

HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

11 JUNE 2018

LOWDHAM FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the Committee on the current situation with delivery of a flood risk management scheme in Lowdham and for the Committee to consider a financial contribution to assist in the delivery of such a scheme.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The village of Lowdham has suffered from repeat flood events in 1999, 2007, 2012 and 2013. The Lowdham Flood Risk Management Scheme aims to protect up to 200 residential properties at risk of flooding for an estimated investment of **£6m**.

2.2 The scheme currently has indicative funding identified of **£3.45m**, which consists of: £1.4m Flood Defence Grant in Aid; £1.5m Local Levy on behalf of the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee; £500k contribution from Nottinghamshire County Council; and £55k raised by the local community via Lowdham Parish Council. Following a review of the scheme's benefits, the Environment Agency are requesting an increase in Flood Defence Grant in Aid to £3m, which if approved, will bring the total funding available for the scheme to around **£5m**.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 The Outline Business Case (OBC) for the scheme is due to be complete by summer 2018. Following this, if an affordable and technically viable solution is identified, the scheme will progress through to detailed design in 2019. Construction could then begin in 2020 for a two year duration, with scheme completion expected by late 2022.

3.2 The current solution identified is a large scale diversion of water to the west of the village. The aim is to divert water in flood conditions only, allowing the Cocker Beck to remain unchanged in normal conditions. To achieve this, there will be a combination of flood storage areas, culverts under two main roads and raised defences in the form of embankments, walls or hedgerows. The draft design of the scheme is shown in **Appendix One**.

3.3 The design is currently conceptual and open for comment from all stakeholders. It was presented to the community at an open evening held on 24 May 2018, so that feedback and suggestions could be gathered to inform the scheme going forwards. District Council officers were involved with the event in order to provide support and advice to the consultation.

3.4 In previous discussions between the District Council and the Environment Agency, it has been recognised that finding a solution to flooding in Lowdham is a priority for both organisations. To this end, a suitable contribution from the Council has been suggested as essential for the scheme to go ahead.

- 3.5 In September 2017 Members may recall that the Policy & Finance Committee, on recommendation from this committee, approved the allocation of £220k from capital reserves to support the Southwell Flood Alleviation scheme, which is a more complex scheme of works affecting multiple catchments and floodwater sources including surface water flooding risks (pluvial flooding). The proposed Lowdham scheme focusses more on flooding from the Cocker Beck (fluvial flooding) which by its nature is more predictable, making it easier to model and design an engineering solution for.
- 3.6 As set out at paragraph 2.2, the scheme has a potential funding shortfall of £1m, therefore any contribution the Council provides will be integral to securing the delivery of a solution to flooding at Lowdham.
- 3.7 A more accurate calculation of any shortfall in funding will be possible once the current investigations into ground conditions and other site specific issues have been completed e.g. location of underground utility infrastructure. Costs may increase or decrease depending on the complexity of any engineering works once the Outline Business Case has been finalised. The Environment Agency anticipates that this investigative work will be completed by the end of July 2018.
- 3.8 The Council has a remaining grant funded allocation of £140,000 for 'Major Flood Alleviation' within the capital programme.

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and can be viewed in full at **Appendix Two**. It is considered that the scheme will have no negative impacts on equality issues and will be likely to have positive impacts on the protected characteristics of disability and pregnancy & maternity. There will also be a positive impact on other vulnerable groups such as older persons who may be more adversely impacted by flooding.

5.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

- 5.1 The Council currently holds an uncommitted balance of £140,000, allocated to Major Flood Alleviation, within its approved Capital Programme that could be allocated to this scheme. In addition to this, the Council approved at its meeting 8th March 2018, within the budget report, to create a reserve for £250,000 as a Flooding Defence Reserve.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION that:

That the Committee consider committing a level of funding towards the cost of the Lowdham Flood Alleviation Scheme in the region of £120,000, and make a recommendation to the Policy & Finance Committee for that amount to be allocated from the current major flood alleviation scheme currently included in the District Council's capital programme.

Reason for Recommendation

The District Council's funding support will assist the Lowdham Flood Alleviation Scheme to achieve the total funding necessary to make the scheme deliverable.

Background Papers

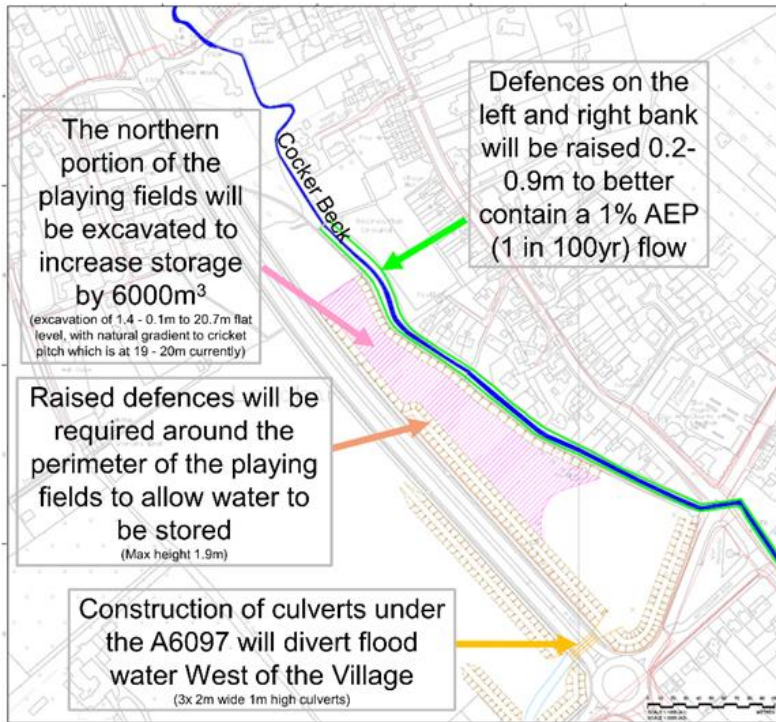
Nil

For further information please contact Ben Adams on Ext 5232

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PROPOSED FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME DIAGRAMS

Draft Design: Area A



With these 4 key interventions we aim to:

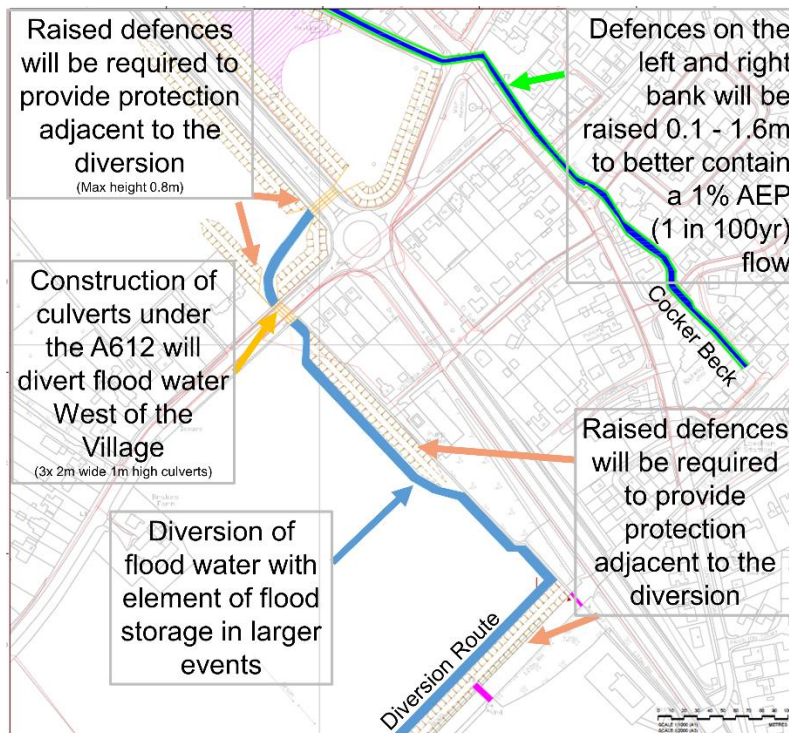
Increase the capacity of the storage area

Better contain water stored

Improve the ability to keep water in channel

Divert flood water West of the village to protect properties

Draft Design: Area B



With these 4 key interventions we aim to:

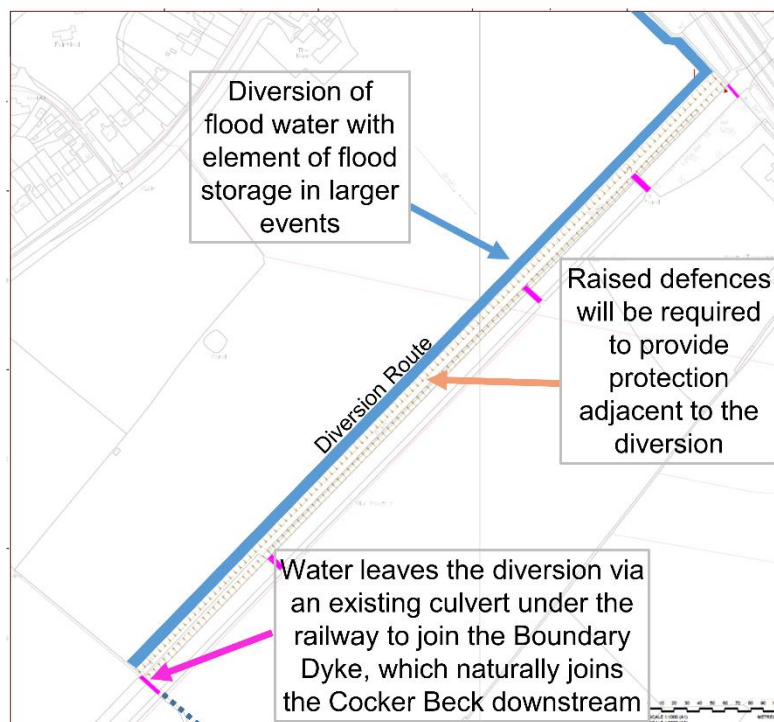
Improve the ability to keep water in channel

Protect areas surrounding the diversion

Divert flood water West of the village to protect properties

Provide additional flood storage for larger events

Draft Design: Area C



With these 3 key interventions we aim to:

Protect areas surrounding the diversion

Provide additional flood storage for larger events

Better manage the movement of flood water to naturally re-join the Cocker Beck downstream

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT