

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	10 JUNE 2021	5
BLACKPOOL ROAD NORTH PLAYING FIELDS DRAINAGE			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

This report requests additional funds to replace the existing surface water culvert along the full length of the sports field at Blackpool Road North which is collapsing. These works are a requirement under riparian ownership responsibilities as set out by the Environment Agency (EA). In addition, the Committee is asked to support the additional works to renovate the football pitches post culvert contract.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee is recommended:

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded increase in the sum of £40,000 to the Blackpool Road North Playing Fields Drainage scheme within the approved Capital Programme for 2021/22, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve;
2. To approve the draw-down of £40,000 to support the ongoing works at Blackpool Road North Playing Fields within the Council's 2021/22 capital programme, subject to the approval of the increase to the scheme by the Finance and Democracy Committee.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

[Finance and Democracy Committee 25th January 2021](#)

Resolved: 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.

[Tourism and Leisure Committee 7th January 2021](#)

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded increase in the sum of £20,000 to the Blackpool Road North Playing Fields Drainage scheme within the approved Capital Programme for 2020/21, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve;
2. To approve the draw-down of £20,000, in addition to the £105,000 already approved in the Council's 2020/21 capital programme, subject to the approval of the increase to the Blackpool Road North Playing Fields Drainage scheme by the Finance and Democracy Committee; and
3. To note the procurement route as detailed in the procurement section of this report and award the tender to Cleveland Land Services.
4. To note that additional work to prevent future ponding and waterlogging of the site is to be investigated as a matter of urgency and for any such work identified to be carried out concurrently with the main contract. If officers consider it appropriate, then consideration be given to using the expertise of the successful contractor by

negotiating a contract extension for such work provided this is financially favourable and in accordance with the Council's procurement guidelines. The capital implications of extra work over and above the present budget is to be costed and agreed by the Finance and Democracy Committee

[Tourism and Leisure Committee 9th 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 simple 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 Enterprise Zone, 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 division 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 remedial works carried out prior to the contract works have eased the restriction on the flow of water throughout the culvert but issues still remain.
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.
6. The Tourism and Leisure Committee supported an increase to the budget on the 25th January in order to award the contract circa £102k with enabling works at £2k and a contingency of £21k. The contingency in the main was to cover the real risk that [dewatering](#) may be required.
7. The Tourism and Leisure Committee requested an additional recommendation for the report presented 25th January 2021, and read; *To note that additional work to prevent future ponding and waterlogging of the site is to be investigated as a matter of urgency and for any such work identified to be carried out concurrently with the main contract. If officers consider it appropriate, then consideration be given to using the expertise of the successful contractor by negotiating a contract extension for such work provided this is financially favourable and in accordance with the Council's procurement guidelines. The capital implications of extra work over and*

above the present budget is to be costed and agreed by the Finance and Democracy Committee.

8. As part of the additional recommendation above, a supplementary lateral drain was added to the scheme, which was to be met from contingency funds. In addition, the remediation or 'making good' part of the works specifically relating to the football pitches where the lateral drains are to be dug has been upgraded from seeding the bare ground to laying turf, both these items are at a total cost of £8k.
9. The risk of dewatering was realised early in the contract and at a cost of £21k works are proceeding at a much slower pace due to the dewatering.
10. As a consequence of the dewatering, a new culvert route needed to be dug in order to remove the risk of dewatering along the boundary fence with neighbouring property's, to dewater in this area may have had damaging consequences to the fence line and private back gardens causing settlement. The new culvert route, parallel to the existing is now several metres away from the boundary fence line and as such has removed any risk to private property. However, the moving of the culvert demands the requirement of new manholes as the existing manholes now cannot be used.

SUMMARY

11. The culvert contract is ongoing and requires increased funds to complete the works. In addition, to meet the Committee request highlighted in item 7 a budget is required in order to carry out these works post culvert contact, these field remediation works will be defined closer to the time.

Table 1 cost plan

Summary of cost	£
Existing budget	125,000
Construction works inc additional lateral drain	25,000
Sports pitch renovation estimate	15,000
Overall total revised budget	165,000

PROGRAMME

12. The works continue to be managed under an NEC 4 Engineering and Construction Short Contract.

- Commencement on Site April 2021
- Completion July 2021
- Pitch renovations August 2021

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The existing capital programme includes provision of £125,000 split across 2020/21 and 2021/22 for the delivery of drainage works at Blackpool North Playing Fields. A budget increase, fully funded from the capital investment reserve, is requested to complete this project and deliver the sports field remediation works. This increase is £40,000.

CONCLUSION

14. The report proposes a recommendation to the Finance and Democracy Committee for approval of an increase in the cost of the scheme in the sum of £40,000, this is to enable the completion of the culvert replacement at Blackpool Road North Playing Fields and carry out sports pitch renovations as requested by the Tourism and Leisure Committee.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance	The report requests that the Tourism and Leisure Committee recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded increase in the sum of £40,000 in respect of the Blackpool Road North Playing Fields Drainage scheme and proposed pitch remediation works, within the Council's approved Capital Programme for 2021/22, to be met in full from the Capital Investment Reserve; approval to the drawdown of the additional funding, subject to approval to the increase to the scheme by the Finance and Democracy Committee; and approval to delegate the award of the sports field renovations, subject to Fylde Council procurement regulations to the Head of Technical Services with all works totalling £165,000.
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
Jon Rutter	Jon.rutter@fylde.gov.uk	27 th May 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Blackpool Road North Playing Fields drainage capital bid	9 th January 2020	Reports archive.
Blackpool Road North Playing Fields report to T+L	7 th January 2021	Reports archive.
Blackpool Road North Playing Fields report to F+D	25 th January 2021	Reports archive.