

## Record of Cabinet member decision

Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

<b>Decision made by</b>	Councillor Eric Batts
<b>Key decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Date of decision</b> (same as date form signed)	4 February 2016
<b>Name and job title of officer requesting the decision</b>	John Backley Technical and facilities manager
<b>Officer contact details</b>	Tel: 01235 540443 Email: <a href="mailto:john.backley@southandvale.gov.uk">john.backley@southandvale.gov.uk</a>
<b>Decision</b>	That the cabinet member for Technical Services approves the Vale of White Horse District Council to:  1/ enter into an initial collaborative agreement with the Environment Agency to investigate options for flood alleviation in Abingdon  2/ delegate authority to the Strategic Director to negotiate and finalise the terms of the initial collaborative agreement.
<b>Reasons for decision</b>	To confirm that the Vale Council will enter into a collaborative agreement with the EA primarily to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agree the financial and non-financial contributions</li> <li>- foster mutual trust and co-operation</li> <li>- define the roles and responsibilities on each side</li> <li>- agree a review process to make sure objectives are met</li> <li>- agree how disputes are settled</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative options rejected</b>	Carry out design and project manage project in-house by Vale. This was rejected because the Environment Agency has in-house expertise to carry out the design and construction of the project and they possess all the necessary detailed information required to undertake the design work.  In addition, the project is all related to the rivers Ock and Stert which are designated as 'main river' and as such for funding under FDGiA (flood defence grant in aid from Defra), the lead authority has to be the EA.

<p><b>Background</b></p>	<p>1. Project summary</p> <p>This is a collaborative project to reinvestigate the options for flood risk management in Abingdon.</p> <p>The project is divided into two parts. This decision covers the initial investigation phase. This will look at previous reports and develop and appraise options for the construction of a flood alleviation scheme for the four areas below, to a level of detail sufficient to be able to submit to the programme board a recommendation of whether to go ahead with further detailed design, construction and installation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. River Ock catchment</li> <li>ii. St Helens Mill</li> <li>iii. River Stert</li> <li>iv. Swift Ditch, also known as the Abingdon Backwater.</li> </ul> <p>Any financial contributions to future maintenance arrangements will be dealt with separately.</p> <p>The second phase of detailed design, construction and installation will form part of a further ICMD to be agreed at a later date.</p> <p>2. Project partners</p> <p>The work will be undertaken by the Environment Agency. Funding will come in part from Flood and Coastal Risk Management grant-in-aid, the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, Vale of White Horse District Council and other third party beneficiaries.</p> <p>It will be overseen by governance arrangements in place for the Oxford and Abingdon Scheme. This includes a Sponsoring Group made up of senior representatives from the local authorities affected, together with the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Chair, other private partners and EA senior management.</p> <p>The initial investigative project started in 2015 and is to be completed by 31 March 2017.</p>
<p><b>Legal implications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land owners consent will be required as works may be located in land owned by third parties.</li> <li>2. The agreement will set out the terms of the joint project and protect the council's position.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Financial implications</b></p>	<p>Funding for the project will be from the existing Abingdon flood relief capital programme (YA37) which has been set as below:</p> <p>2015/16 - £50,000 2016/17 - £300,000</p>

	<p>2017/18 - £500,000  2018/19 - £1million  2019/20 - £650,000</p> <p>Total = £2.5 million</p> <p>The initial agreement with the EA will cover financial contribution from Vale of White Horse District Council for appraisal work for these projects undertaken in the 15/16 and 16/17 financial years. This is for a total amount of up to £260,000 so some money may be brought forward from the 2016/17 budget to cover this. A profile of the financial contribution is shown in appendix 1.</p> <p>A separate agreement will be established in relation to financial contributions towards detailed design and construction. These will be established following agreement to proceed from all relevant parties and form part of a further ICMD.</p>			
<b>Other implications</b>	None			
<b>Declarations/conflict of interest? Declaration of other councillor/officer consulted by the Cabinet member?</b>	None			
<b>List consultees</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Date</b>
	Ward councillors	Cllr Katie Finch Cllr Helen Pighills Cllr Alice Badcock Cllr Mike Badcock Cllr Margaret Crick Cllr Sandy Lovatt Cllr Monica Lovatt Cllr Chris Palmer	No reply No reply No reply No reply No reply No reply No reply Agreed	n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a 3 February 2016
	Engineering	Peter Dela	Agreed	
	Legal	Pat Connell	Agreed	25 January 2016
	Finance	Steve Guard	Agreed	14 January 2016
	Human resources	N/a		
	Sustainability	N/a		
	Diversity and equality	N/a		
	Communications	Gavin Walton	Agreed	26 January 2016
	Head of Service	Andrew Down	Agreed	11 January 2016
	Strategic Management Board	Steve Bishop	Agreed	13 January 2016

<b>Confidential decision?</b> If so, under which exempt category?	No
<b>Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?</b>	No
<b>Cabinet member's signature</b> To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Signature _____ Eric Batts _____ Date ___email 4 February 2016_____

**ONCE SIGNED, THIS FORM MUST BE HANDED TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IMMEDIATELY.**

For Democratic Services office use only		
Form received	Date: 5 February 2016	Time: 09:00
Date published	Date: 5 February 2016	
Call-in deadline	Date: 12 February 2016	Time: 17:00

## Appendix 1 Budget profile for funding of schemes in Abingdon

The split of these funding contributions across the three projects and financial years is anticipated as follows (shown in £000s):

	2015/16	2016/17
<b>ENVIMSE500257 St Helens Mill</b>		
<b>Expected project expenditure - appraisal</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
FCRMGIA - estimated	0.0	0.0
VoWH contribution	105.0	0.0
Expected other contributions needed	0.0	0.0
<b>ENVIMSE500256 Stert culvert</b>		
<b>Expected project expenditure - appraisal</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
FCRMGIA - estimated	0.0	0.0
VoWH contribution	105.0	0.0
Expected other contributions needed	0.0	0.0
<b>ENVIMSE500206 Abingdon Flood Schemes (River Ock)</b>		
<b>Expected project expenditure - appraisal</b>	<b>206.0</b>	<b>147.0</b>
FCRMGiA - estimated	206.0	147.0
VoWH contribution *	50.0	0.0
Expected other contributions needed	0.0	0.0
Total FCRMGIA	206.0	147.0
<b>Total VoWH Contributions profile</b>	<b>260.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

\* the £50k payment in 2015/16 towards ENVIMSE500206 covers a contribution towards preparatory work for all three projects undertaken in 2014/15 financial year.

FCRMGiA (flood and coastal erosion risk management grant in aid)