

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	25 June 2014
Title:	Emergency works to defend St Bede Church of England Primary School, Winchester against flooding, and the associated provision of temporary accommodation to house the school
Reference:	5839
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Geoff Curran

Tel: 01962 846167

Email: geoff.curran@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek retrospective approval to support the decision by the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services to approve expenditure for emergency works to deal with the possible loss of use of St Bede Church of England (C of E) Primary School, Winchester, in early February 2014.

2. Contextual information

2.1. During late January/ Early February 2014, lower Winchester, including the St Bede C of E Primary School site, was partly flooded, and under increasing threat of rising water. Senior Officers from Property Services and Children's Services, in consultation with the school, deemed it necessary to deploy emergency works to defend the school against the rising water, provide temporary toilets to allow the continued use of part of the school, and to deploy temporary accommodation elsewhere in Winchester to allow the on-going provision of education for the children at the school.

2.2. A temporary school, comprising modular buildings was deployed at The Henry Beaufort School – this site being on high ground, and already having suitable infrastructure to receive the buildings. Although much of the school site was under water, deployment of sandbag walls and other defences, managed to prevent the flooding of the buildings. The loss of the site meant that there was a requirement to bus children to alternative accommodation at other schools in Winchester on a number of days.

2.3. Eventually The Environment Agency took the step of partially damming the Itchen River, which flooded land outside Winchester, but took pressure of the lower city areas and averted the anticipated rise in water levels over the weekend of the 15 and 16 February 2014.

3. Finance

3.1. Final stages of the clear up are currently being completed. The temporary toilets will be removed in the near future. Total costs are being assembled at present. It is anticipated that this will be in the order of £250,000 to £300,000 and there is already agreement with Corporate Services that funding for these works can be made available from the County Council's central insurance funds.

4. Performance

4.1. The investment and works were successful in that the school building was defended from flooding, and there was almost unbroken continuity in the education of the children at the school (One day full closure and three days partial closure).

5. Other key issues / Future direction

5.1. The site is being reviewed to consider how it might be 'future proofed' with permanent flood defence works to prevent reoccurrence of this issue. Discussions are underway with the Environment Agency and the possibility of linking to other defences to defend lower Winchester against flooding in the future.

6. Recommendation

6.1. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources retrospectively approves the exceptional decision taken by the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services to approve the expenditure for emergency works to deal with the possible loss of St Bede School in February 2014. The cost to be met is from the County Council's insurance funds available for such occurrences.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. Not applicable to this report.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The County Council has a legal obligation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all the decisions it makes on the prevention of crime. The proposals in this report have no impact on the prevention of crime.

3. Climate Change:

3.1. The site flooded in 2000. The storms and floods of 2014 were deemed to be something that would normally occur at over 100 year intervals. The evidence available suggests that we should expect this more frequently, and with this in mind the site is under review so that we can consider the deployment of more permanent defences to prevent the need for this level of emergency work in the future.