

**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place**

Report to:	<b>Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>20 September 2021</b>
Subject:	<b>Development Fund - Drainage Investigations and Flood Repairs</b>

**Summary:**

This report informs the Committee of progress to date with the programme of work for the Development Fund for Drainage Investigations and Flood Repairs. The Governance Document and initial Programme of Works were approved by the Executive on 2 February 2021.

**Actions Required:**

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the progress with the Development Fund for Drainage Investigations and Flood Repairs.

## **1. Background**

Funding to the value of £2.2 million (capital £2m, revenue £200k) has been made available to address drainage and flooding issues in Lincolnshire. A programme of works has been developed in collaboration between the Floods Team and Highways to be delivered over financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22 with overall spend to be completed by March 2022.

This report provides a progress update with the Development Fund – Drainage Investigations and Flood Repairs since last reported to committee in February 2021. Further updates on programme delivery and learning will be provided to future meetings of the committee leading to its conclusion in March 2022.

### **Programme delivery**

The following provides the latest position on delivery of drainage investigations and flood repairs through the development fund programme. These works are being delivered alongside the wider highways' drainage programme, and other key flood related activities, which overall provide a more extensive picture of the range of works in progress.

Through the approved governance structure (see Appendix A) the Programme Board have supported both the Floods Team and Highways Teams, co-ordinated through the Programme Delivery Board, to manage the programme of work to deliver efficiencies and greatest benefit to communities within the allocated budget. By its very nature drainage works can be complex with outcomes often influenced by detailed investigation which can dramatically change the scope of scheme proposals. In some circumstances local issues, following investigation, have been resolved through minor works by the local highways teams and was not therefore appropriate to take forward as part of this programme. However, this has then allowed more flexibility in the budget to allocate resource to areas that require more in-depth work and will ultimately allow a greater level of protection to communities through an enhanced scheme.

The current works programme can be found in Appendix B of this report. This spreadsheet also details those schemes completed during the first financial year of the programme – a total of seven schemes with a combined value of £410,000, whilst in addition to this a contribution of £150,000 was made towards supporting the work associated with the delivery of the Steeping Action Plan following the flooding event which affected this area in June 2019. The remaining schemes on the spreadsheet detail those projects identified to be considered during the current financial year. This is a varied programme which includes investigation work and the proposed delivery of more substantial drainage and flooding schemes to address long standing issues across the county. As indicated above it should be noted that this programme compliments a full and active programme of drainage works taking place in the county being delivered through the Highways asset teams.

There are currently (as of September 2021) 21 schemes identified as part of the programme to be delivered through Highways Asset teams. These works will be delivered by the Term Maintenance contractor, Balfour Beatty with the majority of works to commence in August/September 2021. The larger and more complex schemes, identified on the spreadsheet as being delivered by Technical Services Partnership (TSP), are in the stages of detailed design and costing as well as legal permissions being finalised and are set to be delivered by March 2022, although this situation is being closely monitored due to the complexities in delivering a combination of solutions to bring wider benefits and longer-term protection than was originally envisaged.

### **Next steps**

The Development Fund programme for Drainage Investigations and flood repairs is currently on track to deliver the allocated budget of £2.2million of works by March 2022 which will bring a better understanding of long-standing complex drainage issues through detailed investigation work and in many cases physical solutions which will address specific issues or bring long term benefits to the wider community.

The successful working across service areas between the floods and highways teams as part of this programme of work has highlighted the benefits of co-ordinating a wider drainage and flood risk programme across the county. There is a desire amongst those involved to continue with such a programme and to that end a business case is to be developed to seek future funding for the continuation of this programme from April 2022.

The Programme Delivery Board is already giving consideration to a future programme of work and key areas that would benefit from this.

## **2. Conclusion**

Works originating from the Development Fund – Drainage Investigations and Flood Repairs have already delivered benefits to areas in the County and with a full programme of work for the current financial year 2021/22 further improvements and benefits will be realised where drainage and flooding issues currently exist.

Working within the governance structure, this has allowed officers to continue to carry out the necessary investigations and design works for the schemes identified within the attached programme and have the flexibility to manage the programme to deliver greatest benefit. Further reporting to committee between now and conclusion of the programme in March 2022 will continue as well as updates in any future programmes that can be taken forward into future years.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

The programme for the Development Fund - Drainage Investigations and Flood Repairs will be monitored throughout its duration as per the governance document attached

## **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Development Fund - Drainage Investigations and Flood Repairs Governance Structure
Appendix B	Development Fund - Drainage Investigations and Flood Repairs - Programme of work 2021/22

## **5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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