



**CABINET**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

**AGENDA ITEM (10)**

**ALLOCATION OF EXISTING CAPITAL FUND FOR FLOOD ALLEVIATION IN MORETON-IN-MARSH**

<b>Accountable Member</b>	Councillor David Fowles Cabinet Member for Environment
<b>Accountable Officer</b>	Monica Stephens Shared Head of Customer Services and Interim Shared Head of Environment & Commercial Services 01285 623000 monica.stephens@cotswold.gov.uk

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To seek agreement for an allocation of funding for the Moreton-in-Marsh flood alleviation project to be taken from the existing approved capital allocation for district wide flood alleviation projects.
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<b>That the allocation of a capital contribution of £250,000 to the Moreton in Marsh flood alleviation scheme, from the previously agreed capital budget for flood alleviation be approved</b>
<b>Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)</b>	To enable the continued delivery of the Moreton-in-Marsh Flood Alleviation scheme, which will significantly reduce the risk of property flooding in town

<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	Moreton-in-Marsh
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Recommendation to Council</b>	No

<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>Following severe flooding in July 2007, the Government provided one-off capital (£331,750) and revenue (£662,066) funding for both immediate assistance and more strategic flood alleviation schemes.</p> <p>In December 2009, the Cabinet allocated £500,000 of the Council's own reserves to boost the funding available to deliver flood alleviation schemes to reduce the risk of property flooding district-wide.</p> <p>In 2013, a further £100,000 was allocated to tackle emerging issues and in February 2014, a further £270,000 of capital was allocated.</p> <p><b>The recommendation in this report does not seek additional funding from the council but does request allocation of some of this previously agreed budget for Moreton in Marsh.</b></p>
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	<p><b><u>Main Moreton Flood Alleviation Scheme</u></b></p> <p>The total <u>estimated</u> cost of the remaining major flood alleviation scheme proposed in Moreton-in-Marsh is £550,000, which includes a contingency sum of £50,000.</p> <p>The cost of Swan Close element was £50,000, and the cost for Property Level Protection is an estimated £100,000, giving a current total estimated expenditure requirement for Moreton-in-Marsh of £650,000 plus £50,000 contingency sum.</p> <p>The current total partner allocations towards these schemes is:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="564 465 1439 835"> <tr> <td>Gloucestershire County Council</td> <td>£368,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moreton Town Council</td> <td>£20,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment Agency</td> <td>£70,000 (PLP)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£458,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shortfall</td> <td>£242,000</td> </tr> </table>	Gloucestershire County Council	£368,000	Moreton Town Council	£20,000	Environment Agency	£70,000 (PLP)	Total	£458,000	Shortfall	£242,000
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<p><b>Legal and Human Rights Implications</b></p>	<p>The Council's legal responsibilities in relation to flooding are limited - the Council is only required to maintain certain ditches and ordinary watercourses for which it has specified responsibility. However, since the flooding in July 2007, the Council has worked with partners to deliver discretionary schemes for the benefit of local residents</p>										
<p><b>Environmental and Sustainability Implications</b></p>	<p>Flood alleviation schemes reduce flood risk and respond to the increased rainfall that is being experienced in recent years.</p>										
<p><b>Human Resource Implications</b></p>	<p>The project management of this scheme continues to be delivered from within existing Council staff resources</p>										
<p><b>Key Risks</b></p>	<p>Provision of this funding allocation for Moreton-in-Marsh should still leave sufficient funding to deliver identified flood alleviation schemes in other settlements where works are still outstanding.</p> <p>Failure to identify sufficient funding to enable the major scheme in Moreton-in-Marsh to go ahead will mean properties remain at risk from flooding.</p> <p>Failure to secure landowner consent may result in legal action and/or significant delays in delivery of the scheme, increasing the risk of future property flooding.</p> <p>Failure to allocate contingency funding may result in significant delays in delivery of the scheme.</p>										
<p><b>Equalities Analysis</b></p>	<p>The individual needs of property owners will be taken in to account when managing the Property Level Protection element of the project, including the completion of appropriate Equality Impact Assessments.</p>										

<b>Related Decisions</b>	Cabinet - 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 - Flood Mitigation - Options for Future Improvements (Minute CAB 115 refers)
<b>Background Documents</b>	Review of the Summer 2007 floods in Cotswold District (First Phase Report February 2008 - Hyder Consulting).
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>Appendix 'A'</b> - Moreton-in-Marsh Flood Alleviation Schemes

<b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>	Performance in delivering flood alleviation schemes is reported as a top task. Delivery of the Moreton Flood alleviation scheme will be monitored by the Project Board (includes Ward Members and Portfolio Holder).
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<b>Options for Joint Working</b>	This flood alleviation scheme will be delivered in partnership between CDC, GCC and Moreton in Marsh Town Council.
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### **Background Information**

1. In July 2007, heavy rainfall led to widespread property flooding across the Cotswold District. Subsequent investigations indicated that over 1,150 homes had been affected and a report was produced highlighting 20 severely affected settlements (later amended to 21). The Council embarked on a programme of flood alleviation schemes, in partnership with other agencies, Gloucestershire County Council and Town/Parish Councils to reduce flood risk. Investment in flood alleviation, using both Government and the Council's own funding allocations has been prioritised, based on the worst affected settlements.
2. To date, this scheme has already put in place a bund to the west of Moreton-in-Marsh to protect bungalows in Swan Close, occupied primarily by elderly and vulnerable residents. Property Level Protection is currently being delivered to those homes which cannot be fully protected by larger strategic engineering schemes.
3. There now remains one major scheme for Moreton-in-Marsh, which would deliver flood protection and protect around 200 homes. The proposal is to run ditches and culverts from the south-west of the town behind the Hospital, travelling across farmland to the south of the town before running parallel with the railway line, connecting the Stow Brook with the River Evenlode. This would divert water from the Stow Brook away from the town and would significantly reduce the risk of property flooding. It is anticipated work on procurement would commence in the autumn, with contract award anticipated around October 2014 and works commencing on site in November 2014, weather permitting.
4. In August 2013, the Moreton Flood Alleviation Project Board was formed to discuss proposals and manage the delivery of the remaining flood alleviation schemes for the town. The Board comprises Member and Officer representatives from Gloucestershire County Council, this Council and Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council. In August 2013, the Board agreed to present proposals for the major flood alleviation scheme to the public at the MP's flood meeting held in Moreton-in-Marsh and hosted by the local MP, Mr. Geoffrey Clifton Brown. The proposals were well-received by the public. In December 2013, the Board agreed to progress the Swan Close bund and Property Level Protection scheme (see paragraph 2 above), and to approach each partner Council in the New Year to seek additional funding to facilitate the delivery of the major flood alleviation scheme.
5. At its first Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March the multi-agency Member-led Cotswold Flood Action Group agreed priorities for tackling all forms of flooding in the Cotswolds. Moreton-in-Marsh was identified as being one of five top priorities.

6. The major flood alleviation scheme can only be delivered if sufficient funding can be secured and if landowner consent can be obtained. Whilst a number of landowners are involved in the proposals, most are supportive and understand the wider benefits to the local community of enabling these works to cross their land.

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