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**Date:** *4 June 2014*

## **NOTIFICATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION**

On 4 June 2014, Cllr Vickers, the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, made the following decision. Any member of the Council, who is not a Portfolio Holder, who considers that this decision should be reviewed should give notice to the Monitoring Officer (Grainne O'Rourke) (in writing or by e-mail) to be received **ON OR BY WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2014**.

Details of the documents the Portfolio Holder considered are attached.

### **DECISION:**

To allocate £39,262.37 of Developers' Contributions to the new Ringwood Drainage Enhancement Project, to address flooding issues in the current financial year.

### **REASON(S):**

As set out in the report considered by the Portfolio Holder

### **ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:**

As set out in the report considered by the Portfolio Holder

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:**

None

### **For Further Information Please Contact:**

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**4 JUNE 2014**

**ALLOCATION OF DEVELOPERS' CONTRIBUTIONS: Ringwood  
Drainage Improvements**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 New Forest District Council, through its planning development control powers, collects contributions (through a Section 106 agreement) to mitigate the impacts of new developments on existing communities in the areas where it is responsible for town planning.
- 1.2 In May 2012 the Council approved a new process for the allocation and spending of developers' contributions for inclusion in the Council's capital programme beginning in 2013/14. Each year a number of projects are agreed and set out in two categories as follows:
- (a) Fully developed projects for inclusion in that years capital programme;
  - (b) Category B contained two types of projects:
    - Projects that need to be developed further to determine costs/scope.
    - Projects where insufficient funding currently exists but should be ready if a additional funding is made available;
- 1.3 In February 2014 Cabinet approved a number of projects to include in the 2014/15 capital programme. The Cabinet report authorised the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation to make such amendments as he deems appropriate to the approved project lists and included within the 2014/15 budget.
- 1.4 This report seeks to approve a new drainage project identified by Ringwood Town Council to allow its implementation during 2014 for inclusion in project list A.

**2 POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 2.1 The project which is the subject of this report benefit a wide sector of the community and respond positively to Core Strategy policies:
- CS2 Design Quality;
  - CS5 Safe and Healthy Communities;
  - CS6 Flood risk;
  - CS7 Open Space Sport and Recreation.

**3 PROJECT PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 Last winter saw some of the worst highway flooding that Ringwood has ever seen, making roads in the Hightown and Crow areas impassable, causing damage to vehicles and making life very difficult for residents. With the prospect of up to 175 new houses being built in that same area, serious consideration has been given to alleviating existing flooding problems and ensuring that the situation does not worsen in the future.
- 3.2 In order to address various flooding issues, Ringwood Town Council convened a Flood Action Working Party and invited representatives from all relevant authorities and organisations, and members of the local community. At that meeting, it became clear that

there was a need to look at the drainage system as a whole, rather than take a piecemeal approach to addressing individual issues. Everyone agreed that the existing culverts and ditches do not have the capacity to cope and that the best way to proceed would be to begin at Sandford and work northwards to Eastfield Lane widening the stream and ditches and increasing the capacity of the culverts. It was also agreed that a Management Plan should be prepared for the area with Hampshire County Council bring the lead authority. The County Council and Natural England are both supportive of the proposed rehabilitation of the drainage system.

3.3 The schedule of work required has two components:

- Part 1 – Stream widening and clearance
- Part 2 – Hard infrastructure improvement of pipes, culverts and bridges which restrict flow.

3.4 The Town Council have requested the release of £39,262.37, which is the amount currently held by the District Council for use on drainage in Ringwood. The money will be used to fund the identified Part 1 measures on a range of projects identified between two specific points namely, the Crow Stream and the Eastfield and Hightown Hill Drainage System. In order to avoid a recurrence of the flooding issues this coming winter, it is essential that the identified works are carried out between July and October. The Part 2 works will be undertaken by HCC.

3.5 The Town Council has received a quote of £34,500 + VAT to carry out the works but have requested the release of the full amount of £39,262.37 to allow a contingency budget. Officers have reviewed the scope and see it as a good use of the contributions and that it provides good value for money.

3.6 In order to safeguard the Council's investment in these works, the release of this money is on the understanding that it will be ring fenced and applied solely towards the qualifying drainage works. The Town Council has provided assurances that this will be the case.

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 By identifying the new project in the (a) list it will enable the monies to be spent in the financial year 2014/15 and assist in delivering the implementation programme.

4.2 Should the Council become aware that the monies released are used for works other than what has been approved, the Council will look to reclaim the contribution made from the Parish Council.

## **5 CONSULTATION INPUT**

5.1 The proposal has been put forward following meetings of the Ringwood Flood Action Working Party. This group consisted of Town/District Councillors, HCC, District Council Officers, New Forest National Park and local residents.

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Delivery of this drainage schemes will bring a range of environmental benefits, including community safety, aesthetic, biodiversity and sustainability.

## **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 No project-specific implications.

**8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Good community engagement as part of the design and feasibility process will help ensure that schemes respond to the needs of the whole community rather than narrow sectors.

**9 ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

9.1 Not approving this allocation at this time would slow down the implementation of the developer contributions programme and the expenditure of funds held for the specific purpose of delivering much-needed drainage improvements across the district.

**10 RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the new Ringwood Drainage enhancement project is added to project list (a) with an allocation of £39,262.37 to enable the implementation of the project in 2014/14.

**11 PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION**

I have agreed to the recommendations of this report.

CLLR F P VICKERS

Signed: .....

Date: 4.6.14 .....

<p>For further information contact:</p> <p>Dean Brunton          Planning Policy Officer          Policy and Plans Team          Tel: 023 8028 5588          E mail: <a href="mailto:dean.brunton@nfdc.gov.uk">dean.brunton@nfdc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>or</p> <p>Doug Wright          Principal Engineer          Tel: 023 8028 5588          E mail: <a href="mailto:doug.wright@nfdc.gov.uk">doug.wright@nfdc.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Background Papers:</p> <p>5 February 2014 Cabinet Paper "Allocation of developer contributions"  <a href="http://forestnet2/committeedocs/cab/CDR08830.pdf">http://forestnet2/committeedocs/cab/CDR08830.pdf</a></p> <p>2 May 2012 Cabinet Paper "The Use of Developer Contributions"  <a href="http://forestnet2/committeedocs/cab/CDR07539.pdf">http://forestnet2/committeedocs/cab/CDR07539.pdf</a></p>
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Date on which notice given of this Decision - 4 June 2014

Last date for call-in - 11 June 2014