

Meeting date: 13th OCTOBER 2020
Report to: CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS
Subject/report title: FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT – INTRODUCTION OF FLOOD MITIGATION SCHEMES
Report from: HEAD OF HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE
Report author/lead contact officer: EDWARD BRADFORD



Wards affected:

- All Wards | Bickenhill | Blythe | Castle Bromwich | Chelmsley Wood |
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath | Elmdon | Kingshurst/Fordbridge | Knowle |
 Lyndon | Meriden | Olton | Shirley East | Shirley South |
 Shirley West | Silhill | Smith's Wood | St Alphege

Public/private report: Public

Exempt by virtue of paragraph: N/A

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Member approval for the introduction of flood mitigation schemes at Nethercote Gardens and Colebrook Road, Shirley West and at New Road and Park Avenue, St Alphege.

2. Decision(s) recommended

- a) To approve, subject to final confirmation of funding and granting of technical approval, the sign off of two flood mitigation schemes at Nethercote Gardens and Colebrook Road, Shirley West and at New Road and Park Avenue, St Alphege, as set out in Table 1 of this report, and their delivery through the National Property Flood Resilience Framework
- b) To approve the use of up to £37,000 held in the Flood Risk Management reserve as partnership funding in order to unlock Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy funding, as set out in Table 2 of this report

3. Matters for Consideration

- 3.1 Since the previous update at the Environment & Highways Cabinet Member session in September 2020, Officers have continued with work to introduce Flood Mitigation Schemes across the Borough and are now in a position to help reduce risk to 74 properties in the New Road and Park Avenue area, St Alphege and the Colebrook Road and Nethercote Gardens area, Shirley West.
- 3.2 In September 2015, properties in the New Road and Park Avenue area experienced internal property flooding and an investigation was carried out under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Work has been on-going to build a business case to better protect properties affected by flooding, which unfortunately occurred again in August 2020. Work undertaken by Officers has identified Property Level Resistance and Resilience (PLR) to be the most suitable measure to help better protect properties that are at risk of flooding in this area.
- 3.3 In May 2018, properties in the Colebrook Road and Nethercote Gardens area experienced internal property flooding and an investigation was carried out under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. In January 2020 the Cabinet Member received a report setting out work that had been undertaken by Officers in relation to the funding and delivery of measures to reduce the risk of future flooding at this location and which identified the leading economic option for this area as Property Level Resistance and Resilience (PLR).
- 3.4 For any Flood Mitigation Scheme to be delivered, funding needs to be secured from either or both of Flood Defence Grant in Aid or Local Levy, via the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. In addition, an element of partnership funding from the Council is also normally required. In order to be able to draw down such monies, a Short Form Business Case needs to have been submitted to the Environment Agency and granted technical approval.
- 3.5 Bids for Local Levy funding for use in 2021/22 for both the Colebrook Road and Nethercote Gardens and the New Road and Park Avenue schemes were submitted to the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) in August 2020 and both were given approval in principle by the Finance Sub-Committee of the RFCC in September 2020, with formal approval expected at the main RFCC meeting on 14th October. The relevant Short Form Business Cases for both schemes have been drafted ready for submission to the Environment Agency for technical approval, along with a request for the relevant FDGiA funding for use in 2021/22 for the New Road and Park Avenue scheme. It is important to note that whilst funding bids for both schemes are for 2021/22, there may be an opportunity for Officers and the Environment Agency to discuss the re-profiling of some funding into the current financial year.
- 3.6 Subject to receiving formal approval from the main RFCC meeting, a formal decision from the Environment Agency on the award of the FDGiA funding and the granting of technical approval, Officers will be in a position to introduce both schemes, which will see up to 74 properties better protected, as set out in Table 1.

Ward	Area	Location	No of Properties Affected
St Alphege	Solihull	New Road and Park Avenue	24
Shirley West	Solihull Lodge	Nethercote Gardens and Colebrook Road	50
Total			74

Table 1: No. of properties affected per scheme

- 3.7 In order to deliver the two schemes set out in Table 1, Officers intend to use the National Property Flood Resilience Framework.
- 3.8 In summary, a consultant will be appointed through the framework to undertake Property Flood Surveys. As part of their scope, the Consultant shall assess how water can enter the property and suggest ways to mitigate potential flooding. As well as resistance methods (preventing water entering the property), the survey will also include the investigation of resilience measures (adapting inside the property), to limit the damage and disruption that occurs when water enters.
- 3.9 A contractor appointed through the framework will then provide design management, supervision of other services as required and programme management. The contractor will also provide the design and construction in accordance with the requirements of this framework.
- 3.10 On completion of the works the Consultant will produce a Post Installation Flood Risk Report (PIFRR) on their findings. They will also sign off the work by the installer who has carried out the Consultant's suggested measures. The PIFRR shall summarise the available information on the flood risk and will detail the flood resistance and resilience measures that have been provided for the property.
- 3.11 Whilst subject to the successful award of FDGiA funding for use in 2021/22 and confirmation from the consultants and contractors involved, Officers anticipate the necessary survey and design work to have been completed by the end of 2020/21, with installation taking place as soon as possible in 2021/22. However, as set out in paragraph 3.5, Officers will discuss with the Environment Agency about the possibility of re-profiling some of the funding into the current financial year.
- 4. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?**
- 4.1 Options have been appraised and assessed in accordance with Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management guidance.
- 4.2 Various options were short listed but based on the calculated benefit cost ratio, a leading economic option for each area of PLR has been identified.

5. Reasons for recommending preferred option

- 5.1 Whilst it may be technically feasible to deliver alternative capital interventions across each area, significant alternative sources of local funding would need to be obtained to promote the delivery of alternative, less cost-effective capital interventions.

6. Implications and Considerations

- 6.1 State how the proposals in this report contribute to the priorities in the [Council Plan](#):

Priority:	Contribution:
<p>Economy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revitalising our towns and local centres. 2. UK Central (UKC) and maximising the opportunities of HS2. 3. Increase the supply of housing, especially affordable and social housing. 	None.
<p>Environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Enhance Solihull's natural environment. 5. Improve Solihull's air quality. 6. Reduce Solihull's net carbon emissions. 	None.
<p>People and Communities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Take action to improve life chances in our most disadvantaged communities. 8. Enable communities to thrive. 9. Sustainable, quality, affordable provision for adults & children with complex needs. 	It is proposed to introduce PLR measures to 74 properties that are currently at risk of flooding, many of which suffered in September 2015 and May 2018.

- 6.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:

- 6.2.1 The Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board received a briefing note at the November 2019 meeting on work undertaken by Officers following the May 2018 flooding.

- 6.3 Financial implications:

- 6.4 It is not possible for flood risk mitigation schemes to be entirely funded for delivery via the Flood Defence Grant in Aid mechanism available via the Environment Agency. Therefore, Local Levy funding, which serves to top up the FDGiA funding to the amount required to deliver the scheme is required. However, Local Levy funding is limited and in order to be successful any proposal needs to demonstrate how it would meet certain 'Trent Outcome Measures' that are required by the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. With such funding there is an expectation that partnership

contributions be made available to finance the proposed schemes.

In August 2020, Officers submitted bids for Local Levy funding in order to deliver the Flood Mitigation schemes as set out in Table 1 earlier in this report, with these bids receiving approval from the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Finance Sub-Committee in September 2020. In addition to the Local Levy funding, Short Form Business Cases will be submitted to the Environment Agency for technical approval in October 2020 along with the request for FDGiA funding for the New Road and Park Avenue scheme. Officers expect to receive a formal decision by the end of October 2020 from the Environment Agency on the award of FDGiA funding for New Road and Park Avenue for use in 2021/22.

6.4.1 Table 2 details the expected cost and the funding breakdown associated with each scheme.

Location	Expected Cost	FDGiA Available	Local Levy Available	SMBC Partnership Contribution
New Road and Park Avenue	£192k	£94k	£86k	£12k
Nethercote Gardens and Colebrook Road	£400k	£0k	£375k	£25k
Total	£592k	£94k	£461k	£37k

Table 2: Expected cost and funding breakdown associated with each scheme.

6.4.2 As set out in Table 2, partnership contributions from the Council totalling £37,000 are required in order to access £94,000 of FDGiA funding and £461,000 of Local Levy funding. Officers have identified that such contributions can be funded from the existing Flood Risk Management reserve which was set up for this purpose in 2016 with the remaining uncommitted balance of this being £46,000 prior to the proposed use above .

6.5 Legal implications:

6.5.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a duty on Local Authorities to prepare and put in place strategies for managing flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourses in their areas.

6.6 Risk implications:

6.6.1 None.

6.7 Equality implications:

6.7.1 No implications have been identified as a result of the statutory public sector equality duty to have 'due regard' under the Equality Act 2010.

7. List of appendices referred to

7.1 None.

8. Background papers used to compile this report

8.1 Report to Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways, January 2020.

8.2 Report to Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing and Regeneration, November 2016.

9. List of other relevant documents

9.1 None.