

**URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION**

**Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency**

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

**Subject: Southwell Flood Alleviation Grant Scheme**

In 2013, following severe floods in the District, the Council administered a Repair and Renewal flood alleviation grant scheme from DEFRA. It involved administering individual grant applications from affected properties (£5k per property) and doing detailed returns to DEFRA on the applications approved and checking the work was carried out. In the end the Council accessed over £800k in grant monies for flood affected properties across the District.

In addition to this figure, some of the applicants in Southwell (88 properties) decided to donate all or part of their £5k grants into a community pot to be used towards larger flood alleviation schemes for the town that Nottinghamshire County Council (as the lead flood authority) have commissioned. This community pot totals £233,420.84 and now that NCC are in a position to begin the flood alleviation schemes, DEFRA have confirmed that we can draw down the funding. We will need to enter into an MOU with DEFRA as the Authority drawing down the funds – and we will then pay it over to the NCC upon being satisfied that it is to be expended against the cost of the flood schemes. Initially we had suggested that DEFRA simply pay the monies direct to NCC however, because the District administered the initial claims for grant by the 88 properties involved it was considered to be more appropriate that the District draw down the grant funds.

**Appropriate Committee:**

Policy & Finance Committee

**Details of Item** (including reason(s) for use of urgency procedure):

To create a Capital scheme and add this to the Capital Programme, for 2017/18, for the £233,421 to be received from DEFRA and passed to Nottinghamshire County Council for the flood alleviation scheme at Southwell.

The reason for the proposed urgency is that the grant monies are to be received by the Council before the end of the current financial year.

**Decision Taken:**

To increase the Capital Programme by £233,421 in respect of the Southwell Flood Alleviation Grant Scheme.

**Members Consulted:**

Councillor Roger Blaney - Chairman of Policy & Finance Committee

Councillor Bruce Laughton - Chairman of Homes & Communities Committee

Councillor David Staples - Leader of the Opposition

Signed

*Karen White*

Date: 26/02/2018