



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Growth and Development

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Place

DATE: 10th March 2022

PORTFOLIO/S

AFFECTED: Growth and Development

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

KEY DECISION: YES NO

SUBJECT: Funding of Flood defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) projects

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To seek the Executive Board's approval for the addition of Flood Defence Grant in Aid projects to the Capital programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

Approves the addition of the Flood Defence Grant in Aid projects to the Capital programme.

3. BACKGROUND

The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Investment Programme is a Defra capital investment plan to better protect homes and non-residential properties from flood risk and coastal erosion. The conditions of the Investment Programme are that overall schemes must attract at least 15% of partnership funding and deliver 10% efficiency saving on projects.

The funding from Defra for managing flood risk in England is known as 'Flood Defence Grant in Aid' (FDGiA). This funding from Defra is administered by the Environment Agency (EA). The amount of FDGiA available for a particular scheme is based on a set formula that takes into account the number of households protected against flood risk; the estimated value of damages being prevented; and the other benefits a particular project would deliver, such as environmental improvements.

Within Defra's FCERM 6 year programme (2021 to 2027), the Council has the following projects that have recently been approved for funding:

Project	Allocated FDGiA Grant (£)	Properties better protected against flood risk	Estimated total project cost (£)
Brecon Road Area Drainage Study, Blackburn	90,000	0	90,000
Waterfall Surface Water, Blackburn	150,000	26	150,000
Aqueduct Road Scheme, Blackburn	150,000	15	184,000
Quick win fund (Hope Street)	7,500	1	7,500

In addition to above, the Council also has an underspend of FDGiA grant amounting to £202,630 from the last FCERM programme cycle (2014 – 2020). Under the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) rules, as long as the grant is spent on capital projects the authority has flexibility for spend within the programme. It is proposed therefore that the underspend will be allocated to the following urgent drainage/flood improvement works:

Project	Grant Allocation (£)	Comments
Bury Fold Brook	14,000	Outstanding Landowner Compensation
Pottery Farm Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS)	10,000	2020/21 carry over scheme
Grimshaw Park FAS	3,000	2020/21 carry over scheme
Old Gates Drive FAS	56,000	Completion of 2020/21 scheme
Preston Old Road	65,000	Drainage Improvement Works
Corporation park	30,000	Flood and environment improvement works
Aqueduct Road Scheme	24,630	Contribution to above scheme due to increased scope of works

Please note that the above only shows the FDGiA allocation to each project and does not include any additional funding from other sources.

Any changes to the allocated projects will be reported via the Council's Executive Member for Growth and Development. Changes to the FCERM programme as detailed within this report will be resourced from within the programme, and as such there will be no additional impact on Council finances. The equality impacts of each project are considered and assessed at the scheme design stage.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The projects included will mitigate flood risk and better protect our residents from flooding. The projects identified accord with the Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 – 2027 Strategy. The council's primary purpose for this strategy is to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, the risk of flooding to human health and life, the environment, economic activity, infrastructure and cultural heritage arising from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses is minimised.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

All schemes proposed directly accord with the Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 – 2027 Strategy.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All flood risk management schemes are funded through EA governed FDGiA capital grant with no additional cost to the Council.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) designates Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) responsible for managing flood risk from 'local' sources; surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. One of our responsibilities is to undertake drainage investigations and identify flood risk mitigation projects then develop business cases and bid for capital funding. These projects have been identified in compliance with those duties.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

All schemes will be the subject of detailed individual consultations with the emergency services, stakeholders and the wider community.

Residents and stakeholders will be informed prior to the start of the proposed works in respect to the nature of the scheme and their anticipated duration. This will be communicated via the Council's website, social media facilities, leaflets and letters as appropriate. Customer feedback will be actively sought on completion of each scheme, with feedback analysed and used to improve the service in the future.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

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CONTACT OFFICER:	Dwayne Lowe, Imran Munshi, Drainage Manager
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DATE:	<i>2/3/2022</i>
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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