

Decision Record – Addition of Whitacre Heath Flood Risk Management Scheme to the 2018/19 Capital Programme

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Peter Butlin Deputy Leader (Finance & Property)
Date of Decision (not before 17 August 2018)	17/08/2018

Decision Taken

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.

Reasons for Decisions

Additions to the Capital Programme must be approved by the Deputy Leader (Finance and Property)

Background Information

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

WCC FRM team have submitted a business case to the EA which was formally approved on 13th July.

Financial Implications

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.

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Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Butlin

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/4294/Committee/586/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin
 Corporate Board
 Legal –Jane Pollard
 Finance – Virginia Rennie
 Equality – Clare Bonnet
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams
 Local members: Cllr Andy Jenns
 Othr Members: Cllrs Singh Birdi, Timms, Butlin, Boad and O’Rourke