

Report to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services
Report submitted by: Head of Service Policy, Information and Commissioning
(Live Well)
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Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Rossendale South,
Rossendale North,
Rossendale East and
Whitworth

Defra Small Scheme Pathfinder Funding
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:
Stacy Carruthers, 01772 530174, Flood Risk Management,
stacy.carruthers@lancashire.gov.uk

Janet Wilson, 01772 538647, Commissioning Manager (Live Well),
janet.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Flood Risk Management (FRM) Team has been successful in a bid for £80,000 of funding to Defra's Small Scheme Pathfinder fund. The funding aims to support design appraisal work related to flood risk issues in a number of small communities in Rossendale. The funding will allow a number of flood mitigation options to be investigated and a preferred option to be selected to address flood issues in 6 small areas of the Upper Irwell in Rossendale. The Small Schemes Pathfinder is a national project and the FRM team will be expected to share learning developed with Defra.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services is asked to approve the addition of a project to investigate a number of options to reduce flood risk in 6 small areas of the Upper Irwell in Rossendale (as shown in Appendix 'A') fully funded by government grant to the Lancashire County Council's 2015/16 Capital Programme.

Background and Advice

In February 2015 Defra released an 'Invitation to Bid' to its FCERM (Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management) Small Schemes Pathfinder Fund. The Small Schemes Pathfinder Fund was established by Defra in response to feedback from Local Authorities stating that efficient development of FCERM projects is difficult

where a number of small, disparate communities are at risk. The guidelines stated that 'bids should be submitted to take a 'package' of small schemes up to (and including) the appraisal stage'. Lancashire County Council has been successful with a bid of £80,000 to this Small Schemes Pathfinder Fund. The funding will be used to investigate a number of options to reduce flood risk in 6 small areas of the Upper Irwell in Rossendale (a location map is presented as Appendix 'A'). A number of potential flood risk mitigation measures will be investigated at each location and a preferred option will be selected. For the avoidance of doubt, the funding obtained from the Small Schemes Pathfinder Fund will not result in the delivery of any capital schemes. As part of the investigations into preferred options, consideration will be given to how to fund and deliver the capital schemes identified. This could include these schemes being prioritised as part of future Lancashire County Council's capital programmes, working with partners to identify funding options or submitting funding bids to Defra's established FCERM Grant in Aid capital programme. Flood risk management functions found in statute such as the Land Drainage Act 1991 may be relevant and such functions relating to ordinary watercourses may fall to be exercised by a District Council rather than the County Council. In such cases it may be appropriate to consider co-operation arrangements to deliver the works.

The Lancashire and Blackpool Local Flood Risk Management Strategy says at paragraph 4.6, that Section 19 of the Flood Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) requires that, where appropriate, Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs or "the authority") investigate and report on flooding incidents that occur within its administrative area. The aim of an investigation is to identify which of the Risk Management Authorities have a role in managing the flooding and to ensure that this role is being carried out effectively.

The Lancashire County Council FRM team has previously commissioned Lancashire County Councils framework consultant Jacobs to deliver a Level 2 Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) and a number of Ordinary Watercourse Studies across the Upper Irwell area in order to better understand the flood risk issues affecting the local communities. The reports generated as a result of the Level 2 SWMP and the Ordinary Watercourse Studies identified a number of solutions which could be developed to reduce the risk of flooding in these areas. The funding from the Small Schemes Pathfinder will be used to investigate these potential solutions, identify a preferred option and produce a design for each location. The six locations and the flood issues that will be addressed are identified in the table below:

Location	Flood Risk Issue	What is at Risk?	Further information
Waingap Rake, Whitworth	Ordinary Watercourse and surface water	29 residential properties, 2 commercial properties and the public highway	2 culvert inlets at high risk of blockage have been identified. Surface water flooding occurs regularly and properties are at risk. 2 potential scheme options have been identified which require further investigation to identify the preferred option and

			produce a design
Ewood Bridge (Ewood Lane), Haslingden	A combination of surface water runoff from the upper catchment and surcharged flow from two watercourses	16 residential properties and the public highway	During heavy rainfall surface water runoff will potentially affect low lying property. 8 potential scheme options have been identified which require further investigation to identify the preferred option and produce a design
Johnny Barn Cottages, Cloughfield	Surface water runoff and flooding from highway system	20 residential properties and the public highway	A recent flood event was attributed to surface water runoff from a hillside behind properties at Johnny Barn Cottages, other roads were also affected. The report identifies 7 potential scheme options which require further investigation to identify the preferred option and produce a design
Linden Lea / Lomas Lane, Rawtenstall	Ordinary watercourse and green field surface water run off	3 residential properties, a primary school and sections of highway	The capacity of a culvert is exceeded and water is forced onto the highway until it reaches a low spot where it floods school playing fields and potentially residential properties. 7 potential scheme options have been identified which require further investigation to identify the preferred option and produce a design.
Rooley Moor Road, Stackstead	Ordinary Watercourse and surface water	25 residential properties, one commercial property and the public highway	Surface water is bypassing an OWC and road gullies are prone to blockage. The report identifies 5 potential scheme options which require further investigation to identify the preferred option and produce a design
Strongstry and North	Ordinary watercourse and	Approximately 44 residential	5 potential scheme options have been

Street, Strongstry	surface water	properties and the public highway	identified which require further investigation to identify the preferred option and produce a design.
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The Small Schemes Path Finder Funding will support Lancashire County Council to undertake the following activities in order to investigate all potential scheme options and identify a preferred option:

- Site visits to the flood risk locations to investigate the proposed measures
- CCTV surveys and dye testing of culverts
- Enforcement investigation and liaison with land owners to ensure they understand and undertake their riparian responsibilities
- Design analysis and assessments of the culverts - to establish capacity of the culverts, risk of blockage and magnitude of flows
- Benefits assessment of the identified options by officers from FRM, Highways and Design
- Development of an accurate costing for all viable options and production of an outline design for the preferred option
- Consultation with local residents, land owners and partners
- Liaison with risk management authority partners and exploration of opportunities for joint funding (for delivery of the capital schemes identified as a result of the investigations)
- Development of an approach which allows for a more efficient appraisal of solutions at the early stage of a scheme
- Assessment of future maintenance requirements, identifying low maintenance solutions where possible
- Liaison with Local Planning Authority regarding current development proposals in the area

Consultations

The FRM Team consulted with Rossendale Borough Council and the Environment Agency in the production of the funding bid to Defra's Small Scheme Pathfinder Fund. Both of these partners will continue to be engaged in the delivery of the project in terms of contributing to identify preferred options. Local residents and land owners will be also consulted about the proposals in each of the 6 areas identified.

Implications:

The Small Schemes Pathfinder is a national project and the FRM team will be expected to share the learning developed with Defra. This learning will also be shared with other Lead Local Flood Authorities and could potentially influence other council's approaches to delivering flood risk management projects and schemes in smaller communities.

The learning generated during this project will also allow the FRM Team to improve its processes in developing capital flood risk management schemes. The team currently submits funding bids to Defra's FCERM Grant in Aid capital programme to

fund capital flood risk management schemes. The learning from this project will be applied to future bids for capital funding.

Risk Management

Legal - Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 "risk management" includes analysis and assessment. The Act gives examples of things which might be done in the course of flood risk management and this includes the gathering of information and the power to investigate is found in S19 Flood and Water Management Act 1991. There is therefore considered not to be legal implications directly related to the delivery of the investigations for this proposal however, legal advice may be sought as part of the process to identify a preferred solution, for example where feasibility due to legal constraints such as land access / ownership etc. may impact on the design for a preferred option and to identify the relevant legal powers required.

Financial - this proposal seeks to add a project to Lancashire County Council's 2015/16 Capital Programme. The funding of £80,000 has been obtained from external grant and delivery of the project will be monitored using the Lancashire County Council Capital Monitoring System. The FRM team will also be required to provide financial monitoring information to Defra and the Environment Agency (who are administering the project on behalf of Defra).

Reputational - the Small Schemes Pathfinder funding is a national Defra project. Nationally, there were only six successful bids, one of the requirements of the funding is to share learning with Defra and other local authorities. Therefore it is important that the learning gained during the investigations is captured and the project is delivered within agreed timescales.

Resources - the project will be fully funded by government grant from the Defra Small Schemes Pathfinder Fund and can be delivered within current staff levels.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Nil		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		