

FBC – Revenue Growth Bid 2022/23

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Scheme Title: Drainage / Flooding Resource

Description of Scheme:

1. Background

The Environment, Health and Housing Committee, at its meeting in November 2020, agreed that a member working group be established to review flood risk and surface water management. The committee then subsequently agreed the terms of reference, methodology and work plan for the review at its meeting in January 2021.

An information report was brought to committee in June 2021 on progress to date.

The member working group has met on several occasions since November 2020 taking evidence from several risk management authorities (RMA's) and other external organisations involved with flood risk management within Fylde Council's administrative boundary. The review also heard from residents impacted by flooding, community groups and undertook a borough wide survey of concerns and perceptions on flooding.

The responsibility for surface water management and its impacts rests with several bodies and organisations as flooding is no respecter of boundaries and responsibilities. A key objective of the review was to better understand the interface that exists between these different roles and to establish what the borough council can and should be doing in the future to help improve the situation and minimise the negative effects that flooding can have on residents and communities in Fylde.

The review covers the history and legislation of drainage, the roles of the RMA's along with the different statutory and enabling roles the borough council has on the subject. The working group identified several issues of concern. From this the report proposes a number of recommendations directed to the borough council, other RMA's and partnership groups for change. Central to this is the borough council taking on a greater role to act as community leader on flooding and surface water management in Fylde including adoption of natural flood management techniques.

In concluding its review of surface water and flooding management the Working Group have agreed a final report with 30 key recommendations to create climate resilient places, today's growth and infrastructure in tomorrow's climate and communities ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change.

Discussions have been held through the Economic Prosperity Board regarding management of surface water and risk management on the Fylde Coast and there has been a commitment of the three Fylde Coast authorities to work closer together on these issues.

2. Proposal

The final review of flood risk and surface water management was presented to the Environment Health and Housing Committee on the 14th October 2021.

Recommendation 3 of the working group states;

Fylde Council to consider increasing resources to be able to better investigate and resolve incidents of flooding concern, develop projects for addressing surface water management in the longer term and provide support to the Development Management service to help monitor and enforce compliance.

This will require the creation of two new full time permanent posts within the Technical Services team:

- Specialist Drainage Engineer
- High-grade Drainage Engineer Apprentice

3. Outcomes (including details of the broader benefits achieved - for example community or environmental benefit, health and safety compliance, or statutory obligations)

The working group consider the appointment of additional staffing resources is essential to achieving many of the remaining recommendations of the review for the borough council to deliver. In particular to:

- Act as community leader in addressing flooding and surface water management issues in Fylde
- Investigate, inspect and survey local flooding problems
- Work up projects, submitting funding bids and managing schemes to alleviate flooding and improve surface water management
- Assist with enforcement of surface water matters to ensure correct implementation of planning conditions
- Advise local landowners on flooding and surface water management issues
- Liaise with other risk management authorities over local issues

4. Contribution to corporate objectives (how does the proposal achieve or help deliver priorities within the Corporate Plan?)

Economy

- Support and promote appropriate development

Environment

- Enhance the natural environment
- Provide safe, clean and accessible coast and countryside facilities
- Provide coastal defences and drainage infrastructure to protect against flooding

Efficiency

- Champion and enhance the reputation of the council

Tourism

- Provide high quality leisure, tourism, arts, sports and recreation facilities
- Develop and promote unique destination points across the coast and countryside

The following table shows the estimated costs for the creation of the two new posts as set out in paragraph 2 above including all on-costs:

| Summary of revenue costs | £ |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 2022/23 | 79,000 |
| 2023/24 | 82,000 |
| 2024/25 | 85,000 |
| 2025/26 | 88,000 |

Any Other Information

There is growing concern as to the increased incidents of flooding occurring in Fylde, affecting both property and land. The concerns are that climate change is resulting in increased rainfall which needs to drain away and that more housing development in the borough is exacerbating the problem.

The majority of the borough is serviced by a combined surface water/foul drainage system which is under pressure at times of high rainfall. The majority of the system is historic and is managed/owned by United Utilities.

Fylde borough is low lying and the relatively flat topography means that water courses drain slowly.

The drainage of the Fylde is impacted by the tidal influence which daily inhibits surface water flow from the ditch system reaching the both the Ribble & Wyre rivers and ultimately the sea. Surface water is held back by tide controlled gates on most of the stream outlets.

There is concern that regular maintenance of the ditches/dykes in Fylde is insufficient and that weeds and debris impede proper water flow.

Lancashire County Council have undertaken a scrutiny review entitled [Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness in Lancashire](#). It is essential that any lessons learnt from this are fully embraced in the management of surface water in Fylde.