

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 09 September 2019
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Llanmaes Flood Alleviation Scheme
Purpose of Report:	To seek Cabinet approval to commence land negotiations and acquisition as part of the Llanmaes flood alleviation scheme
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Ward Members to be consulted Accountant Environment and Housing Services Operational Manager, Accountancy Operational Manager, Property Legal Services (Committee Reports)
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme encompasses engineering works to reduce the risk of flooding to various properties within the village of Llanmaes to the South West of Cowbridge. • An attenuation structure on land South East of the village which forms part of the scheme has already been constructed as part of the Welsh Government's Northern Access Road (NAR) project and is now fully operational. • The Council appointed the Welsh Government's consultant for the NAR to carry out design works and modelling for the Llanmaes Village Flood Risk Management Scheme. The preferred scheme design currently comprises highway works and several flood storage bunds. • The consultant has identified an "optimisation" of the preferred scheme to reduce overall construction costs. This involves an increase in the flood bund capacity and the introduction of a swale feature. Any land impacted will subject to appropriate negotiations. • Subject to NRW approval of the final design and all other necessary consents and permissions it is anticipated that the construction phase will be able to commence this financial year. • Final funding approval is subject to a formal grant application to Welsh Government. 	

Recommendation

1. That the Cabinet note the contents of the report and considers in conjunction with the associated report in Part II of this agenda.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To apprise Cabinet of the issues.

1. Background

- 1.1 The scheme encompasses the village of Llanmaes some 3.5 miles to the South West of Cowbridge
- 1.2 The surface water catchment has been changed and therefore discharges quickly from fields into the village causing flooding.
- 1.3 A Project Appraisal Report (PAR) to identify and develop a preferred scheme option was completed by consultants in 2012. However, a review of the hydraulic modelling identified the need for additional storage capacity and a re-appraisal was undertaken.
- 1.4 A new preferred scheme option was subsequently identified with an attenuation structure on land South East of the village. It was necessary to coordinate the delivery of this scheme with the Welsh Government's Northern Access Road (NAR).
- 1.5 The Council subsequently appointed the Welsh Government's consultant for the NAR to carry out the wider design works and modelling for the Llanmaes Village Flood Risk Management Scheme.
- 1.6 The main attenuation structure and downstream culverts were completed by Welsh Government's contractor and was fully operational by the end of March 2019.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The modelling of the catchment was completed earlier in the calendar year which allowed detailed design on the main flood alleviation works in Llanmaes village to commence.

- 2.2 The preferred scheme design within the village currently comprises significant highway works. The scheme design also incorporates the provision of several flood storage bunds to capture and store rainfall.
- 2.3 The consultant has recently identified an “optimisation” of this preferred scheme, which requires an increase in the flood storage capacity and the introduction of a swale feature to reduce highway works.
- 2.4 Any land impacted will be subject to appropriate negotiations which are anticipated to commence in the Autumn and take some 12 weeks.
- 2.5 Further liaison is now required with NRW to obtain approval for the final design. Subject to obtaining NRW approval and all other necessary consents and permissions it is anticipated that the construction phase will be able to commence this financial year.
- 2.6 Final funding approval for the construction phase works are subject to a formal grant application to Welsh Government.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The proposals in this report will enable the Council to continue to work towards the Well-being Outcome W02, An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Wales and in particular contribute towards the Council's objective O4 of promoting sustainable development and protecting our environment.
- 3.2 The implementation of flood alleviation schemes contributes to the prevention agenda by reducing the likelihood of flooding incidents in specific locations / properties and reducing risk of harm to residents. It also balances short-term needs to provide immediate protection to life and property whilst contributing to the longer term well-being of individuals and families within a community.
- 3.3 The scheme outlined in this report evidences the Well-being of Future Generations Act and its Five Ways of Working by ensuring that through good design and prioritising resources life in the Vale is improved over the longer term for residents and visitors to the area. The preventative treatments proposed assist in reducing flooding risk are designed not to cause detriment to others.
- 3.4 The process of developing this scheme has involved communication with the local community and other stakeholders such as National Resources Wales delivering on the involvement agenda.
- 3.5 The Well-being objectives identified above are considered to be fully compatible with the Council's corporate well-being goals and objectives.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1 The Welsh Government has already grant funded 85% of the construction costs for the main flood storage area constructed as part of the NAR scheme.
- 4.2 The budget for the detailed design is provided by Welsh Government grant with 15% match funding from the Councils capital funds.
- 4.3 The council will use its own internal capital funds and resources to initially progress the necessary land negotiations for this project.
- 4.4 Funding for the construction phase works are subject to a future grant application to Welsh Government upon completion of procurement phase.

Employment

- 4.5 Consultants have been commissioned to undertake the design works and modelling on this project.
- 4.6 The project management of this flood alleviation scheme is currently being carried out in-house.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.7 The Council will be required to ensure that it there is compliance with all terms and conditions attached to WG grant funding.
- 4.8 By virtue of section 165(5) of the Water Resources Act 1991, NRW may enter into an agreement with the Council authorising it to undertake works to a main river.
- 4.9 The Environment team will continue to liaise with the Council's Legal team on all legal matters.

5. Background Papers

None.