



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**to
COUNCIL
20 DECEMBER 2018**

**PROPOSED FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME AT BRICKHOUSE FARM,
MALDON**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an overview of a flood alleviation scheme proposed in Brickhouse Farm, Maldon and seek approval in principle for the scheme to be constructed on Council owned land.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That Members support the principle of the flood alleviation scheme;
- (ii) that the use of Council's land at Brickhouse Farm Maldon for the flood alleviation scheme, be agreed.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 A report was presented to Members in November 2016 outlining the proposal to develop a flood alleviation scheme in land within Brickhouse Farm, Maldon which is Council owned land.
- 3.2 The scheme involved introducing a detention basis to collect flood waters in the current position of the allotments managed by Maldon Town Council. This meant the repositioning the allotments on site or re-siting them at an alternative location nearby.
- 3.3 Members were opposed to this arrangement and requested that an alternative solution be sought without the necessity to disrupt the allotments.
- 3.4 On this basis Essex County Council have produced a new outline proposal and technical note which is detailed in **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.5 The proposal includes a new highway drainage system along the length of Marlow Close with a diversionary element to a newly formed detention basin located in Brickhouse Farm. The new location is where the Silver Birch trees are currently meaning removal of these trees replacing with a supplementary planting scheme to be agreed with Maldon District Council.

- 3.6 The scheme will also include the movement of the children's play area approximately 10 meters to the north of the current play site. As part of the scheme there will be scope for improvements to the play site i.e. new or additional equipment to offset the temporary disruption. The footpath / cycle way remains as is today.
- 3.7 The outfall for the proposal will be piped beneath a 5m wide strip between the allotments and the rear gardens of Mariners Way taking the water into the existing surface water system on Mariners Way.
- 3.8 The new proposal will reduce flood depths to 174 local properties and move 21 residential properties into a lower flood risk band. Furthermore, the new proposal will not displace the existing allotments adjacent to the site, making it a more viable option.
- 3.9 The delivery cost of the scheme will be £722,000, comprised of funding from the Environment Agencies Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) and a contribution from the Council for use of the land.
- 3.10 Maintenance arrangements are being reviewed but likely to fall to Essex County Council Highways for the highway drainage section through Marlow Close and the remaining diversionary element and detention basin, if approved, the responsibility of Maldon District Council.
- 3.11 Discussions are underway with officers with regards to maintenance responsibilities and early indications are that the proposal will require a similar maintenance regime to that of the current open space regime. Therefore the impact will be minimal.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The proposed scheme will provide better flood protection to residents without the disruption to the allotments. Whilst there will be a loss of amenity with the removal of the silver birch trees a new planting scheme will provide an enhancement to the area. If developed as proposed the scheme will be fully funded by the Environment Agency and Essex County Council, with Maldon District Council providing the land use at Brickhouse Farm and undertaking minimal maintenance going forward. There will be some disruption to the play site whilst the area is relocated and to park users during construction. However, these short term impacts are outweighed by the longer term benefits to local residents of the scheme and any improvement made to the open space and play site as a result.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOAL

- 5.1 The proposal contributes to the Corporate Goal of Protecting and Shaping the District by delivering the key corporate activity of working with partners to seek funding to secure flood relief projects for identified surface flooding risk areas in District.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Working with key partners and allowing a flood alleviation scheme to be delivered within Council owned land provides a real benefit to customers who are currently at risk of flooding. There will be a short term adverse impact on current users of the site which can be effectively managed through careful planning and dialogue.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Flooding has a greater impact on the more vulnerable groups in society who are less able to cope with the disruption caused and are at greater risk to their health and safety.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The risk to the Council is the loss of the open space during spells of heavy rainfall and customer dissatisfaction as a result. However, the impact to the area whilst the Scheme is operational is short lived and if balanced against the benefits of protecting residents from flooding in the long term outweighs the short term impact.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – By allowing the Scheme to be constructed on Council owned land there is a risk of maintenance costs once the scheme has been commissioned. However, as maintenance will not be dissimilar to what is undertaken at the moment the risk will be negligible.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – The Scheme will have a beneficial impact on the Environment.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to:

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