

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT		
DATE OF DECISION:	21 MAY 2013		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
NONE

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report asks Cabinet to accept new funding awarded by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and add the funding to the capital programme for flood risk management with authority to spend. The additions are programmed over the next two financial years starting this year, for delivery of a flood risk management project in St. Denys to improve household and community flood resilience.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To accept the grant of £472,000 from Defra through the Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder Scheme;
- (ii) To add, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, a sum of £472,000 to the Environment and Transport Capital Programme in order to deliver the Flood Risk Management scheme; and
- (iii) To approve, in accordance with Financial Procedural Rules, capital expenditure of £472,000, phased £95,000 in 2013/14 and £377,000 In 2014/15 to deliver the flood risk management project in St. Denys.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This new source of funding has been secured for delivery of a flood risk management project to improve household and community flood resilience within the area of St. Denys at significant risk of flooding following a recent successful funding bid.
2. Delivery of the flood risk management project will enable the Council to achieve implementation of one of the priority schemes identified within the Southampton Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2012).

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. An alternative is to not accept the funding. This option was rejected on the basis that those households within the significant flood risk area in St. Denys would continue to face the same level of risk with little or no assistance with implementing measures to help manage the risks in the short term. The Council would also have to find alternative funding sources to finance the identified scheme proposed within the Southampton Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2012) which might not be sufficient to deliver a combination of resistance and resilience measures and the wider community engagement work that can be achieved with this grant funding.
4. By not accepting the funding, the Council would also miss out on the opportunity to develop and share knowledge and experience locally and across the country with the other successful project bids, with a view to developing best practice which will be promoted nationally through the Defra Pathfinder scheme.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

5. The Defra Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder scheme was announced on 6th December 2012 with a two stage application process. The aim of the Pathfinder scheme is to support innovation by funding projects that demonstrably improve resilience in communities at significant risk of flooding in England. Initial bid proposals had to be submitted by 16th January 2013, with shortlisted projects being invited to submit further information by 19th February 2013. The successful project bids were announced by Defra on 22nd March 2013.
6. The City Council put forward a project to work with a small number of households within the St. Denys community (39 residential properties along Priory Road/Adelaide Road) which were identified in the Southampton Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy as being at significant tidal flood risk (Figure 1), but they also face potential flood risk from surface water and groundwater.

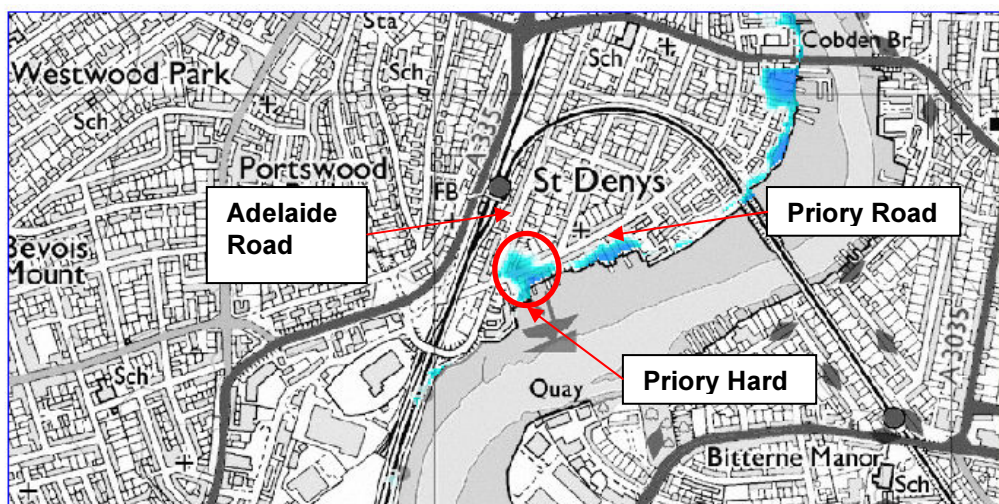


Figure 1: Target area within the present day significant tidal flood risk zone in St Denys (flood model data from the Southampton Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy, 2012)

The extent of the present day tidal flood risk along this part of the frontage is relatively narrow and is largely limited to gardens at the rear of the riverside properties, except at the area adjacent to Priory Hard.

7. The project outcomes include:
 - **Improved understanding of flood risk** - to include a better understanding of the interactions between the different sources of flood risk, quantification of the risk reduction following implementation of measures and targeted workshops to improve uptake and/or reduce premiums for household insurance
 - **Awareness raising and community engagement** - to make residents more aware of the risks, establish a residents' working group and achieve maximum sign up from residents within the 39 properties to be involved with the project
 - **Implement property level protection** (resistance and resilience measures) - to include a survey to identify what measures are suitable and subsequent implementation
 - **Develop community resilience** - to enable residents to know how to respond prior, during and following a flood event and to be able to manage the risks themselves with limited outside intervention.

The type of property measures that may be employed are illustrated in Figure 2.

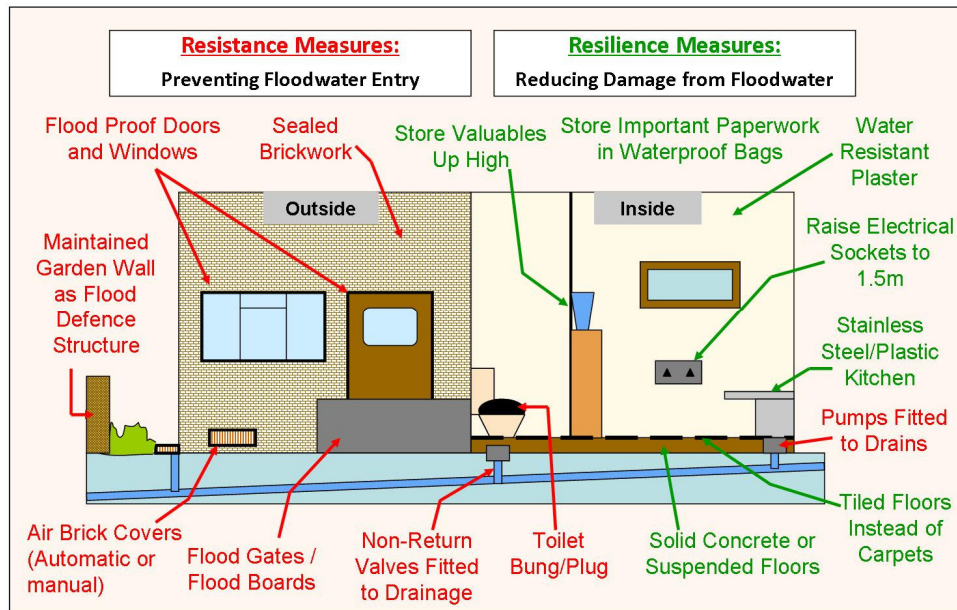


Figure 2: Range of property level flood resistance and resilience measures

Further details of the project are contained within Appendix 1 (Project plan).

8. The project bid was developed in consultation with external partners including the National Flood Forum, the Environment Agency and the Solent Forum.
9. The project will be monitored regularly throughout implementation by Defra with a final evaluation following completion. The purpose of the final evaluation will be to examine how well the interventions have met the agreed targets, as well as to evaluate the process, draw out learning against good practice and share it.

The evaluation will help Defra, local authorities and others understand what works best when engaging communities on flood resilience. Any valuable learning which is likely to have a significant wider application will be disseminated at a national level by Defra to encourage take-up by others.

10. Any experience and learning from the project which is applicable to the wider community in St Denys and/or other parts of the City will be captured and disseminated accordingly throughout the project. This includes the appropriate use and implementation of property level protection measures to reduce the potential impacts of flooding to properties which could be taken forward by individual homeowners.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

11. The estimated costs of the project are summarised in the table below:

Estimated costs	2013/14	2014/15	Total
National Flood Forum (Community engagement)	£26,000	£26,000	£52,000
Understanding flood risk interactions between the different sources	£40,000		£40,000
Awareness raising/developing community resilience	£10,000	£8,000	£18,000
Property level surveys		£12,000	£12,000
Implementation of property level measures		£293,000	£293,000
Understanding the risk reduction post-implementation of measures		£20,000	£20,000
Project management	£19,000	£18,000	£37,000
Total	£95,000	£377,000	£472,000

12. Delivery of the project will be undertaken in partnership with the National Flood Forum, which is a national charity dedicated to supporting and representing communities and individuals at risk of flooding. This will involve secondment of a community engagement officer to assist with delivering the community engagement elements of the project which are fundamental to successful delivery of the project. Involvement from the National Flood Forum will also be fully funded from the Defra funding.
13. The role of Project Management resourced from existing SCC staff, will be funded up to the value of £37,000 over the lifetime of the project so there will be no burden placed on existing revenue budgets.

If there were any cost over-runs, then these would have to be met by the Council. However, this is viewed as extremely unlikely due the close management of the scheme, including the use of the Council's corporate Sharepoint project management system.

14. Defra have confirmed they will fund the full cost of delivery of the project which amounts to £472,000 over the next two financial years (see Appendix 2). The funding will be released to the Council annually in advance.
15. The conditions of the Defra funding require that it is spent on delivery of the project submitted during the bid process. Failure to do so may mean that funding would have to be given back.

Property/Other

16. One of the 39 identified properties is within Council ownership. Any specific implications for the Council in its property owning role will be assessed as required in due course.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

17. The statutory power to undertake proposals to manage flood and erosion risks are held by Southampton City Council under the Coast Protection Act 1949, the Land Drainage Act 1991, and the Flood and Water Management Act 2012, although these are permissive powers only.

Other Legal Implications:

18. Legal issues may arise during throughout the project but these will be addressed during implementation.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

19. There are no policy framework implications as a result of the recommendations of this report.

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Portswood
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Southampton Pathfinder Project – Project plan
2.	Defra Grant Award letter dated 22 nd March 2013

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1. Southampton Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2012)	Available to view/download at www.southampton.gov.uk/flooding