

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	25 JANUARY 2021	9

### BLACKPOOL ROAD NORTH PLAYING FIELDS DRAINAGE

#### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

#### SUMMARY

This report details the approved plan to replace the culverted drain at Blackpool Road North Playing Fields, St Anne's. The works will replace the existing culvert along the full length of the sports field which has partially collapsed in areas. These works are a requirement under riparian ownership responsibilities as set out by the Environment Agency (EA). An Increase in funding for the project was approved at the Tourism and Leisure Committee held 7<sup>th</sup> January 21.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### The committee is recommended:

- To approve an increase in the sum of £20,000 to the Blackpool Road North Playing Fields Drainage project within the Council's 2020/21 capital programme, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

##### Tourism and Leisure Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Resolved -To support the recommendation to the Finance and Democracy Committee for approval of a fully funded capital budget increase of £20,000 to proceed with the Blackpool Road North Playing Fields Drainage project within the Council's 2020/21 capital programme, to be met in full, from the Capital Investment Reserve;

To support the draw-down of £20,000, in addition to the £105,000 already approved, subject to the approval of the fully funded budget increase by the Finance and Democracy Committee, for the Blackpool Road North Playing Fields Drainage project.

To note the procurement route and support the award of the tender to Cleveland Land Services.

##### Tourism and Leisure Committee, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Resolved:

To support the capital bid of £105,000 for Blackpool Road North Playing Fields drainage

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

### REPORT

#### BACKGROUND

1. Blackpool Road North Playing Fields (BRNPF) has a culverted drain that runs the full length of the field along the southern boundary, originating at Blackpool Road North, heading towards the Hawthorns estate. Fylde Council are the riparian owners of this culverted (enclosed underground) watercourse and as such have the responsibility to “let water flow naturally” through the site. This drain at BRNPF is not part of a comprehensive field drainage system.
2. The current culverted drain, which is of a porous concrete construction, has degraded as a result of sulphate attack (where the naturally occurring sulphates in the ground water corrode the concrete pipe) and has collapsed in sections along the field. There is no remedial solution for this, and the drain must be replaced at an approximate length of 380m.
3. There are numerous concerns with the continuation of this culverted drain downstream, which passes through the lands of 3 riparian owners before outfall. However, the Technical Services team have worked with these riparian owners since the capital bid in January and established a way forward to remediate these issues. The outfall and subsequent watercourse have been de-silted by Blackpool Airport and the vegetation has been cut back. A partial collapse of the culvert and heavy silting has been identified on a private riparian owner’s land. The Technical services department have worked collaboratively with this riparian owner to rectify these issues without a lengthy enforcement procedure, which has not required the assistance of the Lead Local Flood Authority.
4. The remediation works carried out thus far have eased the restriction on the flow of water throughout the culvert.
5. There will be a requirement for all riparian owners of this watercourse to work collaboratively again to desilt the culvert after the works have been completed. However, due to the design of the replacement culvert, it is expected that silt will be captured at Blackpool Road in the future, where previously it passed downstream, silting the culvert and increasing the levels at the outfall.

#### SCHEME DETAIL

6. The existing culvert at Blackpool Road North Playing Fields will be replaced with a 450mm plastic twin wall pipe with perforations surrounded by stone to create a French drain and replaces the existing culvert’s construction of porous concrete. Two catch pit manholes will be installed to assist with future maintenance, and a 150mm lateral drain of French drain construction will intersect the pitches.

Table 1 Cost Plan

Summary of cost	£
<b>Construction contract</b>	<b>102,000</b>
<b>Ancillary and enabling works</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Contingencies @ 20%</b>	<b>20,800</b>
<b>Overall total for revised budget</b>	<b>125,000</b>

## PROCUREMENT

7. Through a previous procurement exercise for this project it was determined that the required works far exceeded the original budget. Using [The Council's Contracts Procedure Rules](#) as the basis for procurement compliance the Technical Services team in consultation with the Procurement Officer, chose to use the 'request for quotation' procedure, which is compliant for mid-range contracts up to the value of £100,000. Unfortunately, as the tender prices came in much higher, than the pre-tender estimate, this placed the contract into the category of a large contract. As a result, the tenders were pulled, the specification was re-evaluated and the works were re-tendered using the large contracts tender procedure as detailed below in paragraph 9.
8. This increase in cost, through consultation with the original tendering contractors has been attributed to several reasons. Material shortages due to the pandemic, and risk. The risk arising in part from the pandemic, placing uncertainty on labour and contract programme. However, the risk presented from difficult ground conditions, a high-water table, the scale of the required trench, and the potential need for extensive reinstatement works attributed high on the rationale for increased costs. The realisation of this by the Technical Services department led to the original tender being withdrawn and a re-evaluation of the works before retendering.
9. Officers from the Technical Services team along with the Council's Procurement Officer have led the second procurement process. The tender has followed a traditional procurement route, using a 2-stage restricted tender procedure using the CHEST procurement portal. Stage 1 requested expressions of interest and the completion of a selection questionnaire. This detailed the Council's mandatory requirements for a contract, Health and Safety requirements and requested 3 contract examples of similar works, which were to be evaluated in order to select preferred contractors for stage 2. There was much interest in the works, and this resulted in 15 compliant expressions of interest. From the 15 expressions of interest, 5 contractors were identified as suitable and were then invited to tender for the works. Following a robust stage 2 evaluation, Cleveland Land Services were selected as the preferred contractor, providing the most economically advantageous tender.
10. The works will be managed under an NEC 4 Engineering and Construction Short Contract.

## PROGRAMME

- Award of Contract From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 following F&D approval.
- Commence on Site From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 (Pending Contractor Availability)
- Completion June 2020

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The original budget for Blackpool Road Playing Fields Drainage in the approved capital programme for 2020/21 is £105,000. This was based on an estimate using known rates for similar works. Following the procurement exercise, the requirement to undertake some enabling works and an assessment of the likely risks the total project cost is estimated at £125,000 as detailed above in Table 1. As such a budget increase of £20,000 is requested to complete this project.

## CONCLUSION

12. The report requests a fully funded budget increase of £20,000 to enable the culvert replacement at Blackpool Road North Playing Fields.

## IMPLICATIONS

Finance	The report recommends to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval to a fully funded increase in the sum of £20,000 to the current scheme within the approved Capital Programme for 2020/21 in respect of the Blackpool Road North Playing Fields Drainage project, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve.
Legal	None
Community Safety	Removes collapsed sections of public use land and removes trip hazards.
Human Rights and Equalities	None.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	Reduces surface water flooding to the playing fields.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Blackpool Road North Playing Fields drainage capital bid	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Reports archive.

Attached documents.

Drawing TS 13025\_03 Existing site plan.

Drawing TS 13025\_04 Proposed site plan.