

## Decision Record – Approval to Apply for Flood Alleviation Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy Grants

<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision</b>	Cllr Jeff Clarke Transport and Environment
<b>Date of Decision</b> (not before 20 October 2017)	<b>20/10/2017</b>

<b>Decision Taken</b>
<p>That the Portfolio Holder authorise the Joint Managing Director (Communities) to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) seek the inclusion of projects in the Environment Agency's current six year flood alleviation programme (ending in 2021) provided that any match funding payable by the County Council is available for the purpose from an existing budget;</li> <li>2) submit a business case for Flood Defence Grant in Aid and/or Local Levy and to seek any other external funding available for such a project provided that no legally binding commitment is made before the relevant Portfolio Holder has agreed to an addition to the Capital Programme.</li> </ol>

<b>Reasons for Decisions</b>
Warwickshire County Council's constitution requires approval is given for the FRM team to apply for Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy grants.

<b>Background Information</b>
<p>Significant areas of Warwickshire are subject to flood risk, with around one in fifteen residential properties and one in seven commercial properties being at risk of flooding from rivers or surface water.</p> <p>Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy provides the structure for how it assesses flood risk in Warwickshire. The associated Surface Water Management Plan provides the prioritised ranking of communities most at risk from flooding and the focus for the Flood Risk Management Team's planned work.</p> <p>The Flood Risk Management Team (FRM) develops flood mitigation solutions in a way that is consistent with these strategic objectives and plans.</p> <p>There are two principal funding routes for capital investment in flood alleviation works as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environment Agency's Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA)</li> </ul> <p>Central Government policy on flooding is implemented by Defra and administered through the Environment Agency (EA). Defra make available funding for capital investment for flood defence projects which is allocated by the EA on a competitive and targeted basis through the FDGiA process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Flood and Coastal Committees' Local Levy Grants</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the Central Government grants, there are a number of other sources of funding. This includes a levy on local authorities (Local Levy) raised by the EA's Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs). These committees bring together members appointed by Lead Local Flood Authorities, such as ourselves, and independent members with relevant experience, to ensure there are coherent plans for managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines. They also encourage efficient, targeted and risk-based investment. WCC have representation on two RFCCs, namely the Trent RFCC and the English Severn and Wye RFCC. Local Levy provides a valuable source of grant funding to supplement FDGiA.</p>

FDGiA and Local Levy enable significant external funding to facilitate delivery of protection to properties at risk from flooding. FDGiA often requires 'partnership' (or match) funding for schemes to progress. Sources of partnership funding can include Local Levy, local residents and businesses and WCC and its partners. The process for applying for funding from FDGiA and Local Levy is competitive and complex.

In February 2014 the County Council approved £1.1 million additional funding for flood alleviation work between April 2014 and March 2018. This funding enables this 'partnership' and match funding for schemes and has been a catalyst for successful applications for funding from other sources. For example, Warwickshire County Council has been successful in obtaining £2 million funding from the EA for a scheme in Snitterfield, £121,000 funding from the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership and £48,000 for the catchment upstream of Fillongley to implement Natural Flood Management.

Warwickshire County Council's constitution requires approval is given for the FRM team to apply for Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy grants.

**Financial Implications**

WCC have a further 10 schemes in the EA's six-year programme. It has budgeted that £356,000 of contributions from the County Council's existing budget will leverage at least £940,000 in FDGiA and Local Levy funding enabling better protection to over 110 properties from flooding. Three of these projects are joint strategic schemes with Staffordshire County Council, seeking to maximise benefits of partnership working.

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<b>Joint Managing Director</b>	Monica Fogarty
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Jeff Clarke

**Checklist**

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

**List of Reports considered**

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cmis5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/4109/Committee/587/Default.aspx>

**List of Background Papers**

None

**Members and officers consulted or informed**

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Clarke  
 Corporate Board  
 Legal – Ian Marriott, John Gregory, Peter Endall  
 Finance – Liz Firmstone, Virginia Rennie  
 Equality – Polly Sharma  
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Communities OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Western, Fradgley, Horner, Shilton and Clarke