

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CITY CENTRE COASTAL FLOOD AND EROSION RISK STRATEGY STUDY- FUNDING		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	15 MARCH 2010		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT		
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**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

None.

**SUMMARY**

This report seeks approval, subject to confirmation of the full funding of the work from the Environment Agency, to increase the revenue budget to allow the commissioning of work to produce a Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Strategy for the city centre.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To approve the addition to Environment and Transport Portfolio's revenue estimates of a City Centre Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Strategy Study budget of £390,000 in 2010/11 and £122,000 in 2011/12. This study will be fully funded by the Environment Agency and the recommendation is subject to their final confirmation of the study budget.

**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The current revenue budget does not have provision for this work and the acceptance of the Environment Agency grant and subsequent increase in budget will fund the development of a City Centre Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Strategy which will reduce flood risk to existing development and support the planning of future development.

**CONSULTATION**

2. Not applicable

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

3. The alternative of not providing funding for this project would prevent the development of the strategy and would potentially adversely affect the ability to protect existing and future development in the city centre from flooding.

## **DETAIL**

4. The condition of the existing coastal defences means parts of Southampton City are at high probability of flooding (greater than 1 in 200 year annual probability of occurring). There are approximately 1300 properties (635 commercial, 653 residential) within the study area situated within the coastal floodplain from a 1 in 200 year return period event. By 2115 this is predicted to increase to approximately 3600 properties (1336 commercial, 2254 residential).
5. The Strategy will enable flood and erosion risk management in Southampton to be planned and co-ordinated and delivered in a cost-effective way. The strategy will demonstrate the business case for future investment in flood risk management infrastructure in the city, appraise options and provide the basis for future EA investment within the city. The EA will not invest in capital projects in the city in advance of the completion of this study. Without a strategy, increased flood risk could result in social and economic blight in parts of the city and a progressive reduction in investor confidence, constraining the future regeneration of the city centre.
6. The corporate Flood Board has endorsed the development of the strategy as part of an integrated approach to managing flood risk in the city.
7. The Environment Agency (EA) has the national strategic overview of flood and coastal defence and this project has been through the process of review by the EA and been approved for grant aid. The EA locally has also been closely involved in the development of the brief for the work and will continue to be involved through membership of the project board.
8. Subject to approval of funding and completion of procurement process the study is expected to commence in April 2010 and be completed (including final sign off by the EA) by September 2012.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

9. There are no capital implications arising from this proposal

### **Revenue**

10. Environment and Transport Portfolio's revenue budget will be increased by £390,000 in 2010/11 and £122,000 in 2011/12, funded by a grant from the Environment Agency. As the total revenue activity exceeds £200,000, Financial Procedure Rules require that the increase in expenditure budgets is approved in a report to Cabinet.
11. This study will be managed to ensure that there are no financial commitments beyond the funding available from the EA. Any works recommended by the study will be the subject of future funding bids and spending approvals, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.

### **Property**

12. There are no direct property implications but reduction of flood risk to existing and future developments would be anticipated following the adoption of the strategy.

**Other**

13. None

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

14. DEFRA has policy responsibility for flood and coastal defence in England. However, delivery is the responsibility of a number of flood and coastal defence "Operating Authorities". In the case of Southampton the operating authorities are Southampton City Council and the Environment Agency. The Coast Protection Act 1949 and the Land Drainage Act 1991, provide maritime Councils with permissive powers to carry out coastal defence works (which includes studies).

**Other Legal Implications:**

15. None

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

16. These proposals are in accordance with the Councils policy framework

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line**

**Appendices**

1.	None
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**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Background Documents**

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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**Background documents available for inspection at: N/A**

**KEY DECISION? Yes**

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	
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