

Report of the Cabinet Member for City Strategy

Water End Flood Alleviation Scheme

Summary

1. This report provides information on the Water End Flood Alleviation Scheme which is being promoted by the Environment Agency. This will raise existing and construct new flood defence structures to provide a 1 in 200 year standard of protection to an estimated 393 residential and commercial properties within the project area. The Council has undertaken to make a contribution of £1m in its capital programme for 2012/13 and authorisation is requested for the Council to enter into a financial contribution agreement with the Environment Agency.
2. In addition to the above the Council has also undertaken to make a contribution of £356,000 in 2012/13 to enable the Environment Agency to commence a feasibility study into a flood protection scheme at Clementhorpe. This will be subject to a separate agreement in due course.

Background

3. The Environment Agency (EA) has identified that the existing flood defences at Water End need to be improved to provide an appropriate level of protection to properties in the area. A scheme for improvements was included in their indicative capital programme for implementation in 2012/13. They have developed the design and carried out consultation to meet this timescale and the estimated cost of the scheme is £3.2m
4. The proposed scheme will raise existing and construct new flood defence structures to provide a 1 in 200 year standard of protection

to an estimated 393 residential and commercial properties within the project area. The outline design includes:

- Raising the height of the existing defences along Water End
 - Raising the height of the existing Leeman Road embankment
 - Constructing a new flood defence to connect the Leeman Road embankment to tie into high ground at Cinder Lane
 - Providing a new defence across the entrance to Landing Lane to tie into the high ground
 - Providing additional penstocks on outfalls passing under the existing and proposed defences
5. The indicative capital programme was compiled on the assumption that the Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) allocations would be at the 2010/11 level. However Defra has changed its approach to funding flood defence and as a result the Water End scheme was removed from the EA's capital programme as it did not meet the criteria for 100% FDGiA.
 6. The aim of the new approach is to enable more projects to be funded by topping up FDGiA with local contributions by beneficiaries. While some FDGiA funding is available for the Water End scheme, its viability is dependant on other funding being found. In recognition of this the Council undertook to secure a contribution of £1m in its 2012/13 budget and this has now been confirmed following the new administration's review.
 7. The EA wish to progress the scheme and have requested that the Council enter into a financial contribution agreement. Approval is requested for this agreement to be signed.
 8. The Council has also undertaken to make a contribution of £356,000 in 2012/13 to enable the Environment Agency to commence a feasibility study into a flood protection scheme at Clementhorpe. This will be subject to a separate agreement in due course.

Implications

9. Financial – The contributions are included in the capital programme approved by the Council

Human Resources (HR) - None

Equalities - None

Legal – Once signed the Financial Contribution Agreement will be legally binding on the Council

Crime and Disorder- None

Information Technology (IT) - None

Property - None

Risk Management

10. Without the Council's contribution the Water End scheme will not proceed in 2012/13 and is unlikely to proceed at a later date in the current financial climate. The area will remain at risk of flooding and due to the continuing deterioration of the defences this risk may increase although the EA would do its best to mitigate this by maintenance.
11. The Council, EA, Yorkshire Water Services and Council are at an early stage of discussion and feasibility study, and the Council funding will enable this to continue. The EA do not currently have any funding allocated to this scheme.

Recommendations

12. It is recommended
 1. that approval is given for the signing of the financial contribution agreement with the Environment Agency confirming the Council's contribution of £1m in 2012/13 towards the Water End Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Reason: To enable the Environment Agency to progress the scheme as detailed in paragraph 3.
 2. that the contribution towards the Clementhorpe scheme be noted and an agreement signed with the EA in due course.

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Report

Approved

Date

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

None

Wards Affected: Holgate

For further information please contact the author of the report