to ensure the preparation and delivery of these plans. The first set of flood risk management plans is scheduled for completion by 2015.

For additional information



www.gcvsdpa.gov.uk



www.clydegateway.com



www.scottishwater.co.uk



www.sepa.org.uk



www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk



www.glasgow.gov.uk

Further update in Autumn 2009