

# Chichester District Council

CABINET

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## Selsey Flood and Coastal Scheme Feasibility Report

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Recommendations:

- 2.1. **That Cabinet gives authority for an application to be made to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for a local levy contribution to fund the feasibility and scoping work required for the Selsey Flood and Coastal Scheme.**
- 2.2. **That Cabinet approves the release of £30,000, from the Ordinary Watercourse Reserve, to act as a contribution to secure local levy.**

### 3. Background

- 3.1. In Selsey approximately 500 properties are at significant tidal flood risk, and tens of houses will be lost to the sea in the short to medium term if the existing defences fail before they are repaired and/or replaced.
- 3.2. Many of Selsey's coastal defences, including the timber groynes and concrete sea wall are coming towards the end of their serviceable life. At the same time, as a result of climate change (specifically sea level rise) the level of protection afforded by the existing defences is decreasing. In anticipation, work has commenced on investigating the feasibility of a flood and erosion scheme for the Selsey frontage.
- 3.3. Funding has been provisionally allocated within the Environment Agency's medium term plan for scheme design and delivery, with a business case required to draw down funding at each stage (the first of which will be outline design).

- 3.4. To enable the Council to complete an acceptable business case, feasibility and scoping work is required now. This work is estimated to cost in the order of £120k. It was initially expected that this work would be funded by the Environment Agency (EA), but due to a sudden and unexpected change in EA national policy and direction, they have recently advised the Council that they will no longer be able to fund this work.
- 3.5. Coastal Partners (CP) and West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) have been consulted on alternative funding options and their recommendation is that the District Council makes a bid to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) for local levy funding.
- 3.6. In order for a bid to be successful, a partnership contribution is required. The proposal is to contribute £30k and request that the remainder is covered by RFCC local levy. This figure is considered “reasonable” by WSSCC/CP based on their previous experience of submitting bids.
- 3.7. The proposal is to use £30k from the Ordinary Watercourse reserve which is earmarked for flood and drainage works.

#### **4. Outcomes to be achieved**

- 4.1. That the necessary feasibility and scoping studies can be completed to enable the Council to make a successful business case submission to the EA for outline scheme design.
- 4.2. Outcomes from the feasibility work should include:
  - (a) The benefits of a scheme (properties/assets better protected).
  - (b) Potential grant in aid available (fixed based on scheme benefits).
  - (c) Potential other funding mechanisms (partnership funding).
  - (d) Desired/deliverable timescales for a scheme.
  - (e) Place and regeneration opportunities and costs.

#### **5. Proposal**

- 5.1. That £30k is released from the Ordinary Watercourse reserve.
- 5.2. That a bid is submitted to the RFCC for all required funds above the £30k Council contribution.
- 5.3. That progress continues on the feasibility/scoping work in partnership with Coastal Partners.

#### **6. Resource and legal implications**

- 6.1. £30k from Ordinary Watercourse reserve. This is within the available budget.

6.2. Levy funding is to be sought for the remainder of the required feasibility/scoping study costs.

## 7. Consultation

7.1 Officers have liaised closely with the EA, Coastal Partners and West Sussex County Council. No further consultation is necessary at this stage.

## 8. Community impact and corporate risks

8.1. Delivery of a scheme over the long term aims to sustain the standard of defence on the Selsey open coast frontage. Improved defences would give greater security to coastal communities and enable them to face the future with greater confidence.

8.2. There is a risk that the feasibility work shows that a scheme is not viable without significant partnership contributions, possibly making a scheme unviable. In this scenario, other long-term options including adaptation to coastal change, such as loss acceptance, managed retreat or property level interventions may need to be considered more closely.

## 9. Other Implications

	Yes	No
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder:</b>		X
<b>Climate Change:</b> The proposed project is anticipated to provide improved protection from the anticipated increases in sea level predicted from climate change.	X	
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact:</b>		X
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>		X

## 10. Background Papers

None