

# CABINET

## Grant assisted alleviation of shingle migration and flooding, Teal Bay, Morecambe.

Cabinet, 23 July 2013

### Report of Head of Regeneration and Planning

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To highlight the problems with the Bare Beck outfall at Scalestones Point in Morecambe and to inform Members of a potential offer of grant funding from the Environment Agency to help rectify the situation and reduce the risk of flooding for nearby properties.			
Key Decision	X	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June		
This report is public			

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF Cllr Janice Hanson.

- (1) That subject to receiving an offer of grant from the Environment Agency the Head of Regeneration & Planning be given delegated authority to accept the offer in order to fund the works as described, subject to agreement with the Head of Resources and there being no further impact on City Council resources than those set out in this report.
- (2) That, subject to receipt of the grant, approval is given to appoint suitably experienced local contractors to carry out the works, in accordance with the City Council's contract procedure rules.
- (3) That subject to (1) above, the Head of Resources be given delegated authority to update the General Fund Revenue and Capital Budgets accordingly, to allow the works to progress.

#### 1.0 Introduction

The section of coastal defences abutting the A5105 to the east of Scalestones Point, Morecambe, comprises a sloping concrete revetment that has been protected by two forms of new construction. Across the eastern half of the frontage the wall has been protected by a rock armour revetment, which terminates in a rock groyne adjacent to the VVV Leisure complex. On the western part of the frontage a shingle beach has been imported to reinforce the defence. This continues up to the Scalestones Point

rock groyne.



Towards the eastern end of the rock armour a 1.2m diameter land drainage discharge, which drains the golf course and housing developments to the rear of Happy Mount Park, has been extended through the rock armour and terminates at the toe of the rock revetment.

### **Problem Definition**

The shingle beach on the western part of frontage is mobile with the drift taking place from west to east. Since the recharge took place in 2008, the shingle has migrated easterly across the foreshore in front of the main revetment, eventually ending up in front of the outfall where it has blocked the flap valves preventing them from opening (see photo)

This causes flooding along the length of the open ditch initially affecting the golf club and then extending into the housing area to the rear of Happy Mount Park. Over the last few months the shingle build up in front of the outfall has been periodically removed by excavation. It has not always been possible to act quickly due to the difficulty of current access arrangements and availability of specialist contract plant.

This behaviour is having two major effects:

- Over time more shingle is being moved into the armour section of frontage, requiring more frequent clearance from in front of the outfall to maintain drainage and prevent backing up.
- Shingle is being lost from the westerly section of frontage reducing the standard of protection being provided here.



Outfall when blocked with 8 tonnes of shingle after a spring/ rough high tide.



Bare Beck outfall after clearance.

## 2.0 Proposal Details

Following discussions between LCC Engineers and specialist consultants (Coastal Engineering UK. Ltd) remedial measures have been identified. This will make adjustments to the rock armouring including a small terminal groyne (breakwater/wall) which will minimise the movement of the shingle. The works are also designed to allow easy access for maintenance if minor residual problems occur.

The works will be carried out within the footprint of the working area of the original coast protection works minimising impact on the bay.

The majority of the estimated £72,000 cost will be met by Grant aid from DEFRA, issued through the Environment Agency (EA). Officer time to procure and supervise the project is estimated to be circa. £3,500 of which 20% must be funded by the City Council. This element is in-eligible for FCPGiA (Flood and Coast Protection Grant in Aid) as it is deemed to be included within other Central Government annual finance to the authority associated with our Coast Protection Act Responsibilities.

Officers are still waiting for a formal offer of grant from the Environment Agency however, approval is being sought from Cabinet in advance of this due to the tight timescales for completion of the scheme. It is estimated the works will take no longer than 6-8 weeks to complete but Natural England have set a strict deadline of 1<sup>st</sup>

October 2013 by which the beach must be vacated to allow birds to roost for the winter without disruption.

If no offer of grant is received from the EA the works will not be undertaken.

### 3.0 Details of Consultation

These works are within the footprint and working area of the existing coast protection structures therefore Maritime Management Organisation licence exemption and Natural England assent to exemption from section 28 of the Environmental Protection Act have been secured.

There is no significant highway impact and no interruption to access or amenity therefore no public consultation is required.

(Extensive consultation was carried out for the existing arrangement of Sea Defence and Coast Protection measures in 1989 These works are maintenance of that major construction project.)

### 4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

	<b>Option 1:</b> Do Nothing	<b>Option 2:</b> Continue clearing when necessary	<b>Option 3:</b> Works as described above, carried out in the next 6 – 8 weeks.
Advantages	None.	None.	Risk significantly reduced and ease of maintenance ensured
Disadvantages	A significant number of houses and Morecambe Golf Course at risk of flooding.	Potential to flood as option one. None grant aided cost of circa. £1k for every call out after spring tides and storms. Accessibility at some tide states can delay prompt action increasing risk.	None.
Risks	Negative public image and potential for substantial financial claims from flooded householders and the Golf Club.	Poor public perception. Protracted antagonism of Golf Club (our Tenant).	Grant approval delay, would push works to next summer due to environmental regulation, which would incur additional non grant aided clearance costs.

### 5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

5.1 Option 3.

### 6.0 Conclusion

6.1 There is an on going risk of flooding and financial liability whilst the situation

remains un-controlled. Major works would trigger environmental implications which would generate major environmental impact assessment with disproportionate costs and delays. The Option 3 provides a solution with minimal impact and cost which will minimise the problem as well as ensuring the future management of any residual problems.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- Health and Wellbeing - minimising the risk of flooding.
- Clean, Green and Safe Places – maintaining standards of flood protection.

In addition,

- Manage the council's resources efficiently and effectively

#### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

No Major Implications

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.**

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If the works are approved, and a grant offer is forthcoming from the EA, the General Fund Capital Programme would need to be updated to include the additional expenditure and associated grant funding, which is expected to be in the region of £70,000, and also the ineligible element of staff time recharges that must be funded by the City Council estimated at £700-£1,000. This would create an additional cost for the Council within the Capital Programme but at the same time eases the burden on the Sea Defence revenue budget due to the anticipated reduction in the numbers of call outs after high tides and storms (in order to clear the blocked outfall)

All other costs are eligible for and can be fully funded by the EA grant based on the standard terms and conditions of the FCPGiA available on the EA website, aside from the small percentage of staff time charges which are considered to be immaterial. If on receipt of a formal offer from the EA there were additional conditions attached to the grant, officers would need to review the implications of these for the City Council and determine whether or not the scheme was still viable and whether further Cabinet approval was needed prior to proceeding.

Due to the short duration of the scheme itself (6-8 weeks) it is anticipated that there will be one claim submitted to the EA, either at the start of the scheme or upon completion.

If the works are not approved, or if the EA choose not to allocate any grant towards the scheme, it is anticipated that revenue costs will increase due to the number of call outs and an indication that contractor prices will also increase if it becomes a regular occurrence. Since August 2012 there have been seven callouts. There is also a risk that if accessibility issues prevent the outfall from being cleared in time, flooding could occur in the nearby

properties resulting in complaints and potential compensation claims from residents and businesses e.g. Morecambe Golf Club. In this instance the decision on whether or not to carry out the works would need to be picked up as part of the annual budget process.

#### **OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Human Resources:**

None

**Information Services:**

None

**Property:**

None

**Open Spaces:**

None

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

#### **MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no observations to make on this report.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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