

REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: EXECUTIVE

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Report Author: Tricia Wilson
Tel. No: (01282) 661051
E-mail: tricia.wilson@pendle.gov.uk

FOR INFORMATION

EARBY FLOOD RESILIENCE SCHEME – ESIF BID UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To note the funding which is being sought towards flow control and flood water storage, upland moorland management and the creation of mini flood water storage basins in pocket parks in Earby to alleviate flooding in the area.

ISSUE

1. An outline bid was submitted to the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for a series of flood prevention measures to enable Earby and its commercial and residential communities to become more flood resilient.
2. This is for European Funding under the ESIF Programme Priority 5 which relates to promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management.
3. We have been successful at the Expression of Interest stage and are now developing a full bid for submission by 27 June 2017.
4. The bid is for £600,000 ESIF to be matched with £400,000 public sector funding.
5. Specific activities outlined in the bid include:
 - flow control and flood water storage at key locations to limit the amount of floodwater entering the flood susceptible areas of the town;
 - upland moorland management to delay the speed at which surface water runoff progresses down the catchment; and
 - the creation of mini floodwater storage basins in pocket parks allowing both flood water storage and the disruption of flow.

6. The above projects would achieve greater flood resilience for businesses and residents of Earby and would complement capital works highlighted by the Environment Agency.
7. It is envisaged that the schemes will add to Earby's flood resilience and help to promote economic growth and is therefore in line with the Lancashire Strategic Economic Plan and Lancashire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy's local strategic objectives.
8. It will contribute to Investment Priority 5b of the ESIF fund which seeks to promote investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and deliver flood mitigation activity.
9. The project would be implemented in partnership with the Environment Agency (North East).
10. ESIF outputs that the scheme would deliver by completing the above schemes, if the bid is successful, are:
 - Output C23 – surface of habitats supported to attain better conservation status; and
 - Output P6 – businesses and properties with reduced flood risk.

FUNDING

11. The bid requests £600,000 from ESIF with £400,000 from other public funding.
12. The match funding of £400,000 required would come via the Environment Agency as Grant in Aid (GiA). Work is already programmed with the Environment Agency but we are trying to bring the timescales forward to suit the ESIF timetable.
13. EA are unable to provide an update on the match funding situation due to the pre-election period but will be able to do so after the 8th June. There is a 'Making Space for Water' meeting on the 15th June and so it is likely that we will find out soon after this meeting.
14. If the timescales are brought forward and the bid to ESIF is successful it is expected that procurement, consultations and negotiations with landowners could start in October this year. The project would have to be completed by March 2020.

DELIVERY

15. Negotiations are currently underway with the respective landowners in relation to the creation of pocket parks and with the Environment Agency to agree on a joint programme of works.
16. It is expected that the works would be designed, procured and implemented by the Council's Engineering Department in consultation with the Environment Agency and local landowners.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The project will support the following policies within the Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy: Policy ENV 1: Protecting and Enhancing Our Natural and Historic Environments; Policy ENV 7: Water Management; Policy SUP 2: Health and Wellbeing.

Financial: £400,000 of capital funding is required as match funding, which will come from GiA via the Environment Agency.

Legal: None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management: Discussions need to be had with landowners regarding the creation of pocket parks.

Health and Safety: None directly arising from this report.

Sustainability: The ESIF funding would enhance the sustainability of the area by creating and supporting habitats and improving conservation.

Community Safety: None directly arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None directly arising from this report.

APPENDICES

None.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.