

Environment, Development and Transport Committee

Item No.

Report title:	Eastern RFCC Property Level Protection Grant Scheme
Date of meeting:	Friday 17 March 2017
Responsible Chief Officer:	Tom McCabe – Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services
Strategic impact Norfolk is the 10 th area most at risk of flooding out of 152 authority areas in England. This high ranking reflects the 37,991 properties at risk of surface water flooding and the 46,121 properties at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. This proposed grant scheme has the potential to help install measures at up to 25 eligible properties within the Eastern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee boundaries, flooded since 2014, which would significantly lower their risk of internal flooding.	

Executive summary

Norfolk County Council successfully bid for a second year of £50,000 funding from the Eastern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) to assist communities that were affected by the surface water flooding in 2014 and following the evidence determined from our subsequent flood investigations. As part of the funding agreement we are able to offer grants of up to £3,500 to affected residents through the Norfolk Community Foundation, for measures to protect properties from future flooding.

On 10 July 2015 the EDT Committee agreed a process whereby the Inland Flood Group would meet to recommend the awarding of grants and present a summary of its recommendations back to the committee for formal approval.

Recommendations:

EDT Committee is asked to approve the allocation of 2017 grants following Inland Flood Group assessment.

1. Proposal

- 1.1. To accept the recommendations of the Inland Flooding Group for the distribution of grants and approval of a reserve list, subject to eligibility checks and approval conditions.

In the event of approval conditions not being met and / or surplus funding becoming available, to allow Officers to contact eligible applicants and if necessary those rejected on technical grounds to resubmit proposals for consideration and discretionary approval by the Inland Flooding Group.

2. Evidence

- 2.1. 38 applications were received requesting assistance towards £157,103 worth of property protection measures following invitations to apply for funding from

owners of all properties on record as having internally flooded across the Eastern RFCC boundary since 1 January 2014. To satisfy funding conditions, proposals have to lower the risk of flooding in accordance with Environment Agency flood risk significance bandings.

In addition it was agreed to prioritise applicants who are over 70, or have children under the age of 5, or have physical or mental health difficulties, or are in receipt of job seekers allowance, low income or disability benefits.

The Flood & Water Management Team Flood Risk Officer provided in-house corroboration as to the protective effectiveness of the proposed solutions at each property.

The summary of the award decisions will be circulated as a late appendices item to committee members following the Inland Flood Group meeting on March 6th.

Out of the 38 applicants, 17 have been recommended to receive grants totalling £52,210 with 6 applicants on the reserve list. The prioritisation of the allocation of grants by the Inland Flood Group is set out in *Appendix 1 PLP Scheme Applications Provisional Recommendations*.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. The total scheme cost is £50,000 fully funded from RFCC Local Levy funding to include administrative costs along with £5,484 surplus funding from the 2016 allocation, 20% of which includes a gratefully received anonymous donation via the Norfolk Community Foundation. Grants will only be provided where a complete package of Property Level Protection can be installed and will not be available for partial protection. £52,985 is currently available for distribution.

Additional RFCC Local Levy funding is being sought which if approved will then be allocated to the reserve list as selected by the panel.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. The Flood & Water Management Team continues to be grateful to an anonymous citizen who generously donated £10,000 towards this scheme last year. It should be noted that this individual has and will continue to enable a number of vulnerable people to have their flood risk significantly reduced and give them considerable peace of mind.

This donation was facilitated by the Norfolk Community Foundation as part of a dedicated and efficient partnership role in the delivery of this innovative scheme for which gratitude is also expressed.

Whilst the total available funding will subsidise 17 households to lower their risk of internal flooding (subject to eligibility checks & conditions), there are many more across the region that would benefit from such property protection measures being put into place.

5. Background

- 5.1. Norfolk County Council has published Flood Investigation Reports covering the flood events of 2014, which saw over 120 properties flooded internally from

Norwich to Great Yarmouth, many suffering multiple times. The reports outline the causes, responses to the flooding and list a series of recommendations for organisations and individuals to help reduce the frequency and impact of future rainfall events. One of the recommendations was for the property owners to protect their buildings through flood protection measures where appropriate.

In 2014 the Eastern Area Regional Flood and Coastal Committee made available £50,000 of Local Levy for Norfolk County Council to support small scale projects that helped local communities who had flooded or were at risk of flooding. This has been repeated again for this financial year.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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