

**REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE**

**TO: EXECUTIVE**

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## **Earby Flood Alleviation Phase 1, 2 and Phase 3 Updates**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To note progress made with the Earby Phase 1 and 2 scheme funded from Grant in Aid (GiA), Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) and European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF).
2. To note what needs to be done to progress the proposed Phase 3 Scheme funded from Grant In Aid (GIA) and Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) To note progress made.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) To enable flooding issues in Earby to be effectively managed and reduced and to reduce the risk of flooding to outlying areas within the Aire valley.

## **Phase 1 and 2 - New Cut Flood Wall and Mill Wall Earby**

### ***Background***

1. A bid was submitted to the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) in 2017 and was approved in March 2018. This was for a series of flood alleviation measures in Earby which had been hit hard by the Boxing Day floods of 2015.
2. The ESIF bid was for £635,260 to be matched with £425,000 of public sector funding from the Environment Agency (EA) Yorkshire; Grant in Aid funding (GiA).

3. The bid was originally to:
  - create three flood storage areas on Earby Beck, Victoria Clough and New Cut
  - to address surface water flood risk at West Craven Business Park
  - waterproofing of Victoria Mill wall
  - mini flood water storage basins in pocket parks
  - upland moorland management for Natural Flood Management (NFM)
4. However, at the time of approval EA were not in a position to release their match funding as they had to complete their Flood Modelling before they could guarantee their contribution.
5. The council signed the Agreement at risk on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
6. Consultants AECOM completed the flood modelling work for the Environment Agency and shortlisted their preferred schemes as:
  - a new flood defence wall on the New Cut adjacent to Albert St
  - a flood water storage area at Victoria Clough
  - a flood water storage area at Birley Playing Field
7. In addition, the Environment Agency carried out works to Victoria Clough Culvert which were completed in Spring 2019. This was classed as Phase 1 (FAS 1).
8. The schemes taken forward with the ESIF bid in the end were:
  - the flood water storage area at Victoria Clough and
  - the new flood defence wall on the New Cut adjacent to Albert St including a sheet piled wall at Victoria Mill.
9. These two schemes together are classed as Phase 2 (FAS 2).
10. Both these schemes are now substantially completed and have both ESIF and the Environment Agency's approval following on site inspections.
11. The remaining scheme from the flood modelling work, a flood water storage area at Birley Playing Fields is outstanding and this is the proposed next Phase 3 (FAS 3).

### ***Current situation***

12. There are small snagging works to be carried out on Phase 2, such as:
  - check with the former Drainage Engineer that additional works to the river bed is completed
  - check with LCC when the TRO will be in place
  - forward the 'As Built' survey to the Environment Agency to input into EA's model
  - formal written handovers to be carried out with LCC, PBC and the mill owners to ascertain scheme ownership to ensure future responsibility and maintenance
13. Forms FCRM5 and FCRM8 need to be completed to close down the project with the EA.
14. An opening event or press release to be actioned to highlight the good works that have been done and how it might help in the event of a flood. This needs to be done as a requirement of the ESIF funding as well as the EA funding.
15. It is anticipated that this could be done by mid to end July.

## **Phase 3 – Earby Beck Scheme, Earby**

### ***Background***

1. It has been identified that there is a need to control flood waters in the higher catchment of Earby Beck, so a proposal of a passive controlled earth dam has been put forward above Birley Playing Fields Earby.
2. Initial works carried out by PBC in 2017 identified a suitable site to construct an earth dam with approx. 3,300m<sup>3</sup> of suitable imported materials to a maximum height of approximately 5m to create a storage area with a capacity of around 8,000m<sup>3</sup> of flood water.
3. Detailed analysis/flood modelling was carried out by consultants, AECOM, for Phases 1, 2 and 3, see above. The flood modelling details will still be relevant for this Phase 3 scheme.

### ***Current situation***

4. A business case now needs developing for Phase 3 utilising the initial monies available from the EA of £200,000. A tender will be issued for this by PBC as soon as possible to various specialist companies. This process could take up to two months; to develop the brief and upload onto Chest and then give enough time for potential specialist consultants/companies to respond.
5. A Partnership Funding Report needs to be developed from the Funding Calculator.
6. The design needs to be as simple as possible as a passive earth dam to reduce the overall cost of construction and ongoing maintenance. It is hoped that £50,000 of the initial £200,000 available can be used for detailed design.
7. The proposed site is privately owned, and so PBC needs to open negotiations as soon as possible with the landowner.
8. The storage area will need specific permits applying for, EA Storage and Impounding Licences and ongoing will need annual inspections by the EA (at an approximate cost of £2,000 per annum) as the structure is very likely to fall within the Reservoir Regulations.
9. It is difficult to put the above works into a timeline. It could take two months to prepare and tender the business case; four months or more for the flood modelling to be completed; two months to prepare the drawings and then two months to tender the works. During this time discussions could be held with the landowners alongside the flood modelling and design work. The works could take up to 6 months or more to complete. From business case to project finish, it could be as long as 18 months.
10. Upon completion of the works an ongoing maintenance schedule will be required for the full lifespan of the structure. A regular regime of inspections, repairs and maintenance will be required. EA will not be responsible for this, inspections, repairs and general maintenance will need to be carried out by local Council or PBC.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** Earby Flood Alleviation Phase 3 will support policies within our Core Strategy such as: protecting and enhancing our natural and historic environments; water management and health and wellbeing.

**Financial:** The initial funding of £200,000 will be available from July 2023 and a further £2.5 million will become available over the next 5 years dependant on the successful development of the scheme.

**Legal:** Discussions with the landowner need to start as soon as possible and prior to the business case.

**Risk Management:** A full risk management plan will be in place for the construction and developed with the responsible parties ongoing post construction.

**Health and Safety:** None directly arising from this report.

**Sustainability:** The Grant In Aid funding will enhance the sustainability of the area by creating and supporting habitats and improving conservation. This will be raised in the Business Case.

**Community Safety:** The flood resilience scheme will directly protect properties from flooding in the future. It will also reduce the total effect of flooding within the Aire Valley.

**Equality and Diversity:** None directly arising from this report.

## **APPENDICES**

None.

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.