

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	19 September 2017
Title:	Buckskin Flood Alleviation Scheme
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the development of flood alleviation measures for Buckskin in Basingstoke, to set out the proposed procurement and delivery of the different elements, to identify the funding arrangements, and to seek approval to an in principle contribution from the County Council.

2. Contextual information

2.1. In the winter of 2013- 2014, Buckskin and surrounding areas were significantly affected by flooding, with 45 properties flooded during the incident, 36 of these internally, and a further 43 placed at significant risk.

2.2. Following the flooding event, Hampshire County Council in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority undertook investigations in accordance with Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to establish the cause and extent of flooding. The flooding in Buckskin appeared to have been driven by groundwater and surface water exacerbated by fluvial flooding. Following completion of the report, the County Council commissioned consultants in 2016 to develop detailed proposals to reduce the risk of future flooding incidents.

2.3. In November 2016, approval was given by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport for the approach set out in the Buckskin and Romsey Flood Risk Management Update report, to develop the schemes and work with multi-agency partners to secure contributions subject to their technical and financial viability.

3. Flood management proposals

3.1. The package of proposed measures for Buckskin is focussed on four key elements:

- New Surface Water Gravity Pipe installed between the Ridgeway Centre area in Buckskin and the start of the existing winterbourne ditch to the north of Worting Road Roundabout;
- New lateral drainage to collect rising groundwater from between houses in the Buckskin area and to connect into the new surface water gravity pipe;
- Enhanced Flood Storage Area at Saunders Field with measures to control discharge to the River Loddon and without increasing the risk of flooding downstream; and
- Upgrade and increase capacity of existing ditches and culverts between Worting Road Roundabout and Saunders Field.

3.2. The standard of protection afforded by the measures implemented to manage flooding would be a significant improvement on existing arrangements. The new measures would seek to provide protection from a future flood event similar to the 2014 event.

3.3. The total number of properties better protected once all the measures are implemented is 181. In addition, the improvements will ensure that the highway network can remain open, will minimise the impact on the local economy, and will reduce costs, distress and disruption associated with any future flood event.

4. Costs of proposals and funding

4.1. The currently estimated overall cost of the package of works is approximately £6.2million. Based on national guidance for projects at this stage of development, this includes an optimism bias of 40%. This percentage is expected to reduce significantly by the time the Project Appraisal is presented for approval.

4.2. In March 2015, it was announced that the Buckskin Flood Alleviation Scheme had been indicatively allocated £2.0million Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) funding in the six year (2015/16 – 2020/21) Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) capital programme.

4.3. 'Unlocking' this funding is dependent upon the development of a robust business case, favourable cost benefit analysis, and securing partnership funding contributions. Much of this work has now been completed and it's anticipated that the overall package of proposed measures is capable of drawing down approximately £1.1million Flood Defence Grant in Aid in total. A further £2.8million Local Levy is also expected to be secured.

4.4. The estimated cost for the overall scheme, the amount of Grant in Aid available, and partnership funding requirement, is set out below:

Scheme	Cost £'000s (including 40% Optimism Bias)	Number of properties better protected	Flood Defence Grant in Aid (% of cost)	Anticipated Local Levy	Required partnership contribution
Buckskin Flood Alleviation	£6,200,000.00 (100%)	181	£1,100,000.00 (18%)	£2,800,000.00 (45%)	£2,300,000.00 (37%)
Anticipated maximum Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council contribution					£250,000.00 (4%)
Anticipated Hampshire County Council contribution					£2,050,000.00 (33%)

4.5. Based on earlier estimates, and the likely level of support from Flood Defence Grant in Aid, the County Council had previously indicated that, in partnership with others, including Local Levy investment, it anticipated contributing between 60-70% of the total cost of the scheme.

4.6. Following more detailed assessment of the scheme, the estimated amount of Flood Defence Grant in Aid that is likely to be available for the scheme has reduced. However, it is anticipated that a substantial investment of Local Levy will be secured and this will make up the loss of Flood Defence Grant in Aid. Subject to further work, the combination of Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy looks likely to cover approximately 63% of the cost of the scheme.

4.7. In early discussions with the County Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has indicated that it is considering a maximum partnership contribution of £0.25million to the scheme. Assuming that this is confirmed, the total partnership contribution, including Local Levy, anticipated at this stage is therefore £3.05million, leaving a funding shortfall of approximately £2.05million. The proposal for how that gap is managed is set out below.

5. Procurement and delivery

5.1. It is proposed that the four key elements set out at paragraph 3.1 above are procured and packaged as one scheme. The works will be undertaken using Hampshire County Council's Framework contract for Civil

Engineering, Highways and Transportation Infrastructure Works called Generation 3 Framework Two 2016-2020 (GEN3 (2)).

- 5.2. A business case is currently being prepared by the County Council for the scheme. Subject to agreeing the proposed utilisation of partnership contributions secured so far, confirming anticipated investment, and identification of further funding to meet the shortfall, it is proposed that the business case is submitted to Defra in October.
- 5.3. It is planned that scheme implementation will commence in summer 2018 at a total cost of £6.2million. Of that figure, it is anticipated that Flood Defence Grant in Aid will provide £1.1million, Local Levy £2.8million, and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council a maximum of £0.25million. In order to secure the Grant in Aid, Local Levy and partnership contributions and for the works to progress, it is estimated that the County Council's allocation will need to be approximately £2million. As a proportion of the total cost, this figure is in line with the anticipated allocation indicated in the November 2016 report to the Executive Member. It is proposed that this amount is drawn from the County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence (FRCD) Programme.
- 5.4. Subject to agreement to the business case, the scheme for Buckskin will be presented to the Executive Member in 2018 for formal decision to proceed to construction in the summer. The Project Appraisal report submitted at that time will set out the final scheme costs and funding commitments from all sources. Completion of the work is currently scheduled for summer 2019.

6. Future Maintenance

- 6.1. The Buckskin area is currently drained using conventional infiltration soakaways both for highway and private drainage with ditch networks between the housing area and Saunders Field. The responsibility for maintenance for the existing drainage network varies depending on location, ownership and usage.
- 6.2. Highway drainage is maintained by the County Council as the Highway Authority, and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council manages the existing ditches between Worting Road Roundabout and Saunders Field, and the storage area at Saunders Field. Private drainage is the responsibility of the individual landowners, and Sovereign Housing is therefore responsible for the maintenance of soakaways serving the properties and driveways/garages within its control.
- 6.3. It is proposed that in implementing the Buckskin Flood Alleviation Scheme, the County Council would accept responsibility for those flood defence assets created on the highway, or on land otherwise in its ownership and control. The County Council would expect other statutory bodies, organisations and partners involved in the Buckskin Flood Alleviation scheme, whose remit either includes responsibility for managing flood risk, or riparian and landowner duties, to make a similar commitment.

7. Consultation

- 7.1. The development of the Buckskin scheme is supported by a multi-agency group which comprises several Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) coordinated by the County Council in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority. Those organisations represented on the multi-agency group are Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, the Environment Agency, Thames Water, South East Water, Sovereign Housing, and SSE plc.
- 7.2. In June 2017, the multi-agency partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding to show their commitment to work together to promote and develop the agreed scheme, and to provide assurance that they will support the delivery of the scheme if the business case shows that it is cost effective.
- 7.3. The relevant Ward County Councillors are fully informed about the proposals and there are regular meetings with representatives of the Borough Council, the local flood action groups, and the community. A questionnaire seeking local information from residents and businesses was circulated in the summer. The data gathered will be used to inform the detailed development of the scheme and the planning of the construction period.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval for the allocation of £2.05million to the Buckskin Flood Alleviation Scheme within the County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme to potentially secure Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA), Local Levy, and other partnership contributions, and confirms the final funding contribution as part of the Capital Programme submission to Full Council in February 2018.
- 8.2 That approval is given to proceed with the submission of the business case to Defra.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Buckskin and Romsey Flood Risk Management Update	7849	2016
Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme - Priorities	7526	2016
Catchment-based Approach to Flood Risk Management in Hampshire	6931	2015
Response to the Flood Investigation in Romsey and Sub-Catchment Flood Risk Management	5957	2014
Managing Flood Risk in Hampshire Update	6243	2014
Response to the Flood Investigation in Buckskin, Basingstoke	6037	2014
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	2010	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The development of the schemes will have no impact on specific groups with protected characteristics. The schemes when in place will offer all residents and businesses more protection from flooding, and reduce the cost, distress and disruption associated with recovery from flooding. Any schemes that arise as an outcome of this decision would be the subject of their own Equalities Impact Assessment.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The development of the scheme has no impact on Crime and Disorder. The scheme when in place will reduce the chances of crime and disorder which could occur during flooding events.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Putting effective schemes in place would reduce the amount of energy required to alleviate flooding emergencies through measures such as pumping of flood water, and reduce the resources needed for recovery after an event.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The severity and frequency of extreme weather events that often cause flooding is linked to the changing climate. The design and capacity of the measures being proposed will take into consideration climate change allowances to make them fit for the future.