



Cambridge City Council

To: Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth: Cllr Clare Blair
Report by: Head of Policy and Projects
Relevant scrutiny committee: Environment Scrutiny Committee 06/2010

PROCUREMENT APPROVAL REPORT FOR A SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CAMBRIDGE AND MILTON

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The City Council has been awarded a grant of £100,000 from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to undertake a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) for Cambridge and Milton.
- 1.2 A SWMP is a framework through which key local partners with responsibility for surface water and drainage in their area, work together to understand the causes of surface water flooding and agree the most cost effective way of managing surface water flood risk. SWMPs are usually undertaken by an external consultant due to insufficient skills and resources within local authorities.
- 1.3 Defra divided England into 4350 settlements, Cambridge and Milton was considered one settlement. The settlements were ranked with regard to their possible susceptibility to surface water flooding. Cambridge is ranked 87 out of the 4350 settlements and this indicates that Cambridge may be a high risk area with regard to surface water flooding.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive Councillor is recommended to authorise the tender and award of a contract for the provision of services to develop a Surface Water Management Plan for Cambridge and Milton for the maximum amount of £100,000 in collaboration with Cambridgeshire County Council.

3. Background

3.1 The purpose of this report is to agree in principle the method of procurement for the services to undertake a SWMP for Cambridge and Milton.

Surface Water Management Plans

3.2 The purpose of a SWMP is to make sustainable surface water management decisions that are evidence based and risk based, whilst taking climate change into account, and are inclusive of stakeholder views and preferences.

3.3 There are four principle phases of a SWMP:

Phase 1 - Preparation: which includes scoping the study and the formation of a partnership of all the identified stakeholders.

Phase 2 - Risk Assessment: undertake a strategic assessment, an intermediate assessment, then a detailed assessment of the risks and map and communicate the risks. This phase includes significant hydrological modelling of existing infrastructure.

Phase 3 - Options: a range of options, which seek to alleviate the risk from surface water flooding are identified through stakeholder engagement and assessed. The purpose of this phase is to identify the most appropriate mitigation measures, which can be agreed and taken forward to the next phase.

Phase 4 - Implementation and Review: preparing an implementation strategy and the monitoring of the implementation and subsequent regular review.

3.4 Surface water flooding in the context of a SWMP includes:

- Surface water runoff; runoff as a result of high intensity rainfall when water is ponding or flowing over the ground surface before it enters the underground drainage network or watercourse, or cannot enter it because the network is full to capacity, thus causing flooding (known as pluvial flooding).
- Flooding from groundwater where groundwater is defined as all water which is below the surface of the ground and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.

- Sewer flooding which occurs when the capacity of the underground system is exceeded due to heavy rainfall, resulting in flooding inside and outside of buildings.
- Flooding from open-channel and culverted watercourses which receive most of their flow from inside the urban area and perform an urban drainage function.
- Overland flows from the urban urban/rural fringe entering the built up area.
- Overland flows resulting from groundwater sources.

3.5 SWMPs are a new area of flood risk management and currently, only six pilot schemes have been undertaken which informed the production of the Defra publication, Surface Water Management Plan Technical Guidance – March 2010.

The need for a Surface Water Management Plan

- 3.6 In the summer of 2007 severe floods across the UK prompted a review into flood risk management, which was undertaken by Sir Michael Pitt. This review was completed with a series of recommendations. Studies of the floods in 2007 revealed that nearly two thirds of flooding was due to surface water flooding and not flooding from rivers. Recommendation 18 in the report concluded that surface water management plans should provide the basis for managing local flood risk.
- 3.7 Planning Policy Statement 25 encourages local planning authorities to prepare a Surface Water Management Plan to help reduce the impacts of flooding through new developments.
- 3.8 The Flood Regulations 2009 require the lead local flood authority (Cambridgeshire County Council) to produce a flood risk management plan. This plan is for the management of significant flood risk from the area of flood risk that the lead local authority is responsible for, generally surface water flood risk.

Surface water flood risk and Cambridge

- 3.9 Defra announced in August 2009 that new funding of £16m was to be allocated to local authorities across the country to take action to tackle the problems from surface water flooding.

- 3.10 Initially £9.7m was awarded to 77 local authorities for areas where the evidence shows that the risk and potential impact of surface water flooding could be highest.
- 3.11 The remainder of the £16m was divided into an early action fund of £5.3m and £1m to aid with building skills and capacity within local authorities. Bids were open to local authorities in England for individual works or studies between £20k-£100k aiming to achieve quick wins to manage and alleviate local surface water flood risk. Cambridge City Council's bid for £100k to undertake a SWMP for Cambridge and Milton was successful.
- 3.12 To determine the areas of highest risk Defra divided England into 4350 settlements, Cambridge and Milton was considered one settlement. Modelling was undertaken on these settlements which indicated areas that had a potential for surface water flooding and maps of these areas were provided to the local resilience forums to assist with emergency planning.
- 3.13 These settlements were ranked with regard to their possible susceptibility to surface water flooding. Cambridge and Milton is ranked at 87 out of the 4350 settlements, which puts Cambridge and Milton in the top 2% of settlements at risk, with a potential 3500 properties at risk.

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership

- 3.14 Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, other District Authorities, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, Cambridgeshire Horizons and local Internal Drainage Boards have formed a Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP). This partnership is proposed to work together to tackle local flood risk management issues including surface water flood risk. Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, the County Council will fulfil the role of Lead Local Flood Authority.
- 3.15 The CFRMP will be pivotal to a comprehensive and integrated approach to flood risk management in Cambridgeshire. The partnership will produce a programme plan and explore the development of sub working groups, each will have a specific task, one of which will be preparing a SWMP.
- 3.16 Scrutiny of the work carried out by the group will be through the County Council's Environment and Community Services Scrutiny Committee and the Environmental Sustainability Partnership of Cambridgeshire Together.

- 3.17 The County Council, together with all members of the CFRMP, is undertaking a SWMP for the whole of Cambridgeshire, beginning with the first assessment of risk (strategic) for the whole County. The further phases of assessment of risk and options appraisals will follow. This will enable the County Council to fulfil its duties under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 by December 2015.
- 3.18 It is proposed that the SWMP for Cambridge and Milton be undertaken as part of the ongoing work of the CFRMP.

Procurement Proposals and Constraints

- 3.19 Cambridgeshire County Council will procure services to undertake surface water management planning using the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) route. Cambridge City Council is fully involved in the production of the tender documentation and has a representative on the project board which will evaluate tender submissions and award the contract.
- 3.20 It is proposed that the Cambridge and Milton SWMP be undertaken at the same time and by the same consultant as the SWMP for the whole of the Cambridgeshire, to ensure consistency of work and the elimination of risk of duplication of efforts. It is therefore proposed that the Cambridgeshire County Council procure services for the whole County, with strategic input from the City Council, subject to the City Council providing funding to the County Council for the Cambridge and Milton plan services.
- 3.21 The Defra funding has a limited time frame and the Cambridge and Milton SWMP (Phases 1, 2 and 3) is required to be completed by the end of the 2010/2011 financial year (end of March 2011).
- 3.22 The County Council is required to complete the first phase of the SWMP for Cambridgeshire by end of March 2011. The further phases will be completed in subsequent years, with phases completed to coincide with the requirements of the Flood Risk Regulations 2009.
- 3.23 There are two areas of risk with this project:
- The funding made available to the City Council is limited to £100k and a full SWMP for Cambridge and Milton may cost more. Measures that will be undertaken to mitigate this risk will include: a competitive tender process, there will be a strong steer from the

project group to ensure the consultants do not undertake unnecessary work, careful monitoring of expenditure of the Council's work and, if necessary, an amended project scope to ensure that a useful, complete and self contained plan is delivered.

- The deadline for completion of the project (March 2011) may not be met. Measures to mitigate this risk will include: Emphasising the achievement of the project by the completion date, careful monitoring of consultant's programme ensuring it is achievable and accurate, requiring regular updates from consultants and keeping the consultant focused on the end goal and deadline.

4. Implications

- 4.1 Financial implications: As set out in the report.
- 4.2 Equal opportunities implications: There are no equal opportunities implications.
- 4.3 Environmental implications: The environmental implications are positive, with flood risk measures identified in the final SWMP and the opportunity to improve biodiversity by the identification of the need for surface water management features.
- 4.4 Community safety implications: There are implications if the project is not undertaken which could put homes, businesses at greater risk of flooding due to a lack of understanding of the risk posed by surface water flooding.
- 4.5 There are no staffing implications.

5. Background papers

- 5.1 Defra Surface Water Management Plan Technical Guidance – March 2010.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 There are no appendices associated with this report.

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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