

CABINET

DATE	16/06/2021
REPORT OF	Councillor Stewart Swinburn Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Sharon Wroot, Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources
SUBJECT	Grimsby and Immingham Flood Resilience Innovation Funding
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 06/21/07

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The proposed programme of surface water drainage improvements will deliver a package of retrofit sustainable drainage measures (SUDS) in areas of Grimsby and Immingham which are at high risk of surface water flooding, contributing to the Council's strategic objectives of a Stronger Economy and Stronger Community.

The resultant reduction in surface water flood risk to domestic property will remove or lessen the significant financial impact of internally flooded property to residents. The damage resulting from internal flooding of property invariably costs many thousands of pounds in repairs and relacing damaged items. The deeper the floodwater, the higher the damage costs. Even when insured, residents often face high excess costs, and nothing can replace lost sentimental items.

Also, affected residents face significant disruption to their lives as do any other occupants, family or friends. A significant impact on mental health is not uncommon for people affected by flooding of their property.

The outcomes of the project will help deliver the Government strategy outlined within 'The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution'.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for the development of a programme of sustainable drainage measures to be retrofitted into the existing urban landscape, including areas of existing adopted and unadopted highway. The programme will prioritise the Broadway area of Grimsby and various locations within Immingham.

The aim of the project is to reduce flood risk to property and the public highway in those locations with the sustainable drainage measures designed in such a way as to improve the urban environment.

The project will be 100% funded by the Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme with a value in the region of £4M. Outcomes from the project will be shared nationally.

The project was one of 25 selected for a total of 79 bids submitted. North East Lincolnshire Council is to be the lead organisation on the project with partners Anglian Water, Doncaster Council and Yorkshire Water. This partnership approach is innovative and aims to ensure the vast areas of north and eastern England covered by these water companies is managed in a collaborative way to manage and mitigate the impact of flood risks in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Agrees to accept the grant funding offer from Defra Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation.
2. Authorises the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport to commence the procurement of a contractor to deliver a programme of surface water drainage improvements and retrofit sustainable drainage measures (SUDS). The programme aims to reduce the risk of flooding to property and the highway.
3. Authorises the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets to execute all documentation arising.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority which means it is responsible for the management of flood risk from surface water. This is one of the statutory duties bestowed upon it by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

The commitment to identify appropriate flood risk management measures across Grimsby and Immingham is contained in the NELC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy's Action Plan. This Strategy is a statutory document required of a Lead Local Flood Authority.

The Defra Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme will fully fund the cost of the project with up to £4M available for North East Lincolnshire Council.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 The majority of the sewers in Grimsby are combined sewers, and take both foul drainage (from baths, toilets, dishwashers etc.) and surface water (from runoff when it is raining). The sewer network only has a finite capacity and when we get heavy rainfall, primarily the extremely intense summer rainfall events, flooding to roads and homes can occur.
- 1.2 As Grimsby has developed, more and more houses are connected to the existing sewerage system which has not been expanded to accommodate all the additional water now entering the sewers. Coupled with climate change, which is making the rainfall we experience both more intense, and more frequent, we are at a higher risk of flooding than ever.

- 1.3 The innovative approach for which the funding is available is the retrofit of sustainable drainage which is known as SuDS retrofit. The SUDS approach to drainage is to try and mimic the way water acts on natural sites prior to any development, rather than the traditional approach of just piping everything underground to get it away as fast as possible. This new approach is to manage the water as close to where it lands as possible, and hold it back, thereby increasing available flow capacity in the sewerage system downstream during rainfall events.
- 1.4 Among the measures that are likely to be considered for use are:
- roadside verges converted to rain gardens for the temporary storage of surface water during rainfall events.
 - larger grassed areas engineered for the temporary storage of surface water during rainfall events.
 - permeable paving areas for the temporary storage of surface water during rainfall events.
 - use of tree pits, either singly or multiple, for the temporary storage of surface water during rainfall events.
 - encouragement of residents in the use of water butts. These can be provided free of charge through the project.
- 1.5 The Broadway area is one of the locations identified for the SUDS retrofit scheme due to some of the properties in this area being in low spots, which puts them at very high risk of flooding. Over the past few years flooding has occurred several times each year.
- 1.6 The other location for the SuDs retrofit is Immingham where there have been a number of flooding events, including in 2007, 2012, 2014 and 2017. There are hundreds of properties at risk of surface water flooding throughout Immingham. Consequently, the implementation of the sustainable drainage measures will be considered throughout the town.
- 1.7 The SUDS retrofit schemes are likely to be successful so that is likely to lead to other retrofit schemes in other locations in Grimsby where lack of sewer flow capacity is causing flood risk. These locations are widespread throughout Grimsby.
- 1.8 The resultant reduction in surface water flood risk to domestic property will remove or lessen the significant financial impact to residents of internally flooded property. The damage resulting from internal flooding of property invariably costs many thousands of pounds in repairs and relacing damaged items. Even when insured, residents often face high excess costs, and nothing can replace lost sentimental items.
- 1.9 Residents affected by flooding face significant disruption to their lives as do any other occupants, family or friend. A significant impact on mental health is not uncommon for people affected by flooding of their property.

- 1.10 It is intended that there will be engagement with the voluntary and community sectors to help design, build and maintain the rain gardens and up skill the local community. Specialist consultants will be available to assist in this aspect of the project.
- 1.11 The successful innovation funding bid was submitted in conjunction with Anglian Water, Doncaster Council and Yorkshire Water, which is an innovative partnership in its own right. This unique partnership is likely to have been a significant contributory factor to the funding bid's success. North East Lincolnshire are the lead organisation on the project.
- 1.12 There were 79 bids for the 25 funding allocations available. Each funding allocation has a value of up to £6M. The cost of the NELC works will be in the region of £4M.
- 1.13 The successful delivery of the project is likely to lead to a big increase in sustainable drainage schemes across the Anglian Water and Yorkshire Water areas. These two water companies serve a total of 4.8 million households and 240,000 businesses so there is the potential for flood risk reduction benefits across a significant area of the country.
- 1.14 Because of the surface water flood risk in the Borough, the Environment Agency, supported by Anglian Water, had already allocated funding for both a Grimsby and Immingham surface water strategic study. In the early part of the scheme, it is assumed the two funding streams will run side by side.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 There is a risk to the Council should the project not proceed in that it may be seen as failing in its duty as a Lead Local Flood Authority and having a duty to manage flood risk from surface water flooding in Grimsby and Immingham.
- 2.2 The long-term prediction for rainfall patterns in England is less cumulative rainfall, but more intense storms in the summer, thereby the risk of flooding to property will increase further in the future.
- 2.3 Other parts of the Borough, primarily areas of Grimsby are also at risk of surface water flooding. A successful delivery of this innovative scheme may lead to the further roll out of similar sustainable drainage schemes in the future which will reduce flood risk to property. Because of the large area covered by the partners for the Innovation funding, the benefits from this project could eventually be widespread across the country.
- 2.4 The project supports the NELC Carbon Neutrality 2050 target, as outlined in Section 6 of this report.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty as a Lead Local Flood Authority to manage surface water and the resultant flooding. Therefore, the option of doing nothing is not viable.
- 3.2 It has already been confirmed by the Environment Agency and Anglian Water that there is alternative funding available for the schemes should the Innovation Funding bid not have been successful. However, these alternative funding streams would require significant match funding from the Council.
- 3.3 The Innovation Funding covers 100% of the scheme costs.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Failure to reduce flood risk at locations with a previous history of flooding could generate reputational risks for the Council. Locations where future flooding of property is likely to occur due to climate change will also be included for the provision of sustainable drainage measures.
- 4.2 The successful bid into the new national Flood Resilience Innovation Funding illustrates how the Council is exploring all funding avenues in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). One of a LLFA's main statutory duties is the management of flood risk from surface water.
- 4.3 Successful delivery of this project will mean North East Lincolnshire Council will have contributed significantly to the national problem of managing flood risk from existing under-capacity urban drainage systems. Case studies of the scheme will be produced as part of the Innovation programme and made available nationally.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The costs of the scheme in North East Lincolnshire will be in the region of £4M but will be 100% funded from the Defra Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme.
- 5.2 There may be some effect on Council revenue with the maintenance regime for some of the flood storage areas. However, the involvement of the voluntary and community sectors will be explored which may lead to a saving.
- 5.3 There will no effect on Council capital expenditure.
- 5.4 There will be no call on Council reserves.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The scheme has the potential to deliver the following environmental improvements:
 - Greening of the urban landscape to improve local air quality, health and wellbeing.

- Significant improvements to water quality in local watercourses which applies to Immingham where all surface water discharge is into the local watercourses around the town and, ultimately, into the estuary.
- Potential for creation of new habitat for ecological and biodiversity gains in the green retrofit measures, especially with the tree pits and rain gardens.

6.2 The potential benefits of the project have been raised with the Officer's group tasked with producing the Council's Net Zero Carbon Roadmap.

7. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

7.1 Scrutiny will be consulted when the detail of sustainable drainage measures at each location has been developed further.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The project will be 100% funded from the Defra Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme.

8.2 However, as the lead organisation for the project the Council will receive all the funding for the scheme. This means the project team will be receiving and processing applications for payment and invoices from Doncaster Council.

8.3 The scheme will need to be added to the current approved Council's Capital investment Programme and any ongoing revenue costs will be required to be met from within the service's existing budget envelope.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The statutory obligations on the Council are touched upon in the above report. The procurement exercise is consistent with the stated aims and objectives of the Council, underpinning its strategic objectives of Stronger Economy, Stronger Communities.

9.2 The procurement exercise will be conducted so as to comply with the Council's policy and legal obligations, specifically in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and supported by relevant officers.

9.3 The delegations sought are consistent with an exercise of this nature. Officers should note that an award constitutes a further decision and will be subject to completion of an Officer Decision Record and be subject to call in. Award and implementation timelines should accommodate this.

9.4 The partnership working with other public sector authorities can be underpinned by appropriate agreements which Legal Services are able to support.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The funding for the scheme will provide an additional Drainage team post to manage the project. Engie will be undertaking the recruitment process subject to approval.

11. WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Immingham and Yarborough Wards are the main beneficiaries of the scheme by the reduction in flood risk to property and the public highway. There is a more widespread, less obvious benefit to other wards in Grimsby due to reduced flow rates in the sewerage system resulting in a small reduction in flood risk at some locations.
- 11.2 Ward members will be kept apprised as the project starts to develop.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

13. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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