

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 15 JULY 2021

REPORT

SUBJECT: Elmer Sands Community Flood Fund

REPORT AUTHOR: Roger Spencer – Engineering Services Manager

DATE: February 2021

EXTN: 37812

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The report seeks approval to agree and make a contribution to the Environment Agency Elmer Phase 2 Scheme and authority to the draw-down of funds from the Community Flood Fund

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Committee:

1. Approve a Partnership Funding contribution of £40,000 from the Community Flood Fund to the Environment Agency's Elmer II scheme;
2. Authority be given to enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Environment Agency;
3. Authorise the draw down funds from CFF (likely to be required in 2022/23).

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. Following the Government's introduction of Partnership Funding as a mechanism to fund Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Schemes, Arun District Council set up the Community Flood Fund (CFF) to make third party contributions, enabling schemes that didn't achieve an initial 100% score to proceed.
- 1.2. Further detailed information on Partnership Funding and Arun's Fund is set out in the Engineering Services Annual Review 2020, presented to Cabinet in October 2020.
- 1.3. The fund was initially made up of three annual contributions of £250,000 spanning 2016 – 2019. There have been contributions totalling £261,000 made to schemes, with Cabinet approving further contributions of £245,000 at the October 2020 meeting.

- 1.4. A 'top-up' to the fund of £50,000 was also approved, as was authority to supplement the Coast Protection Revenue budget up to £50,000 p.a., although only £20,000 has so far been vired. Therefore, should the recommendation be approved, the CFF uncommitted balance will stand at £234,000. There are further uncommitted contributions thought to be required for pipeline schemes for the near future (5 – 10 years) of around £500,000.
- 1.5. In the October 2020 Cabinet report completed schemes benefiting from CFF contributions were listed, as well as a list of schemes requiring third party funding in the near future; this was agreed by Cabinet. The 'completed' list included Works at Elmer successfully completed in 2020 and which now protects around 200 properties from flood risk directly from the sea.
- 1.6. Since then, the Environment Agency has brought forward a second phase of works at Elmer, to address a more rapid than anticipated deterioration of the beach east of Poole Place, Climping. These works were anticipated to be required in the future and are included in the Coast Defence Strategy for the area and were part of the 'pipeline' mentioned above.
- 1.7. The scheme is eligible for part funding by the Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid but it does not yet achieve the requisite 100% score. Accordingly, 3rd party contributions are being sought and a contribution of £40,000 (against a total scheme cost of in excess of £1m) has been requested by the Environment Agency. Other sources are being explored and are at a sensitive stage.
- 1.8. With sufficient funding being secured, works should proceed in 2022/23. Funds would not be required to be drawn down until that time but a formal commitment is sought at this stage. The Environment Agency requires that a formal agreement be entered into to provide that formal commitment.
- 1.9. It should be noted that this scheme does not address the flooding seen in 2020 during named storms Ciara and Dennis but is aimed at protecting Elmer from what is known as 'back door flooding', where water overtops or breaches the defences at one location and due to the lay of the land, flows overland to flood another area from the side.
- 1.10. The works would be in the Parish of Climping but protect property in Elmer
- 1.11. Detailed scheme designs are being worked-up but the design is likely to take the form of a near-shore rock island, similar in design to the existing Elmer rock islands but smaller in size.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

That Committee:

1. Approve a Partnership Funding contribution of £40,000 from the Community Flood Fund to the Environment Agency's Elmer II scheme;
2. Authority be given to enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Environment Agency;
3. Authorise the draw down funds from CFF (likely to be required in 2022/23).

3. OPTIONS:
 Provide a lesser or zero contribution – this would likely result in the scheme not going forward and around 200 properties in Elmer remaining with an increasing risk going forward.

4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓

5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal	✓	
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment	EIA completed	
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability	✓	
Asset Management/Property/Land	✓	
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

6. IMPLICATIONS:

Finance: Contribution from within balances of Community Flood Fund established to fund partnership contributions.

Legal: Contribution commitment to be committed via Contribution Agreement with Environment Agency

Human rights: No significant adverse impacts of providing the funding. The Environment Agency scheme remains in the design stage and the Agency have assessment processes in place for their flood protection schemes

Sustainability: EA scheme will uphold high sustainability values

Asset Management/Property/Land: The new works are likely to be on land that Arun DC leases from the Crown.

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:
 To enable a partner organisation scheme to go forward, reducing flood risk to around 200 properties.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Equality Impact Assessment

Engineering Services Annual Review 2020 - [Agenda for Cabinet on Monday 19th October 2020, 5.00 pm - Arun District Council](#) – Item 9