

Report of the Director of Place

External Funding Panel – 5 October 2016

COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME: SWANSEA CENTRAL AREA STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK MITIGATION PROJECT APPRAISAL REPORT

Purpose:	To provide an overview and seek approval on Welsh Government Grant to support a Project Appraisal Report for the Swansea Central Area Strategic Flood Risk Mitigation Project
Policy Framework:	Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy. Swansea Central Area Regeneration Framework (2016) Swansea Local Development Plan Deposit Draft
Reason for Decision:	To inform External Funding Panel of the Welsh Government grant available to proceed with a Project Appraisal Report for the Swansea Central Area Strategic Flood Risk Mitigation Project
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that the External Funding Panel endorses the application to Welsh Government for a 100% grant to proceed with a Project Appraisal Report for the Swansea Central Area Strategic Flood Risk Mitigation Project
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Welsh Government have launched a Coastal Risk Management funding programme which provides a one off opportunity for local authorities to implement transformational projects for assisting local authorities to implement coastal flooding management projects with Welsh Government contributing 75% of the project costs. As part of this programme Local Authorities are expected to identify potential projects, prepare a business case and secure 25% match funding.
- 1.2 To support Local Authorities in developing the necessary business case Welsh Government are providing 100% grant funding for the preparation of Project Appraisal Reports, which would include tidal monitoring work, feasibility studies and consideration of wider economic and regeneration opportunities and identify a preferred way forward to manage flooding and make a case for further investment.
- 1.3 Welsh Government Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk (TAN15) requires that consideration must be given to the impacts climate change on developments over the lifetime of development. A recent study has confirmed that ingress of tidal floodwater can occur via an underpass from Oystermouth Road, and complex overland flooding arises from the River Tawe, through the City centre. The flooding affects a significant number of existing commercial and residential areas and priority development sites including the St. Davids/ Quadrant site. Such flooding could preclude the development of key sites, and also cause very considerable economic and social damage in the City centre.
- 1.4 Significantly, not all of the City centre is at immediate risk of flooding from climate change. NRW suggest a 'managed adaptive approach' is required which makes a commitment to a Strategic Flood risk scheme to protect large areas of the City centre to align with predicated climate change impacts in the next 50 and 75 year periods.
- 1.5 The delivery of flood defence scheme will be a key infrastructure requirement for the future development, sustainability and viability of the City centre. Delivery options and funding sources will need to be considered further, potentially in a phased approach and will need to include appropriate developer contributions and grant funding.
- 1.6 A bid to Welsh Government has been prepared in draft which identifies a sum of £100,000 for the City and County of Swansea to complete the preparation of an initial Project Appraisal Report, 100% Welsh Government funded.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the External Funding Panel endorses the application to Welsh Government for a 100% grant to proceed with a Project Appraisal Report for the Swansea Central Area Strategic Flood Risk Mitigation Project

3.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

- 3.1 Full EIA Screening Report not required
- 3.2 Little direct impact on public at this stage. The project itself will be screened separately

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Welsh Government has provided Coastal Authorities 100% grant to proceed with the production of project appraisal studies as part of the Coastal Risk Management programme.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The constitution requires that External Funding Panel endorses grant funding. The Council will need to ensure that it complies with the terms and conditions of the grant funding. Any procurement activity undertaken to deliver the project appraisal study must comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: EFP1