

REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES

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UPSIZING AND DIVERSION OF CULVERT TO SKIPTON ROAD, BARNOLDSWICK

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the Upsizing and Diversion of Culvert to Skipton Road, Barnoldswick scheme to Policy and Resources Committee for approval for the scheme to be included with the capital programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To support this scheme and place it within Pendle's Capital Programme.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To allow the scheme to progress providing better flood protection to Pendle residents.

ISSUE

Background

Since 1998 properties in the Ghyll Meadows area of Barnoldswick have flooded on several occasions.

There are three public sewers and a culverted main river watercourse running under the estate.

Internal flooding of properties (up to 3 feet in depth) occurred 3 times between 2000 and 2002.

15 properties were affected in these floods, but there were at least 58 made at risk from the flood waters.

Following the February 2002 flood Pendle Borough Council, under its then powers as Highway Authority in partnership with the Environment Agency carried out a project to upsize the 'lower leg' of the culvert. The 'lower leg' being the section of culvert which runs along Meadow Way. It had been assessed that the culvert with a 375mm pipe diameter did not have the required capacity.

The 'lower leg' was a priority as following investigation the culvert was found to have undergone extensive damage due to an underpinning pile from 23 Meadow Way punching through it. That scheme was funded by DEFRA. This scheme is now referred to as phase 1.

Since completion of phase 1 the Ghyll Meadows area has had two major 'near-misses' from flooding events. In summer 2012 the area flooded, but the properties evaded damaged as the flood waters did not rise above door step height. In 2015 the UK felt the effects of Storm Eva on Boxing Day. The Ghyll Meadows area managed to escape potentially extensive internal flooding due to the sheer determination of community efforts where residents, volunteers, local farmers, emergency services, public services and more were manually pushing back the flood waters and over pumping to save the properties.

The storm Eva flood of Boxing Day 2015 has highlighted the need to investigate the flood risks to the area further. The modelling for 1 in 100 year event plus climate change has shown there is flood risk evident. There is an increasing push for this scheme to be completed due to the volume of properties being affected by flood waters in such a small area.

Proposal

The Environment Agency have a £2.6bn Grant in Aid 6 year programme for delivery of a better level of protection to 300,000 homes. The Neighbourhood Services department has applied to this funding stream for £324k with an additional match of £25k from PBC for improvement works to the culverted watercourse within the Ghyll Meadows area of Barnoldswick.

In 2016 works were carried out by PBC to provide a better flood water storage facility at the playing fields on Rolls-Royce land adjacent to Skipton Road. The works involved the construction of a flood retention wall, designed to increase the capacity of flood water storage on that designated flood plain. The costs for this wall amounted to £25k, £12,500 allocated from West Craven area committee and £12,500 allocated from Barnoldswick Town Council. These works have been used as the match funding for the EA Grant in Aid bid.

Since 2016 site investigation works have proceeded alongside modelling works to design a scheme to improve the existing main river culvert, as this has been identified as being of not sufficient capacity. These works have been funded through an interim payment of £24k from the EA's Grant in Aid programme. (Appendix 1)

The investigation and modelling works showed the cause for flooding being identified as an undersized main river culvert, along with localised heavy rainfall. With the modelling information it allowed a comprehensive, detailed design to be produced for upsizing the section of culvert which runs from the north edge of Rolls-Royce playing fields to the connection in Meadow Way from phase 1.

Phase 2 will include upsizing the culvert from a 375mm diameter to a 600mm diameter and diversion of the culvert from under residential properties.

The proposed scheme is to run a 600mm diameter culvert from the connection within Rolls-Royce playing field along the perimeter edge parallel to Skipton Road, for the culvert to cut through to Skipton Road near to the existing bus stop, to then following down Valley Drive connecting to the previously upsized pipe on Meadow Way. This new alignment will remove any issues associated with the culvert running under residential properties and will increase the capacity of flow the culvert can take in flood conditions. (Appendix 2)

This scheme is a capital project which has been identified within the Environment Agency FCERM 6-year programme with a £300k allocation. A full business case for phase 2 has been submitted to the EA and is with their local team for final approval. Approval is expected by the end of October.

The works completed by Neighbourhood Services have been done with the full support and cooperation of the EA.

Risks

The funding requested to complete the Phase 2 works is £300k. There is a potential risk that once tendered there may be insufficient funds. The risk of this is minimal as the predicted costs are related to budget estimates which include contingencies in the form of 10% of the total construction costs, plus fees, plus additional site investigation and surveys; therefore it is not anticipated that additional funding would be required. However, if this is the case then the Neighbourhood Services Dept. will apply for Grant in Aid or Local Levy funding from Lancashire County Council.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The proposal is in accordance with the current Pendle Flood Plan, the Strategic Plan 2015-2018 & the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2018.

Financial: Funding has been received to cover the works carried out to date. No further works will be undertaken until the outcome of the EA funding application is known. The components parts of the projects have been costed and therefore each stage of the project can be monitored closely against the budget.

Legal: There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: Risk management will be controlled through the Council's existing procedures.

Health and Safety: All health and safety requirements will be observed throughout the scheme.

Sustainability: These works have been designed based upon an allowance of plus 35% for climate change, increasing the sustainability of the proposed culvert.

Community Safety: The scheme is design to improve the safety of the community.

Equality and Diversity: No specific issues arise from these works.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Confirmation letter of interim payment from EA

Appendix 2 – Plan of works

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS: None