

Portfolio Holder Decision – Bilton Road Property Flood Resilience Scheme

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| Portfolio Holder | Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property |
| Date of decision | 16 April 2021 |
| | Signed |

Decision taken

- 1.1 Approve the addition of the Bilton Road Property Flood Resilience Scheme (PFR), total scheme estimate £20,672 to Warwickshire County Council's 2021/22 Capital Programme subject to The Flood Defence Grant of £8,600 being secured.

Reasons for decisions

- 1.0 Warwickshire County Council's (WCC's) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy provides the structure for how it assesses local flood risk in Warwickshire. The associated Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) provides the prioritisation for flood risk management work.
- 1.1 Bilton Road has a history of repeated flooding and is shown in the SWMP to be at high risk of surface water flooding due to the urban nature of fluvial watercourses in Rugby Town Centre. As such the work that has been done in developing flood mitigation solutions at Bilton Road is consistent with WCC's strategic objectives and plans.

Background information

- 2.1 The crossroads of Bilton Road and May Lane are located in Rugby Town Centre and suffers from repeated flooding. The Sow Brook (South) crosses beneath the cross-roads and flows in a northerly direction to join the Sow Brook. The crossroads most recently became submerged in the rainfall event in June 2016 with internal flooding to 2 residential properties and 3 commercial properties.
- 2.2 WCC's Highway team have undertaken works to the two principal culverts that cross beneath the crossroads as they are owned and maintained by WCC Highways, however a residual risk remains to the properties.

- 2.3 Several options have been considered with PFR being identified as the preferred and the most economically viable option to reduce the residual risk of internal property flooding at Bilton Road.
- 2.4 The specific proposal is for PFR to 2 properties. These properties were identified after a flood risk mapping exercise and community engagement with residents who expressed an interest in participating in the scheme. Individual property owners will be responsible for ongoing maintenance.
- 2.5 The protection provided will be tailored to the specific needs of each property being better protected. Typical protection will include installation of flood doors, demountable flood barriers, sump pumps beneath floor level, anti-flood air brick and vent covers, and waterproofing to external walls and other porous surfaces.
- 2.6 Subject to approval the scheme will commence in May 2021 and is likely to take 3-6 weeks for installation of Property Flood Resilience measures.

Financial implications

- 3.0 The financial implications from this approval request are:
The total scheme estimate is £20,672 which includes internal staff time, property surveys and contract delivery;
- £12,072 is coming from FRM budgets
- £8,600 is coming from FCERM Grant in Aid
- 3.1 WCC FRM have sent the Outline Business case for approval in order to secure an allocation of £8,600 Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA) to deliver the Bilton Road Property Flood Resilience Scheme. If funding is not secured from Flood Defence Grant in Aid the scheme will not go ahead.
 - 3.2 Of all the options appraised, the provision of Property-level Flood Resilience measures (PFR) provided the most cost-effective solution and PFR surveys have been carried out on 2 residential properties.
 - 3.3 As part of the project we will use independent building surveyors to undertake site inspections on all newly installed Property Flood Resilience measures. This will identify any works required before anything is signed off as complete. Procurement will be via WCC's PFR framework. WCC's framework for PFR work enables us to efficiently "call-off" and deliver specialist PFR products for locations such as Bilton Road.
 - 3.4 The ongoing maintenance responsibility will remain with the individual property owners and as such no future maintenance liability or cost will remain with WCC.

Environmental implications

4 Flooding is part of nature and it is not technically feasible nor economically affordable to prevent all properties from flooding. The National Flood Risk Assessment, carried out by the EA recognises that a risk based approach to protecting properties must be taken. It also recognises that some traditional flood alleviation schemes can cause environmental harm or just move the problem elsewhere. As climate change is likely to increase the frequency and severity of flooding in the future, taking a risk-based approach and ensuring further environmental damage is not caused will be essential to reducing the impacts of flooding.

4.1 PFR does not require large scale stripping of sites or construction methods to be used that may cause environmental harm. As such, there is unlikely to be any loss of planting, habitat or trees as part of the installation of PFR products as they designed to fit to and become part of the property construction. In contrast to traditional hard engineered flood embankments or walls, PFR also does not alter the natural topography of a location and as such is less likely to push flood water elsewhere. This is especially important in Warwickshire's rural catchments where topography is challenging, and alterations have the potential to increase flood risk to different parts of a community.

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| Lead Director | Strategic Director for Communities |
| Lead Member | Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property |

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| Urgent matter? | No |
| Confidential or exempt? | No |
| Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework? | No |

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Butlin

Corporate Board

Legal – Jane Pollard

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – Keira Rounsley

Democratic Services – Helen Barnsley

Councillors – Cllr Crump

Local Member(s): Cllr O'Rourke