

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**29 February 2012**

### **Flood Protection Update**

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

- 1.1 To provide an update on flood risk management activities since last reviewed by the committee in September 2011.

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

- 2.1 During the period, further good progress has been made. The major Warden Hill flood relief project is complete and the Whaddon Property Level Flood Protection works are in progress. The Environment Agency has made indicative funding allocations for further work in the Charlton Kings/Hearne Brook catchment. The Cheltenham Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) undertaken in partnership with the County Council has been completed and the report released. The report presents a number of action plans to address the various surface water flooding problems, one of which being the Whaddon, Lynworth and Prestbury Action Plan for which the County Council has also been successful in obtaining an indicative funding allocation.

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

##### **3.1 Schemes completed since the last update:**

- 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
  - Approximate final out-turn figure; £700,000 (incl. design, construction, supervision and contract administration)
- 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
- 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.

- 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
- The final SWMP including an “Implementation and Action Plan” was issued in December 2011. It provides an overview of flood risk and an action plan for each of the detailed assessment areas.
- The County Council has been awarded an indicative grant aid allocation of £1.398 million for the Whaddon, Lynworth and Prestbury action plan. Construction works are currently programmed for the year 2014/2015.

### 3.2 Schemes in progress:

- Hearne Brook Flood Relief Works
  - Indicative funding award: £220k
  - Anticipated expenditure 2013/2014
  - £50k brought forward to 2011/2012 for design in advance, topographical surveys, ground investigations and the planning process (incl. consultation).
- Whaddon Property Level Flood Protection
  - £102,200 grant awarded to protect 24 properties in the Whaddon area.
  - Subsequently further increased by £9k to £111,200. Five additional properties added to the scheme.
  - Contract tendered and awarded to UK Flood Barriers Ltd.
  - Installation of protection measures commenced 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Completion expected early March.

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

Ongoing outside bird-nesting season (1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> July). Most visible examples of recent channel clearance works being Wyman’s Brook (Windyridge Rd to main railway line) and Hatherley Brook (Merestones). Annual budget set at £45k for 2012/2013.

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<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