

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	16 June 2016
Title:	St Bede: Winchester Flood Defence Summary of Progress
Reference:	7556
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to explain the current position on the Winchester Flood Defence Project. This is one of a number of such projects at Cove, Vernham Deane and a number of countryside flood defence schemes.
- 1.2 The scheme has been jointly procured by Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council, Southampton University, and the Environment Agency and fits into the local and national Environment Agency Flood Management Strategy. The scheme is now designed and ready for Tendering. The pre-tender estimate is £895,000 (including a contingency), of which Hampshire are contributing £250k + Fees. Public consultation, held during July 2015, received a very positive response. It is proposed to Tender the scheme in June, with replies in July and a start of site on August 22 and completion in November 2016.
- 1.3 The defence comprises a low, structurally designed wall with flood barriers at openings. It is designed to defend against a '1 in 100' year flood event plus a large contingency. It will protect a substantial area of Winchester including; St Bede School, The Art College, and a large area of private housing and business property across North East Winchester.
- 1.4 The project is a good example of joint working by local bodies and a Government agency to the benefit of Winchester and Hampshire residents. It provides a robust response to the recent flooding events, and is a good financial investment in that the Hampshire County Council contribution is substantially less than the cost of deploying defences and recovery costs during and after the 2013/2014 flooding of this area.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1 Appendix 1 is a copy of the July 2015 Public Consultation Document which explains how the flood area and potential flood areas were modelled and

mapped. It also shows the line of the defences and provides photographs of typical wall sections and flood barriers.

- 2.2 The Itchen flooded in 2000 and again in the winter of 2013/ 2014. During this time Hampshire County Council Property Services worked with all other local agencies to manage and defend property against flooding. Hampshire County Council staff were focussed on defending the St Bede School site, but a joined up approach was necessary to mutually support other property owners.
- 2.3 Following the latest flooding events a total of £638k was approved in the Cabinet Capital Review of July 2014 for various flood alleviation projects. Within this amount £250k was specifically allocated towards improving the defence of the St Bede School in Winchester.
- 2.4 An approach was made to others bodies who had suffered the effects of the flooding, and this resulted in the formation of a combined client group comprising; Hampshire County Council (Property Services), Winchester City Council, Southampton University (The Winchester Art College), and the Environment Agency (EA). Following this, Hampshire ETE was commissioned to model the flooding, and the information provided by this study lead to the design of the defence scheme, and particularly the line of the defence and the height of the walls and barriers. (See Appendix 1).
- 2.5 The design comprises:
 - a) **Permanent works:** A Low wall of no more than 1.2m: Reinforced with concrete and steel to prevent overturning, but otherwise constructed to have similar appearance to other red brick walls throughout the area.
 - b) **Deployable Barriers:** Where current paths and bridges etc. cross the defence line to allow access, barriers will be deployed at times when there is a flood risk.

3 Finance

- 3.1 The Pre-Tender Estimate for the Project is £895,000. This includes a Contingency Sum. The contributions, which are based on an apportionment of the relative benefits to and associated works of each party's liabilities, making this up are as follows:

Hampshire County Council	£250k (plus £40K fees)
Winchester City Council	£290k
Southampton University	£60k
Environment Agency	£295k

- 3.2 The Environment Agency (EA) are able to contribute because they have scored the scheme against various decision criteria and their officers have explained that this scheme scores highly because it demonstrates successful joint working and the return on the investment is substantial – it not only protects the target properties such as the school, but also a large area of residential and business property behind the barrier line. The EA have a two

stage process for allocating funds. Their officers have already completed the first stage which allocated the funding and reserves it for the scheme.

- 3.3 The next stage is the submission of the business case within the EA. This has been prepared and was submitted in May 2016 with a view to releasing funding in June 2016 to complete the assembly of the funding prior to the contract formation in July 2016.
- 3.4 Internal fees are in addition to the total pre tender estimate. It is likely that the Hampshire Contribution to fees (which includes the modelling of the flooding, the design, and Contract Administration by Hampshire County Council ETE), will be in the order of £40k which will be met from the Capital Allocation of 2014.

4 Consultation and Equalities

- 4.1 Public Consultation was held in July 2015 and was located in the Winchester Art College in Park Avenue, Winchester (Appendix 1). The public were provided with details of the proposals and an explanation of how the design was prepared. Officers from all of the involved agencies were available for discussion on the day and in addition there was a website providing information and seeking comment.
- 4.2 All feedback received from this event was positive. The queries that were received were such things as seeking reassurance that walls in the defence line would match other walls in the area – which is the case.
- 4.3 **Equalities:** There is no foreseeable impact relating to equalities.

5 Future direction

- 5.1 The Programme will be tendered in June 2016, with the Tender return in July 2016. After Tender analysis and appointment of a successful contractor, works are programmed to start on the 22 August 2016 and they are programmed to complete at the end of November 2016.

6 Recommendation(s)

- 6.1 It is recommended that the report is noted and that approval is given to proceed to tendering, contract appointment and construction as outlined in the report.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Maximising well-being:	yes
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes

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.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2 Equalities Impact Assessment:

- a) An equalities impact assessment has been considered in the development of this report and no adverse impact has been identified, the proposed scheme will be designed to meet current accessibility standards.

2 Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1 None. This issue relates to environmental conditions.

3 Climate Change:

3.1 Once constructed the works are benign and use no energy. As a positive, once deployed, the scheme will reduce the need for other flood mitigation such as deployment and recovery of sandbags and pumps, and eliminate associated energy consumption and pollution. There is therefore a net benefit to the environment.

3.2 Some would suggest that the heavy rainfall of 2000 and the winter of 2013/2014 may be related to Climate Change, in which case such events may become more frequent.

3.3 Whether this is or is not the case, the proposed Flood defence scheme will significantly reduce the chances of flooding of St Bede School, Park Ave, and the nearby residential areas of Winchester in the future.