



Portfolio Holder Decision
Making Session and date/time
Planning, Housing and
Commissioning (Central)
25th February 2015

10 am

Item

1

Public

Proposal for Community Flood Resilience Project

Responsible Officer David Edwards, Flood and Water Manager

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1. Summary

- 1.1. The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning has delegated authority from Cabinet and further decision making powers under the Portfolio's Scheme of Delegation to make decisions regarding the commissioning of a community flood resilience project that will run for three years.
- 1.2. Shropshire Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out roles and responsibilities for flood risk management and how communities at risk need to be engaged to help themselves to be better prepared for flood events in the future. This 'Community Flood Resilience Project' aims to help facilitate this engagement and will enable communities to understand local flood risks and how they can be better managed at a local level.
- 1.3. Continuing to work collaboratively with Staffordshire County Council and also working with Worcestershire County Council and Warwickshire County Council, the National Flood Forum (NFF, a national charity) will be jointly procured to provide and deliver the Community Flood Resilience Project. The project will involve two NFF Community Flood Resilience Officers working across the four authorities. Shropshire Council will host one of these officers for two days per week. The project will last for three years at a cost, to Shropshire Council, of £20,000 per year. This will be funded by the existing Defra grant funding for Lead Local Flood Authorities.
- 1.4. The National Flood Forum is the only national charity which can provide such specialist services. Accordingly, an exemption from Shropshire Council's approved procurement route has been sought and granted.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Cllr Malcom Price, the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning (Central) authorises:
 - A. The procurement of the National Flood Forum, subject to the appropriate procurement exemption, to deliver the Community Flood Resilience Project over three years at a cost of £20,000 per year.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1. **Risk Management.** The National Flood Forum has already been working in Shropshire on a voluntary basis. The charity's involvement in community flood resilience in Shifnal has enabled the formation of a community flood action group. Past experience of the National Flood Forum's work is exceptional and it has received national recognition in this field.

- 3.2. The Project will not involve design work, such as the design of flood defences etc. the Project entirely focusses on the bringing together of communities to help them be better informed and prepared for flooding.
- 3.3. Shropshire Council has already entered into a collaborative working arrangement with Staffordshire County Council for the delivery of local flood risk management. Of the NFF officers identified in this project, Shropshire Council's placement will be shared with Staffordshire (Shropshire two days per week; Staffordshire 3 days per week). This successful working relationship is deemed to further reduce risk.
- 3.4. The risk associated with the project is therefore considered to be very low.
- 3.5. **Human Rights.** The Community Flood Resilience Project does not have any negative impacts with regard to human rights.
- 3.6. **Equalities.** The Community Flood Resilience Project does not have any impacts with regard to equality.
- 3.7. **Community.** The Community Flood Resilience Project promotes partnership working and community resilience. It will seek to assist with the formation of stronger community ties.
- 3.8. **Environmental Consequences.** The environmental impact of the Community Flood Resilience Project is considered, by the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy's Strategic Environmental Assessment, to be low.
- 3.9. **Opportunities.** Part of the Community Flood Resilience Project is to look for opportunities for collaboration, for the benefit of the community, wherever possible.
- 3.10. **Other Consultation.** The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which includes the need for community resilience facilitation, was open for a period of public consultation for six months. Implementation of the Community Flood Resilience Project does not, therefore, require any further consultation.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Shropshire Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, receives funding for the management of local flood risk from Defra. The grant allocation for 2015/16 is £193,000. The use of £20,000 of this funding per year is therefore considered appropriate, given the need to help engage communities as outlined in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

5. Background

- 5.1. Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Shropshire Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority, with a duty to manage local flood risk in Shropshire. Part of this duty extends to the production of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Shropshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out how, through engagement, the Council aims to help communities be better prepared, and more self-resilient, to flooding.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1. Warwickshire County Council, one of the project partners, has already run a similar two year project with the National Flood Forum as a Defra-funded pilot. This has included working across ten different Warwickshire communities and has resulted in greater levels of community resilience through the formation of community flood action groups. The success of this project is currently being fed back to Defra.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out the need for more resilient communities across Shropshire.
- 7.2. The joint procurement, with Staffordshire County Council, of the Community Flood Resilience Project will form part of Shropshire Council's approach to meeting the objectives of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 7.3. The project will result in communities across Shropshire being more resilient to flooding. Experience gained from the project can then be rolled out across other communities.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information):

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Key Decision: Yes/No

Included within Forward Plan: Yes/No

If a Key Decision and not included in the Forward Plan have the General Exception or Special Urgency Procedures been complied with: Yes/No

Name and Portfolio of Executive Member responsible for this area of responsibility:

Cllr Malcolm Price, The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning

Local Member:

Appendices:

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, available online:

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/environmental-maintenance-and-enforcement/drainage-and-flooding/local-flood-risk-management-strategy>

Declaration of Interest

- I have no interest to declare in respect of this report

Signed Date

NAME:

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR:

- I have to declare an interest in respect of this report

Signed Date

NAME:

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR:

(Note: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter.)

For the reasons set out in the report, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled

Signed

Portfolio Holder for

Date

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and pro-forma is returned to Democratic Services for processing.

Additional comment :

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Note: If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (S151 Officer) and, if there are staffing implications the Head of Human Resources (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Portfolio Holder: Your decision will now be published and communicated to all Members of Council. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication.