

REPORT FROM: HOUSING HEALTH AND ENGINEERING MANAGER

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 26th NOVEMBER, 2020

Report Author: Scott Whalley
Tel. No: (01282) 661050
E-mail: Scott.whalley@pendle.gov.uk

**RIVERBANK COLLAPSE ON COLNE WATER, COTTONTREE LANE,
COLNE – SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL ESTIMATE**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for a £50,000 supplementary estimate to undertake works which will prevent further erosion in the short term and to undertake flood modelling and design work to enable a bid to the Environment Agency for a permanent solution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Agree to a supplementary capital funding bid of £30,000 for short term riverbank repair works.
2. Agree to a supplementary revenue estimates of £20,000 for river modelling and design work.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To prevent further erosion of the riverbank and to prevent potential property flooding which could be caused by displaced masonry collapsing and partially blocking the river's path under the access bridge to ELE.
2. To enable a funding bid to be made to the Environment Agency to provide a long term solution to the major riverbank erosion problems.

ISSUE

Background

1. Progressive riverbank failure has been occurring at this location for a prolonged period due to the natural migration of the river.

2. The land being eroded is in the sole ownership of the Borough of Pendle.
3. Circa 1950 a gas pipeline was constructed across the river which included the construction of masonry piers and a masonry retaining wall.
4. The undermining of the retaining wall has led to its collapse.
5. The presence of the masonry is further promoting the erosion of the adjacent riverbank and poses a risk to blocking the river under the access bridge to ELE.
6. The Council obtained Counsel's opinion as to whether Cadent could be partially liable for the repair of the collapse but the advice was that the Council would be unlikely to be successful in suing Cadent.
7. Cadent were approached but did not accept any liability and did not offer a contribution towards the repairs. They assessed the stability of the gas pipeline and its supports. They undertook some remedial works and are satisfied that the pipeline is not at risk.
8. There is a concessionary footpath across Pendle Council's land at the top of the eroded riverbank. The erosion has created a shear drop directly adjacent to the footpath. A timber post and rail fence was erected to minimise the danger to footpath users

Current position

9. The riverbank continues to be eroded by the river at a fast rate due to the nature of the migrated alignment of the channel.
10. The collapsed masonry in the river channel poses a risk of potentially blocking the river channel under the bridge which could lead to the flooding of numerous properties on Cottontree Lane.
11. An estimate for a short term solution to prevent further riverbank erosion and to realign the river away from the badly eroded area is £30,000. The works would involve placing of large boulders in the channel to realign the river and then to backfill the area between the boulders and the eroded riverbank.
12. The Engineering Section obtained a budget cost for a report including flood modelling work and designs detailing potential long term solutions. This could be used as a bidding document to approach the Environment Agency for funding. The level of funding available would be based on the number of properties at risk of flooding. The estimated cost for this report is £20,000 and would need to be funded from the Council's Revenue Budget.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None directly arising from this report

Financial: There is presently no funding available for this project. As a consequence, it is proposed that the costs set out in the report are met from the following sources of funding:-

- a) The supplementary capital estimate of £30,000 can met from the Renewals Reserve. This is a revenue reserve and this course of action will require a revenue contribution to capital expenditure.

- b) The supplementary revenue estimate of £20,000 will also be met from the Renewals Reserve.

The current balance of the Renewals Reserve is £118,000 and so the proposed use here will reduce the balance to £68,000.

Legal: None directly arising from this report

Risk Management: There is a risk of the Council being held responsible for any flooding occurring as a direct result of the riverbank erosion and the masonry in the river channel.

Health and Safety: None directly arising from this report

Sustainability: None directly arising from this report.

Community Safety: None directly arising from this report

Equality and Diversity: None directly arising from this report

APPENDICES

None

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None