

CABINET

2 December 2015

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 December 2015

NORTH WINCHESTER FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POLICY AND PLANNING

Contact Officer: Andy Hickman Tel No: 01962 848105

RECENT REFERENCES:

None.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out progress on the design and implementation of a flood alleviation scheme centred on North Walls Park and Park Avenue. This area is within the flood zone and buildings such as St Bedes School, the University of Southampton School of Art and the Leisure Centre are very vulnerable to flooding. In addition once water starts to overflow from this area along Park Avenue then residential properties along this road and beyond in the City Centre are liable to flooding. This area was protected from flooding in 2014 through the use of temporary flood barriers and sandbags walls.

The Park Avenue / North Walls Park scheme as described in this report will provide permanent protection for residential properties (reducing the risk of flooding to 'low'), the River Park Leisure Centre, St Bedes School and the Winchester School of Art. This is a partnership scheme which will be jointly funded by the Government, Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency, The University of Southampton and the City Council.

The report seeks to agree a budget allocation of £250,000 to enable a City Council contribution to be made towards the North Walls Park and Park Avenue scheme and

for the balance to be used to help progress other flood alleviation schemes in other parts of the District. The Park Avenue Scheme will be subject to a formal tendering exercise in the New Year. Once a firm scheme cost has been determined further approval will be sought under Financial Procedure Rule 6.4 to release a proportion of the £250,000 budget. The availability of a fund will greatly enhance the chances of leveraging funding from other sources such as Grant in Aid funding, the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To Cabinet:

- 1 That a capital supplementary estimate is approved for £250,000 in 2016/17 for flood alleviation schemes, funded from Capital Receipts.
- 2 That further approvals will be sought under Financial Procedure Rule 6.4 to release the funding once projects are suitably developed and costed.

To The Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1 Considers whether it wishes to call in this decision under the Budget & Policy Framework Rules s.7.

CABINET2 December 2015THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE7 December 2015NORTH WINCHESTER FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMEREPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POLICY AND PLANNINGDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed flood defences for North Walls Park/ Park Avenue will consist of permanent walls and earth bunds along with temporary flood defence boards which can be fitted in the event of flooding in areas where public access is required in normal circumstances. These will tie into existing structures that are already in place.
- 1.2 The scheme would therefore protect River Park Leisure Centre, St Bedes CE Primary School, The University of Southampton School of Art, residential properties in Park Road and reduces the risk of flooding in other residential streets such as Middlebrook Street, Upper Brook Street and the High Street. A scheme feasibility report has been prepared and is appended to this report. The City Council can contribute towards the cost of flood prevention measures, both in respect of its own land, and protecting the wider community, under the power of general competence in S.1 Localism Act 2011.
- 1.3 It is intended that the costs will be met by a jointly funded scheme between the City Council, Hampshire County Council, Southampton University & central Government (through Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid funding allocated by the Environment Agency (EA)). Each party has tentatively stated that they are able to contribute the following which will need to be confirmed before tenders are sought for the works early in the New Year.

Winchester City Council	£250,000
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Hampshire County Council	£250,000
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Southampton University	£60,000
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FCERM GiA funding	£213,000
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- 1.4 If all of the above funding can be secured this will cover the cost of the proposed scheme which is estimated at around £750,000. It is possible that the Environment Agency can secure additional funding GiA in excess of £213,000 depending upon the cost benefit work currently being assessed and this would enable the City Council's contribution to the Park Avenue scheme to be reduced. This would then allow the remainder of the £250,000 requested in this report to be utilised to implement other schemes around the District which are being progressed in conjunction with the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council.
- 1.5 A second option is identified in the Feasibility Report, which would not protect River Park Leisure Centre and Riverside Indoor Bowling Club which has been estimated at a smaller total cost of £490,000 but it is not recommended that this option is taken forward. Although the Leisure Centre itself did not flood in 2014 it could not carry on operating during the flood. If the full flood scheme were to be built then the Leisure Centre would be able to continue to operate during a flood situation. The flood defences will also make the reuse of the site in the future should the Leisure Centre be relocated cheaper and easier to achieve.

## 2 Discussion

- 2.1 The proposed scheme will significantly reduce the risk of flooding to the north of Winchester city centre. It is anticipated that through continued joint working with the EA, Hampshire County Council and Southampton University that a funding package will be agreed to enable the scheme to be implemented.
- 2.2 There are currently 58 dwellings identified at being at 'moderate' risk and 16 dwellings with a 'significant' risk of fluvial flooding from the River Itchen within the study area. The flood defence works would reduce the risk of flooding of these dwellings to 'low'.
- 2.3 As set out in the Feasibility Report appended to this report an investment of £750,000 to enable the scheme to be implemented would potentially save £12.8 million of costs damages over the lifetime of the scheme, for events up to the 1 in 100 year flood (including climate change).
- 2.4 The cost of the scheme also needs to be considered against the reduction in the level of resources needed to sandbag and protect this area.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

### 3 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 3.1 This scheme will contribute to the Council's community and economic objectives.
- 3.2 A consultation event will be held in January at the University of Southampton Art School where plans of the scheme will be displayed and officers will be in attendance to answer questions.

#### 4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 A preliminary design for the flood defences has been carried out to enable a budget cost estimate of the construction works to be determined as set out below;
- Construction Costs £654,000
  - Fee's, surveys and supervision £96,000
  - 2016 Estimate Total £750,000
- 4.2 An allocation is sought for £250,000 capital budget in 2016/17 for flood alleviation schemes, funded by Capital Receipts. This will enable a contribution to be made towards the Park Avenue scheme and any balance to be used on further flood alleviation schemes which are being developed in other parts of the District in the event that the Council's contribution ends up being less than the full budget allocation.
- 4.3 The flood defence measures proposed will have a design life of 100 years and no maintenance is envisaged for at least 30 years and therefore there will be no immediate maintenance cost implications.
- 4.4 Officer time to progress the scheme including the consultation has been allocated from the major projects team.
- 4.5 The Park Avenue Scheme will be subject to a formal tendering exercise in the New Year. Once a firm scheme cost has been determined further approval to incur capital expenditure will be sought under Financial Procedure Rule 6.4 of up to £250,000 (or less if the Council's contribution is less).

#### 5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 5.1 The flood modelling work undertaken and as set out in the Feasibility Report helps to reduce the risks associated with the Park Avenue Scheme.
- 5.2 The scheme design and estimate has been undertaken by Hampshire County Council's Engineering Consultancy service and normal contingencies have been applied.

#### 6 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

North Winchester Flooding – Flood Defence Feasibility Report, November 2015.

#### 7 APPENDICES:

None.