

Portfolio Holder Decision – Clifford Chambers Property Flood Resilience Scheme

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Finance & Property
Date of decision	18 June 2021
	Signed

Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property approve the addition of the Clifford Chambers Property Flood Resilience Scheme (PFR), total scheme estimate £166,654 to Warwickshire County Council's 2021/22 Capital Programme subject to The Flood Defence Grant of £156,654 being secured.

Reasons for decisions

- 1.0 Warwickshire County Council's (WCC's) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) 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 Clifford Chambers has a history of repeated flooding and is shown in the SWMP to ranked 8th in the top 40 flooding hotspots in Warwickshire. Clifford Chambers has flooded as recently as November 2019 and has multiple historic flooding reports from 1998 and 2007. As such the work that has been done in developing flood mitigation solutions at Clifford Chambers is consistent with WCC's strategic objectives and plans.

Background information

- 2.0 Clifford Chambers has a long history of flooding due to its geography being situated on the west bank of the River Stour and the local topography meaning that the village is susceptible to surface water flood risk. In recent times, the village was most severely flooded in 1998 where it was estimated that 18 properties were flooded internally and there was significant flooding to local highways and infrastructure. In 2007 it was reported that 10 properties were flooded internally and more recently, in 2019 and 2020 5 properties were reported to have internally flooded.

- 2.1 WCC have undertaken a number of investigations and surveys into the condition of the existing drainage system during 2015 and 2016. The majority of the system has been CCTV surveyed to identify the pathway, size, defects and any blockages.
- 2.2 In 2018 WCC undertook a hydrological analysis to identify the Clifford Chambers contributing catchment. This information was then used within the hydraulic modelling which followed. A direct rainfall model was built and simulated for a range of design events.
- 2.3 A number of options were identified and a shortlist produced, PFR to 18 properties was shown to be the most economically viable option which met the objectives of the project. These properties were identified from the flood risk modelling exercise and community engagement with residents following flooding in November 2019. Individual property owners will be responsible for ongoing maintenance.
- 2.4 Independent surveys will be carried out on all of the properties to identify the requirements to prevent and limit the ingress of water. Reports for each property will be produced which make specific recommendations for PFR measures to be installed. 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.
- 2.5 Subject to approval the scheme will commence in August 2021 and is likely to take 8-12 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 £166,654 which includes internal staff time, property surveys and contract delivery;
 - £10,000 is recommended to be allocated from FRM re-profiled CIF allocation
 - £156,654 is to be secured from FCERM Grant in Aid and Local Levy
- 3.1 Currently the allocation from FCERM GiA and Local Levy is unsecured. WCC FRM have issued the Outline Business case for approval to the Environment Agency, in order to secure an existing allocation of £81,660 from the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA) funding and £75,000 of Local Levy to deliver the Clifford Chambers Property Flood Resilience Scheme. If funding is not secured from Flood Defence Grant in Aid the scheme is unlikely to progress.
- 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 will be undertaken on 18 residential properties.

- 3.3 Procurement will be via the national EA PFR framework. The EA's national framework for PFR work enables us to efficiently "call-off" and deliver specialist PFR products for locations such as Clifford Chambers.
- 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. A PFR Legal Agreement has been produced working with WCC Legal team, to outline the responsibilities of the homeowner for future maintenance.

Environmental implications

- 4.0 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 are 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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Assistant Director	Scott Thompkins Assistant Director for Environment Services
Lead Director	Mark Ryder Strategic Director for Communities
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning

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 – Mark Ryder

Legal – Ian Marriott

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – Keira Rounsley

Democratic Services – Helen Barnsley

Councillors – Members of Communities OSC

Local Member(s): Cllr Seccombe