

North Yorkshire Council

Environment Executive Members

06 December 2024

Derwent Villages Flood Alleviation Scheme

Report of the Assistant Director – Highways and Infrastructure

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To request approval from the Corporate Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways and Transportation to:

- submit two funding applications totalling £350K to the available Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding to enable Derwent Villages Flood Alleviation scheme development through 2025/26, these are:
 - Project 1. Derwent £170k
 - Project 2. Kirkbymoorside £180k
- submit two funding applications totalling £480K to the available Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy funding to enable Derwent Villages Flood Alleviation scheme development through 2025/26, these are:
 - Project 1. Derwent £240k
 - Project 2. Kirkbymoorside £240k

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Flooding has occurred in Derwent Villages in 1986, 2000, 2002, 2007, 2010, 2015 and 2020. Approximately 120 properties have experienced or are at risk of both surface and fluvial flooding.
- 2.2 The villages have been grouped together, due to them sharing a pluvial risk of flooding and a general geography, with all the water ultimately being part of the Derwent Catchment. The Towns and villages are:
- Kirkbymoorside and Kirby Mills
 - Hovingham
 - Gilling East
 - Sinnington
 - Helmsley
 - Hackness
 - Thornton Le Dale
- 2.3 As a consequence, of the repeated flooding, the geography and the similar mechanisms, the locations have been grouped and prioritised as part of the Council's flood risk programme. This was originally approved by the Business and Environmental Services Executive Members for the former County Council in 2017.
- 2.4 A study commissioned by the Environment Agency in 2003 identified a number of actions for it to progress including reminding riparian owners of their responsibilities and provision of a flood warning. These actions have been completed, however, another action to consider a capital scheme has not progressed to date as a high-level cost benefit analysis has not been able to justify the cost of a traditional flood storage or defence system due to the relatively low number of properties at risk.

- 2.5 NYC has been able to deliver some lower cost property flood resilience in previous years through central government grant schemes following the significant flood events of 2015 and has secured some land management changes which anecdotally have been said by residents to have had a positive impact on surface water flood risk. Despite this work in the area, a number of properties remain at risk in larger scale flooding events.
- 2.6 In 2020, the former North Yorkshire County Council commissioned consultants WSP to provide an assessment of the flood risk and options for mitigation. Property level protection measures were proposed along with the consideration of some localised drainage modifications and catchment Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures.
- 2.7 Property flood resilience was the clear affordable option for the conurbations. There have also been opportunities for partnership working with the EA and local stakeholders to deliver complementary natural flood management works in the River Dove catchment.
- 2.8 Meetings were arranged with parish councils to make them aware of the content of the reports, as well as a planned week of public engagement, where the local community discussed options with officers. A high level of support was received for the progression of property level resilience, to act as a last line of defence for communities at high risk of flooding.

3.0 DERWENT VILLAGES PROJECT

- 3.1 Since 2020 the project was put on hold, to permit the delivery of the scheme in Malton, Norton and Old Malton to progress and due to Covid. There was also a hiatus due to the ending of the previous EA Framework. With the recent signing of the EA PFR (2024) Framework these installations can be completed should funding be agreed.
- 3.2 NYC has recently procured JBA consulting via direct award to survey the remaining properties as part of a wider exercise including the Dales Villages Project.

4.0 FUNDING SOURCES

- 4.1 It is estimated the total cost of PFR will be £1.65m. North Yorkshire would contribute £800k to the total, additional funding is proposed by this paper, to be sought via the Flood Defence Grant in Aid and The Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Levy Pot.

Flood Defence Grant in Aid.

- The Flood Defence Grant in Aid is the central government fund for managing flood risk in England and provides funding for the Environment Agency (EA) flood risk management studies and strategies along with local authority flood risk and coastal management studies and projects. North Yorkshire is eligible for the grant in aid to support the Derwent Villages Flood Alleviation scheme, these have been submitted as individual projects.

The Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) levy pot.

- RFCCs guide flood and coastal erosion risk management activities within their river catchments and along the coastline. Local authorities in an RFCC area pay a levy to the committee, which alongside the EA and other Risk Management Authorities they can draw from to enable flood works to be delivered across the region. North Yorkshire Council is eligible for the FCERM to support the Derwent Villages Flood Alleviation scheme. Table below shows the levy funding requested for each project.

Project title	Grant in Aid	Levy
P1. Derwent	£170k	£240k
P2. Kirkbymoorside	£180k	£240k

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Alternative options such as additional gullies, kerbs and new pipework were considered, however, due to the relatively small numbers of properties in each location which are impacted, the cost benefits required cannot be demonstrated. Property flood resilience is therefore the preferred option. Reports are available upon request.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The estimated total value of the scheme elements to be delivered by NYC is presently £1.65m. It is however important to stress that the scheme is essentially a package of works and this value is an outline estimate, some elements being subject to third party agreement, and is therefore not definitive at this point in time. For example, property flood protection uptake across the country is typically around 45%. In Malton the take up was very successful and at over 80% so full scheme contingency is required. Should NYC not be successful in obtaining the Grant in Aid, and Local Levy funding the Derwent Villages flood alleviation scheme will be reduced. There is also optimism bias applied to calculations at 40%.

6.2 There is presently £1,472,954.99 in the flood risk reserve allocated to various flood projects. From this value, £800k is allocated to the Derwent Villages Project as detailed above in section 4.1. It should be noted, if the cost of PFR is covered by the additional Grant in Aid funding and Local Levy, this will reduce the need for the NYC contribution which could be allocated to other flood projects.

Project title	Estimate total value of scheme	NYC Contribution	Grant in Aid	Levy
P1. Derwent			£170k	£240k
P2. Kirkbymoorside			£180k	£240k
Total	£1.65m	£800k	£350k	£480k

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from submission of the funding application. Grant terms are not available at the present time but when available will be reviewed by Legal Services should the application be successful. If any of the grant terms and conditions present an unacceptable risk for the Council, then the grant offer would be declined.

8.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The scheme benefits all those with protected characteristics by reducing the risk of surface and fluvial water flooding in the Derwent Villages and thereby the associated effects upon businesses, residential properties, the public health of the community living at flood risk and the associated economic growth of the area. An Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Form is included in Appendix A.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Flood mitigation offers positive benefits to resilience to future climate change projections. The proposals are anticipated to have a positive impact in response to climate change. A Climate Change Impact Assessment is included as Appendix B.

10.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Property Flood Resilience is offered to all eligible residents who meet the criteria, the identified properties have either flooded or been identified as high risk of flooding within the Environment Agency guidelines and the scheme will improve living conditions for those flooding has affected. The implementation of PFR (Property Flood Resilience) will offer peace of mind to residents that in adverse weather conditions their properties and themselves are protected. It is therefore considered appropriate to continue with the scheme as intended, with regular relevant liaison through the engagement channels established as part of the scheme.

11.0 RECOMMENDATION

11.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Director of Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways and Transportation:

- i. Authorise the submission of two applications for £350k to the Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding to enable scheme development during 2024/25 and 2025/26 these are:
 - Project 1. Derwent £170k
 - Project 2. Kirkbymoorside £180k
- ii. Authorise the submission of two funding applications totalling £480K for the available Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy funding to enable Derwent Villages Flood Alleviation scheme development through 2025/26, these are:
 - Project 1. Derwent £240k
 - Project 2. Kirkbymoorside £240k

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – EIA Screening Form

Appendix B – Climate Change Impact Assessment

Barrie Mason
Assistant Director – Highways and Infrastructure
Environment Directorate
County Hall
Northallerton

Report Author – Hannah Baker Lead Local Flood Authority Project Manager
Presenter of Report – Meirion Jones, Lead Local Flood Authority Team Leader.

Initial equality impact assessment screening form			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
Directorate	Environment		
Service area	Highways – Flood Risk Management		
Proposal being screened	Derwent Villages Flood Alleviation Scheme		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Hannah Baker		
What are you proposing to do?	Implement Property Flood Resilience to at risk properties to Kirkbymoorside, Sinnington, Gilling East, Thornton le Dale and Hovingham.		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	Properties have experienced flooding or have been identified as high risk of flooding.		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	Yes, the project will run for 2 to 3 years and will have a positive impact.		
Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics			
As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? 			
If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your directorate representative for advice if you are in any doubt.			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		No – positive impact	
Disability		No – positive impact	
Sex		No – positive impact	
Race		No – positive impact	
Sexual orientation		No – positive impact	
Gender reassignment		No – positive impact	
Religion or belief		No – positive impact	
Pregnancy or maternity		No – positive impact	
Marriage or civil partnership		No – positive impact	
People in rural areas		No – positive impact	
People on a low income		No – positive impact	

Appendix A

Carer (unpaid family or friend)		No – positive impact	
Are from the Armed Forces Community		No – positive impact	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (for example, disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (for example, partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full EIA:
Reason for decision	* The scheme benefits all those with protected characteristics by reducing the risk of surface water flooding in the Upper Dales and thereby the associated effects upon businesses, residential properties, the public health of the community living at flood risk and the associated economic growth of the area.		
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Barrie Mason		
Date	25/11/2024		

Initial Climate Change Impact Assessment (Form created August 2021)

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process. If you have any additional queries, which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Title of proposal	Derwent Villages Flood Alleviation Scheme
Brief description of proposal	Implement Property Flood Resilience to properties who have experienced flooding or identified as high-risk to Kirkbymoorside, Sinnington, Gilling East, Thornton le Dale and Hovingham. This initial climate change impact assessment is for all locations.
Directorate	Environment
Service area	Highways – Flood Risk Management
Lead officer	Hannah Baker
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	John Ward-Campbell

The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the drop-down list for each one.

Remember to think about the following;

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse

Appendix B

Environmental factor to consider	For the council	For the county	Overall
Greenhouse gas emissions	No effect on emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	Increases resilience	Increases resilience	Increases resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

Decision (Please tick one option)	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate:		Continue to full CCIA:	
Reason for decision	<p>*PFR will have a positive impact on properties with resilience to flooding which may result in reduced waste and potential increase of greenhouse emissions.</p> <p>*Waste from the implementation of PFR is one off and limited. Any waste will be removed by the contractor overseen by a North Yorkshire Council Project Manager.</p> <p>*Construction for Property Flood Resilience is one off and limited with no effect on greenhouse emissions and pollution.</p>			
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Barrie Mason			
Date	25/11/2024			