

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E2892

River Corridor Fund Capital Budget 2016-17 – Funding Allocation

Decision maker/s	Cllr Martin Veal, Cabinet Member for Community Services Cllr Liz Richardson, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing
The Issue	<p>Within the Council Budget approved on 16th February 2016, a capital fund of £150,000 was provisionally allocated for the River Corridor Fund 2016-17.</p> <p>In order to bring forward the River Corridor Fund it is necessary to draw down against the allocated £150,000 capital funding.</p>
Decision Date	8th October 2016
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Members agree that £80,000 of the provisional allocation of £150,000 within the 2016/17 capital programme be allocated to three specific river corridor projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Up to £10,000 for a feasibility/viability assessment for mooring Investment on Council owned land, including Pulteney Moorings;b. £50,000 on Strategic Flooding Project: to provide essential partner match funding towards Environment Agency Strategic Outline Business Case for major repair of Twerton gates (maintain current standard) and explore and implement improvement options at Pulteney gate; andc. £20,000 on a Bat Habitat Strategy for River Corridor Development Sites (Bath Enterprise Area: Bath Quays).
Rationale for decision	<p>The recommendation for the funding allocation has been determined through consultation with key external stakeholders including the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Canal & River Trust and the members of the Council's Strategic River Group.</p>
Financial and budget implications	<p>Within the Council Budget approved at Full Council on 16th February 2016, a capital fund of £150,000 was provisionally allocated for the River Corridor Fund, funded through corporate supported borrowing. No additional B&NES Council funding is required over this amount for the proposals outlined.</p> <p>Officer resources in managing and delivering the work will be</p>

	<p>covered through existing revenue allocations made through the Council's annual service and resource planning process.</p> <p>Funding will be provided for Capital purposes only and Officers will ensure that all funding accords with the Local Government Capital Regulations and the Council's constitution, including procurement rules.</p> <p>No Revenue budget provisions exist for these projects and therefore the Council will not accept any revenue liabilities arising from any grant funded or supported project. This includes the Strategic Flooding Project which would be run by the Environment Agency not the Council.</p> <p>There is a small risk of revenue reversion on these projects. The risk of revenue reversion of the £50,000 would apply should the Environment Agency not take forward a project for delivery. In relation to the £10,000 moorings investment, viability/feasibility work is required in advance of further capital investment and in relation to the bat habitat strategy revenue reversion risk relates to the river corridor sites not being advanced. Officers consider these to be low risk, particularly as the EA have confirmed commitment to the Strategic Flooding project; the bat habitat project supports development at Bath Quays and in the Enterprise Area which is currently being taken forward.</p>
<p>Issues considered (these are covered in more detail in the report)</p>	<p>Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property</p>
<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer</p>
<p>How consultation was carried out</p>	<p>Addressing flood risk is a key action within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which is adopted by the Council as part of the Draft Placemaking Plan.</p> <p>An introductory workshop with stakeholders was held on 15 October 2014 to seek initial views and merits of each option which then contributed to a report identifying preferred options. A follow up drop in surgery was held on 11 June 2015 to update local organisations and interest groups on progress so far and to invite comments on these more detailed preferred options. The project team also briefed the Planning, Housing & Development Scrutiny panel on 20 July 2015. The feedback from these events informed the final Options Appraisal, which is an appendix to this report.</p> <p>During 2016, consultation was carried out through the Water Space Study events, including the <i>Bristol to Bath Festival of Nature 2016</i>, which had a River Avon theme; approx. 3000 members of the public took part in the Festival events in Bath, Keynsham and Saltford during June 2016. Flood risk and the closure of Pulteney Moorings</p>

	<p>were common themes raised.</p> <p>This allocation reflects priorities identified through the Strategic River Group, which includes membership from key partners – the Environment Agency, Canal & River Trust, Wessex Water, Natural England and the River Regeneration Trust. These key partners support the allocation of funding proposed.</p> <p>The monitoring officer and s151 Officer have had the opportunity to review and input into this report.</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>The allocated £150,000 could have been taken as a saving or reallocated to other projects. However, these options were discounted due to two overriding factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Corridor, Flood Risk and delivery of Bath Enterprise Area are corporate priorities set out in the Council’s Core Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy; • The Strategic River Group and B&NES Placemaking Plan have highlighted these projects as priority areas for a number of the key partners (including the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Canal & River Trust).
<p>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision, including any dispensation granted:</p>	
<p>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</p>	
<p>Signatures of Decision Makers</p>	
<p>Date of Signature</p>	
<p>Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision</p>	