

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community (Introduced by the Executive Member for Resources)	Executive Cabinet	26 June 2014

CROSTON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide an update on the progress made to develop a flood risk management scheme for Croston and seek approval for an approach to raise a £1.1M funding contribution.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the update provided in the report is noted.
3. That the scheme to construct a Flood Storage Area as detailed in the report is supported subject to planning approval.
4. That the Council consults with Croston Parish Council and Croston residents regarding the introduction of a local levy or equivalent recharge but that we seek contributions from all partners, including Chorley Council, for the funding gap.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

5. Croston is the primary location across Chorley where serious flooding incidents have occurred. In 1987 around 205 properties, mostly residential, were flooded and more recently in June 2012 when 30 homes and businesses flooded.
6. The Environment Agency (EA), together with the Council and other partners has been developing a flood risk management scheme that will reduce the risk of flooding in Croston. The proposed scheme will create a Flood Storage Area (FSA) upstream of Eccleston Bridge, on the River Yarrow. The FSA will comprise a long embankment dam across the River Yarrow, incorporating a structure designed to restrict the volume of water passing downstream towards Croston. The scheme will provide a 1 in 100 year storm protection to 438 properties.
7. The total cost of the scheme is £6M and the EA has secured £4M, providing work starts by March 2015. As one of the key partners, the Council has been asked to identify ways to provide £1.1M towards the scheme and options are detailed in the report that includes raising funds through a local levy or suitable recharge.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reason Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

8. To support the proposed flood risk management scheme for Croston and to seek approval for an approach to raise a £1.1M funding contribution.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9. None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	✓	A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

BACKGROUND

11. Croston village is located on the River Yarrow, just upstream from where it meets the Rivers Lostock and Douglas. This meeting of rivers combined with a series of culverted (underground) watercourses, drains, sewers and surface water runoff means that Croston has experienced flooding several times. Major historical flood events were recorded in September 1946, February 1966, August 1987, December 1999, May 2000, October 2000, January 2008 and June 2012. The worst flood in recent history occurred on 22nd August 1987 when around 205 properties, mostly residential, were flooded. On the 22nd June 2012, 30 homes and businesses flooded in Croston after torrential rainfall in what became one of the wettest summers on record.

UPDATE

12. The Environment Agency (EA), together with the Council and other partners has been developing a flood risk management scheme that will reduce the risk of flooding in Croston.
13. Following investigation of the technical, financial and environmental details the preferred option is for a Flood Storage Area (FSA) upstream of Eccleston Bridge, on the River Yarrow. The EA has secured £4M to partly fund this scheme.
14. The FSA will comprise a long embankment dam across the River Yarrow, incorporating a structure designed to restrict the volume of water passing downstream towards Croston. The excess water will be stored behind the embankment until it is safe to release it back into the River Yarrow.

15. The embankment will be approximately 550m long and 4.5 m high and will be constructed of earth and grassed over. It will include a flow control structure that passes river flows under normal conditions but prevents storm flows from passing downstream. Under these conditions flows will back up behind the embankment until they are safe to release. The flooded area will use the natural geography to contain flows behind the embankment and will avoid flooding any additional property in the area. Plans detailing the flood protection and proposed location of the embankment are attached in Appendix 1.
16. It is expected that the FSA will be utilised once every five years and water will only be retained for a matter of days allowing the river levels to return to normal.

BENEFITS

17. The proposed scheme will reduce the risk of flooding from river and surface water sources to 438 properties, public highway network, agricultural land and public utilities.
18. The scheme comprises the construction of an upstream flood storage area to provide a 1:100 year standard of protection with a design life of 100 years.

CONSULTATION

19. The EA together with the Council and other partners has undertaken extensive consultation through a variety of means including regular newsletters and drop-in sessions at Croston and Eccleston. The drop-in sessions have been very well attended (over 150 people at each event) and there has been widespread support for the proposed upstream flood storage area scheme.

TIMESCALE

20. Subject to planning permission construction is due to start in January 2015 and is programmed to be completed in March 2016

FUNDING

21. The total cost of the scheme is estimated to be £6M. The EA has secured £4M of funding and construction of the scheme must start by March 2015 to secure this funding. Lancashire County Council and United Utilities are also contributing directly / in-kind towards the delivery of the scheme.
22. The Council has been asked to identify ways to provide £1.1M towards the scheme.
23. It is proposed that the Council consults with Croston Parish Council and Croston residents regarding the introduction of a local levy or equivalent recharge but that we seek contributions from all partners, including Chorley Council, for the funding gap.

RISKS

24. There are some key risks associated with the delivery of the scheme as follows:
 - Securing the required funding – £1.1M funding still required and the core EA funding of £4M is conditional on the scheme starting in March 2015.
 - Securing planning permission – Pre-meetings have been held with the Local Planning Authority.
 - Landowner support – Landowners affected by the construction and operation of the scheme have been consulted and have agreed to allow the scheme to progress subject to legal agreement.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

25. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

26. The eventual cost for the Council will be dependent upon the outcome of the consultation and whether the Parish Council and residents are prepared to make a contribution towards the funding gap.
27. In addition, until we have sought partner contributions it is not possible to establish the final scale of the funding gap. Once this is established a further report will be brought before Councillors for them to decide if they wish the Council to make a contribution and how much the contribution may be.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

28. There are planning implications in undertaking the proposed works but these are capable of being addressed during any planning application process. Environmental issues should have been addressed by the Environment Agency.
29. Given the nature of the works it is entirely appropriate to seek a contribution to the funding gap from stakeholders and those who receive a benefit.

JAMIE CARSON

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROTECTION, STREETSCENE AND COMMUNITY

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Dixon	5250	17-06-2014	EC Croston Flood Scheme