

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**14 September 2011**

### **Flood Protection Update**

#### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

- 1.1 To provide an update on flood risk management progress since last reviewed by the committee in January 2010.

#### **2. Summary of the Issue**

- 2.1 During the period, significant progress has been made. Major flood mitigation schemes have been constructed and various studies have been undertaken. A successful grant aid application was made for property level flood protection measures in the Whaddon area and a further funding application is under consideration for a scheme in the Charlton Kings / Hearne Brook catchment.

#### **3. Summary of evidence/information**

##### **3.1 Schemes constructed during the period**

- Warden Hill Flood Relief Works
  - Defra Grant Aid funded – Total Award £820k
  - Partnership funding (Glos County £50k; CBC £50k)
  - Substantially completed August 2011
  - Providing an improved standard of flood protection to approximately 130 properties
- Prestbury Flood Alleviation Scheme
  - An EA scheme funded in partnership with the County Council and CBC
  - Construction costs circa £600k; CBC and GCC contributing £100k each
  - Substantially completed August 2011
  - Providing an improved standard of protection to nearly 60 properties

##### **3.2 Studies undertaken**

- Hearne Brook Catchment Study
  - Study was Defra grant aid funded – Awarded £59k
  - Halcrow Group Ltd commissioned
  - Option appraisal and cost benefit analysis submitted to EA in August 2011
  - The EA are now considering including this scheme in their Medium Term Plan making it eligible for grant aid funding.
- Cheltenham Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP)

- A County driven project (with Defra funding)
- A SWMP is a framework to help local partners with responsibility for surface water and drainage to work together to understand the causes of surface water flooding and agree the most cost effective way to manage surface water flood risk in the area.
- Following competitive tendering, Halcrow were commissioned by the County to undertake the study in association with the local partners forming the steering group:
  - Glos County
  - CBC
  - STW
  - EA
  - Halcrow and sub consultants
- During the SWMP process, the following areas were identified for detailed assessment:
  - Whaddon, Lynworth and Prestbury
  - Balcarras Road / East End Road
  - Sandy Lane and Pilley
  - Tivoli and The Park
- A draft SWMP including an “Implementation and Action Plan” is due out in October of this year. It will provide an overview of flood risk and an action plan for each of the detailed assessment areas.

### 3.3 Property Level Flood Protection (PLFP) – Whaddon Area

A successful grant aid application for PLFP was made for 24 properties in the Whaddon area of Cheltenham and an award of £102,200 was made by Defra in May of this year. Consultants Pell Frishmann (Exeter office) have been commissioned to project manage the required property survey works and the production of reports for each property detailing the proposed protection measures. Subsequent to this, a competitive tendering process will be undertaken for the implementation phase. Work is programmed for completion this financial year.

### 3.4 General Watercourse Maintenance and Improvements (2011/2012)

Continues with the annual budget of £15k and the balance of the £90k enhanced maintenance budget set for the 3 year period 09/10 to 11/12.

---

<b>Background Papers</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Geoff Beer, Principal Engineer, 01242 774984, <a href="mailto:geoff.beer@cheltenham.gov.uk">geoff.beer@cheltenham.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountability</b>	Cllr John Rawson Cabinet Member Built Environment
<b>Scrutiny Function</b>	Environment