

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 19 March 2009

Subject: Government Grant Scheme for Property
Flood Protection and Resilience

Report of: Executive Director of Environmental Services

Contact officer: Jon Worthington 705232

Purpose / summary: To inform members of the application recently made for government grant funding to improve the flood resilience of properties at risk.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:

Recommendation / decision: To endorse the bid for funding.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision.

The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 3 April 2009.

Risks / Implications:

Financial: No additional resources are needed.

Staffing:

Policy:

Equal Opportunities - Has a Yes

Diversity Impact Assessment

been conducted?

Wards affected:

Aspull, New Springs, Whelley, Ashton, Wigan West, Golborne and Lowton (West), Abram, Shevington.

Summary of reasons for report being closed in the public interest:

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

No.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

No.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **Yes ***

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	X		
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	X

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
		19 th March 2009	

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Martin Kimber

Date 19 February 2009

Commreps/Cabinet/2009/JPW/JP
19 February 2009

1. Background:

- 1.1 The government announced on 16 January 2009 the launch of a £5M national property level flood protection grant scheme that will help properties in areas with a high risk of flooding that do not benefit from community level defences.
- 1.2 The invitation for application for the first round, which is £2M of the total £5M, will close on 17 March. There will be a second round in August 2009.
- 1.3 There are eligibility criteria which need to be satisfied, which are:-
 - 1) The properties must be residential.
 - 2) Flood water must have entered the property at least once in the last 10 years or twice in the last 20 years.
 - 3) The scheme is not aimed to protect against sewer flooding, which is the responsibility of United Utilities.
 - 4) There must be no prospect of the area concerned benefitting from a community scheme within the foreseeable future.

2. Proposals:

- 2.1 The Drainage Engineer's have examined all the flooding records over recent years and have identified properties that meet the relevant criteria.
- 2.2 There are 39 properties in 8 wards of the Borough that are at the highest risk of flooding. These have been selected for inclusion in a grant application for the first round.
- 2.3 The Defra guidelines are recommending an allowance of £5000 per property, which in itself may not be adequate for some properties.
- 2.4 In view of the limited funds available nationwide, it is unlikely that this application will be fully funded.
- 2.5 There are a further 21 properties at slightly lesser risk of flooding and it is proposed that grant applications for these be submitted in the August round depending on the outcome of the first round application.
- 2.6 The residents have not been consulted, in order to avoid raising expectations, should the application be unsuccessful.

Alternative options considered and reason for the recommended option:

No alternative options have been considered.

3. Conclusions:

- 3.1 In view of the very short timescale between the recent receipt of information from the Environment Agency and the closing date, I have submitted a grant application to protect the interests of Wigan residents. I would ask that Members endorse the decision made.

Diversity Impact Assessment form

Section: Development Division – Environmental Services

Policy/Service Area: Engineering Consultancy

Person Completing Form: J P Worthington

Date: 12.2.09

Do any of the below groups suffer specific disadvantage (please indicate)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Race		√	Disability		√
Ethnicity		√	Gender		√
Age		√	Religion		√
Class		√	Sexual Orientation		√

Is there evidence of disadvantage or associated problems?

No

How was the information collected and/or who have you consulted with?

No consultation has taken place

Action Plan – *What specific actions are planned to tackle any disadvantage identified?*

Is the policy in line with current equality legislation and relevant codes of practice?

Timescale	Closing date for the application is 17/3/09
Responsibility	Environmental Services will work with the Environment Agency
Comments	

Are the actions specified included in any other documents/plans?

Departmental Service Plan	
Section/Team Plan	
Other (Specify)	

Date for further review