



## **PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

### **INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

### **TOPIC – NORTH WINCHESTER FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

### **PROCEDURAL INFORMATION**

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

### **Contact Officers:**

**Case Officer:** Michelle Wells, Tel: 01962 848 289, Email: mwells@winchester.gov.uk

**Democratic Services Officer:** Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848 235, Email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

### **SUMMARY**

Cabinet agreed to allocate funding of £250,000 for the North Winchester Flood Alleviation Scheme, funded from Capital Receipts, at its meeting on 2 December 2015 (CAB2751 refers). This Decision Notice provides an update, sets out the resource implications for the scheme and seeks approval to release the funding so that the project can be implemented.

The North Walls Park and Park Avenue area is within the flood zone and buildings such as St Bedes School, the University of Southampton School of Art and the River Park Leisure Centre are very vulnerable to flooding. In addition, once water starts to overflow from this area along Park Avenue, residential properties along this road and into the City Centre are liable to flooding. This area was protected from flooding in 2014 through the use of temporary flood barriers and sandbags walls.

The North Walls Park/Park Avenue scheme will provide permanent protection for residential properties, the River Park Leisure Centre, St Bedes School and the

Winchester School of Art thereby reducing their risk of flooding to 'low'. This is a partnership scheme which will be jointly funded by the Government, Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency, the University of Southampton, and the City Council. The works will be procured by the County Council, with the partner organisations contributing to the costs.

### **DECISION**

That capital expenditure of up to £250,000, allocated for the North Winchester Flood Alleviation Scheme, be approved under Financial Rule 6.4 as a contribution towards the implementation and completion of the North Walls Park/Park Avenue scheme as set out in this Decision Notice.

### **REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The project which is the subject of this Decision Notice will provide permanent protection for residential properties, the River Park Leisure Centre, St Bedes School and the Winchester School of Art, (reducing the risk of flooding to 'low').

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

Budget was allocated in the Capital Programme by Cabinet on 7 December 2015 and is to be funded by the Capital Receipts Reserve.

It is now proposed to incur this capital contribution as set out below in order to implement the scheme:

- North Winchester Flood Alleviation Scheme – up to £250,000

Should all of this contribution not be required for the North Walls Park/Park Avenue scheme, the balance will be used on further flood alleviation schemes which are being developed in other parts of the District.

The flood defence measures proposed will have a design life of 100 years and no maintenance is envisaged for at least 30 years and therefore there will be no immediate maintenance cost implications.

Officer time to progress the scheme, including the consultation, has been allocated from the major projects team.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION**

Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council, Environment Agency and University of Southampton have been fully involved in the development of this scheme. A consultation event was held in January at the University of Southampton Art School where plans of the scheme were displayed and officers were in attendance to answer questions.

The Portfolio Holder has been involved in the development of the project and is in full support.

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

N/A

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED**

None

**DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

None

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 22.07.16

**Councillor Frank Pearson – Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing**