

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 10 May 2018

Report of the Head of Service, Highways

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Burscough and Rufford; Fylde
West; Hoghton with Wheelton;
Lancaster Rural East.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Flood and Coastal Erosion Grant in Aid Capital Funding - Flood Risk Management Works and Studies

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report seeks approval to add four externally funded projects into the county council's capital programme. The schemes will be funded in full from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid capital funding programme. The total amount of funding which needs to be brought into the capital programme is £95,551.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet approves the addition of four externally funded flood risk management projects identified in the report with a value of £95,551 into the 2018/19 drainage capital programme.

Background and Advice

As a risk management authority defined in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Lancashire County Council is eligible to apply for funding from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid capital funding programme to support flood risk management capital activities in Lancashire. The programme is administered by the Environment Agency. The success of a detailed bid depends on the potential reduction in flood risk for a defined number of households, following the current national procedures for establishing a business case.

Four projects were identified as eligible in principle for the grant in aid capital funding programme to be funded from 2017/18, and bids were submitted in December 2017 to meet strict deadlines.

Confirmation was received early in March 2018 that the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has awarded the requested funds for these projects:

Study Title and Description	Project Value
River Lune Corridor Initial Assessment – In-depth study into the flood risk presented by surface water at various locations. Focussing on Halton and Galgate.	£38,389
Brinscall Initial Assessment – In-depth study into the flood risks presented by surface water at various locations in and around Brinscall.	£18,863
Staining Initial Assessment – In-depth study into the flood risks presented by surface water at various locations in and around Staining.	£17,237
Burscough Level 2 Surface Water Management Plan – In-depth study into the flood risk presented by surface water at various locations in and around Burscough, with particular interest in how this might impact on United Utilities plc assets and operations.	£21,062
Total	£95,551

Each successful bid will now need to be established as an individual project in the 2018/19 drainage capital programme. The projects will be managed by the Lancashire County Council flood risk management team.

Consultations

During preparation of the bids, the county council's flood risk management team consulted members of the Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership including representatives from the city and district councils, Blackpool Council and Blackburn-with-Darwen Council, the Environment Agency, United Utilities plc and the county council's own highways services teams.

Local residents likely to be directly affected, any flood action groups based locally to the projects, and the divisional county councillors, will all be informed prior to the commencement of the individual projects. In particular, Burscough Parish Council has already offered to assist with community engagement.

The North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee will monitor progress of the capital expenditure on behalf of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs'. The council is represented on this committee by the lead Member for flooding.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Lancashire County Council is the lead local flood authority for its administrative area and as such has responsibility to manage the risk of flooding in Lancashire from local sources (surface water, ground water and ordinary watercourses). The proposed studies are all intended to look to reduce flood risk to local households by enabling the county council and partners to develop a better understanding of the flood risk in areas known to be at risk of repeated flooding. The studies are likely to lead to the development of practical measures to help manage flood risk in the study areas but decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

2017/18 is the 4th year of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' current 6 year funding cycle. All funds remaining unclaimed at the end of this financial year will be withdrawn to the central (national) pot and reallocated using revised priority criteria. This means that if the council had failed to make a successful business case for the projects identified, it is highly likely that it would not have been awarded the grant funds required for these studies.

All the studies identified have been assessed against staff and external resources and they are deliverable within the financial year 2018/19 provided that they start at the earliest possible opportunity.

Legal Implications

Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires the council to have a local flood risk management strategy. The Lancashire and Blackpool Local Flood Risk Management Strategy fulfils this requirement, and identifies that it is essential for the council to develop a better understanding of local flooding mechanisms and risks in order to make decisions towards developing appropriate techniques to manage and reduce risks to our communities and key public infrastructure. The projects proposed in this report are in accordance with the strategy's objectives.

Where investigations are required on private land, the agreement of landowners will be sought. If such agreement is not reached, the council may need to use its powers under Section 64 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 to give notice to enter.

Financial Implications

It is proposed that the total funding of £95,551 is added to the 2018/19 drainage capital programme.

The studies and investigations identified in the report are expected to identify further work programmes and potential future capital schemes. Any future works identified will be discussed with the relevant risk management authorities and it is likely they will become the subject of future bids to the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid capital funding programme.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
The Lancashire and Blackpool Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	April 2014	Rachel Crompton/ (01772) 530150
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		