

**Proposed Decision to be taken by the
Deputy Leader (Finance and Property)
on or after 17 August 2018**

**Addition of Whitacre Heath Flood Risk Management
Scheme to the 2018/19 Capital Programme**

Recommendation

That the Deputy Leader (Finance and Property) adds the Whitacre Heath Flood Alleviation scheme to Warwickshire County Council's 2018/19 capital programme. The total scheme estimate is £71,800 all of which is fully funded.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy provides the structure for how it assesses local flood risk in Warwickshire. The associated Surface Water Management Plan provides the prioritisation for flood risk management work.
- 1.2 Whitacre Heath has a history of repeated flooding and ranks within the top 23 most at risk communities in Warwickshire. As such the work that has been done in modelling and developing flood mitigation solutions in Whitacre is consistent with WCC's strategic objectives and plans.

Scheme specific details are included below.

Whitacre Heath Project

- 1.3 The village of Whitacre Heath is located in North Warwickshire to the East of the River Tame and suffers repeated flooding. Serious flooding occurs from the River Tame with a number of properties also at risk from surface water flooding, particularly when high levels in the River Tame prevent natural drainage features from draining into the river. The main railway between Birmingham and Derby also lies to the north-west of the village.
- 1.4 The Environment Agency (EA) has installed a pump in response to residents' concern that the railway embankment and river flood defences potentially impede surface water drainage. The impact of this pump installation is however thought to have a limited quantifiable surface water flooding benefit.

- 1.5 WCC Flood Risk Management (FRM) team have been successful in obtaining £12,000 'Local Levy' funding from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and we have used this to develop a model to investigate sources of surface water flooding, to better understand the flooding mechanisms impacting Whitacre Heath, and to undertake an options appraisal and develop a business case to support a further bid for additional grant funding to deliver a capital scheme.
- 1.6 WCC FRM have also been successful in securing an allocation of £35,000 Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) funding to deliver a capital scheme.
- 1.7 Of all the options appraised, the provision of Property Level Resilience measures (PLR) provided the most cost-effective solution and PLR surveys have been carried out at 6 properties.
- 1.8 WCC FRM team have submitted a business case to the EA which was formally approved on 13th July. A copy of the letter notifying us of the approval is attached as Appendix 2.

2.0 Options and Proposal

- 2.1 A number of options have been considered with PLR being identified as the preferred and the most economically viable option to reduce internal property flooding within Whitacre Heath.
- 2.2 The specific proposal is for PLR to 6 properties. These properties were identified after a flood risk mapping exercise (see Figure 1 below) and community engagement with residents who expressed an interest in participating in the scheme. Individual property owners will be responsible for ongoing maintenance.

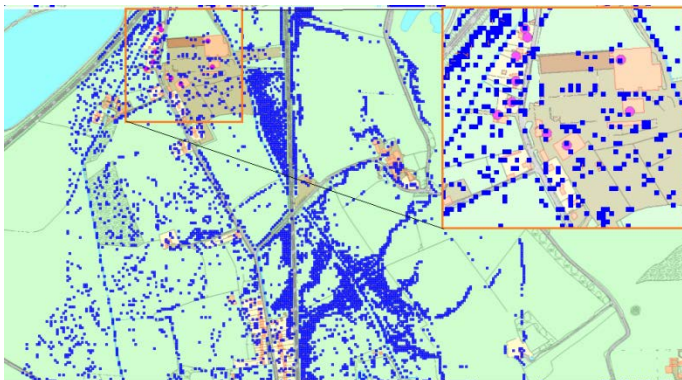


Figure 1: Extent of predicted flood risk

- 2.3 The protection provided will be tailored to the specific needs of each property being defended. Typical protection would include installation of anti-flood air brick and vent covers, flood doors, demountable flood barriers, sump pumps beneath floor level and waterproofing to external walls and other porous surfaces.

2.4 Procurement will be via WCC’s framework. WCC’s framework for PLR work enables us to efficiently “call-off” and deliver specialist PLR products for locations such as Whitacre Heath. This will bring significant benefits in terms of avoiding future tendering costs, lower unit costs arising from economies of scale, improved working relationships with a dedicated supplier and having consistency of products across the County.

2.5 The financial implications from this approval request are:

- the total scheme estimate is £71,800 which includes internal staff time, property surveys and contract delivery;
- WCC has been allocated one grant towards the cost of this scheme of £12,000 from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and have been allocated an additional £35,000 from the EA;
- £14,000 is forecast to come from a contribution from a private resident with the additional £10,800 coming from FRM reserves.
- In the event that the contribution from the private resident is not secured, their property will be removed from the scheme with no net financial impact on the WCC contribution.

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

3.1 Subject to approval the installation of PLR could commence in November 2018.

Supporting Papers

Appendix 1: Outline project delivery programme

Appendix 2: Letter of Confirmation from the EA

Background Papers - None

| | Name | Contact Information |
|--|----------------|--|
| Report Author | Barry Ridgway | barryridgway@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 412523 |
| Head of Service | Mark Ryder | markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 412811 |
| Strategic Director | Monica Fogarty | monicafogarty@warwickshire.gov.uk |
| Portfolio Holder Community Safety | | |
| Portfolio Holder Finance and Property | Peter Butlin | peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk |

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local members: Cllr Andy Jenns

Othr Members: Cllrs Singh Birdi, Timms, Butlin, Boad and O’Rourke