
REPORT TO:	FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	28TH NOVEMBER 2002	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	JOHN HANSED (EXT. 5770)	DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee reports\finance and management\28 nov 2002\watercourse at woodland road, stanton by newhall.doc
SUBJECT:	WATERCOURSE AT WOODLAND ROAD, STANTON BY NEWHALL	REF: JRH/SH
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	NEWHALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM08

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 Members are recommended to approve the inclusion in the capital programme of £9,850 (including the capitalisation of an item of revenue expenditure of £7,850) for the costs of undertaking a feasibility study into the measures necessary to reduce the risk of flooding to properties at Woodland Road, Stanton by Newhall.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To obtain Members' approval to fund a feasibility study into the causes of flooding of three properties at Woodland Road, Stanton from the capital programme.

3.0 Detail

3.1 In November 2000 Stanton Village Hall and two neighbouring bungalows were flooded from the adjacent watercourse (see plan at Annexe A).

3.2 The nature of the flooding was such as to suggest that the main cause was the inadequate size of the culvert under the A444 which has acted as a partial barrier to the watercourse during the extreme rainfall at the time.

3.3 The culvert is the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council and during 2001 correspondence was exchanged regarding their willingness to improve the culvert. They subsequently advised that they would provide a new culvert subject to being satisfied that any such works would not lead to any worse flooding downstream of the culvert. The County Council also indicated that they had been able to make provision for a new culvert in the current year's budget.

- 3.4 Whereas the culvert is the County Council's responsibility the overall control and adequacy of the watercourse is a matter for this Council to consider as Land Drainage Authority. At this stage therefore consultants were appointed to investigate the effects that a new culvert would have both upstream and downstream. The consultants were asked to proceed urgently with this study so that a joint solution could be identified with minimal delay to enable the County Council to replace the culvert within this financial year.
- 3.5 The amount of work required within this investigation was unknown and initially costs were charged to the small revenue budget available for Land Drainage. However the nature of the work (including both preparing a model of the watercourse and establishing upstream and downstream effects of a new culvert) has led to costs well in excess of the available budget and it is therefore now proposed that the total study costs be capitalised.
- 3.6 Following discussions with Officers at the County Council it has been agreed that they will fund one half of the part of the consultancy work undertaken in respect of checking the downstream effects of a new culvert. The current estimate for these costs is £6,500. Discussions are continuing with the Consultant and the County Council to identify a solution to reduce the risk of this flooding.
- 3.7 The costs of any necessary upstream or downstream works are yet to be established but a provisional application for grant aid has been submitted to DEFRA.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The current expenditure by the consultants is £11,100 of which £3,250 will be funded by the County Council. This leaves £7,850 to be funded from this Council's Capital Programme.
- 4.2 There is an item of £15,000, in the current Capital Programme for a feasibility study into flooding adjacent to the watercourse running to the north and west of Hatton. Since inclusion in the programme the Council has been successful in obtaining grant aid, at 45% towards these costs, from DEFRA. This has therefore reduced the burden on the programme by £6,750 and hence offsets the effects of the proposal to now include the study costs at Stanton.
- 4.3 Further work may be necessary to complete the study and it is suggested therefore that £9,850 be included in the programme.
- 4.4 The financial situation can therefore be summarised as
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| • Cost of consultancy work to date (charged to revenue) | £11,100 |
| • Contribution available from the County Council | £3,250 |
| Net costs to be capitalised | £7,850 |
| • Allow a sum to complete study | £2,000 |
| Total inclusion in capital programme | £9,850 |
- 4.5 The proposal has been scored in accordance with the capital programme bidding process with a resultant score of 45%. The normal minimum threshold for funding capital schemes is 50%.

5.0 Community Implications

- 5.1 The flooding caused to three properties by the excessive rainfall in November 2000, was severe. The Village Hall required a new floor and the bungalows required substantial refurbishment.
- 5.2 The provision of a new culvert and associated works either side should reduce the flooding risk to a more acceptable level although it should be noted that it may be impracticable to give the 1 in 100 year protection level which is the current standard set by the Environment Agency in controlling new developments.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The feasibility work was essential to identify the causes of flooding and the necessary measures to complement the proposed culvert replacement.
- 6.2 An application has been submitted to DEFRA for potential grant aid for the works required at Stanton although the Council is still waiting to hear the outcome of this application.

