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<b>PART A:</b>	<b>MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS</b>
<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26 NOVEMBER 2009</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE:</b>	<b>HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT PHIL LONG</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>VALE OF PICKERING CHANNEL MANAGEMENT PILOT PROJECT</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>PICKERING, SINNINGTON, MALTON, NORTON, STAXTON</b>

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider support for a request for a financial contribution from Ryedale Council towards a jointly funded Channel Management Pilot Project in the Vale of Pickering. The project follows an independent assessment (RDC funded) of the condition of main rivers in the Vale of Pickering. Potential partners include the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board and Scarborough Borough Council.
- 1.2 The Council's Policy and Resources Committee will consider the financing issue at its meeting on the 3 December 2009.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee request that the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on the 3 December 2009 approve:
- (i) funding for the 3 year project up to a maximum of £28,000 (£15,000 in year one, £8,000 in year two and £5,000 in year three) from the existing Capital Provision 'Pickering Flood Scheme' of £1m;
  - (ii) Procurement of the project be undertaken by either the Environment Agency or Internal Drainage Board; and
  - (iii) Ryedale District Council be regularly updated regarding progress and project findings emanating from the study.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Adaptation to climate change is a key strategic objective of the Council, flood risk management being identified as a priority service area. Within Ryedale the major risk

of flooding to properties lies in Pickering and Sinnington.

- 3.2 Alleviation to the flooding problems in these areas is being addressed by a two-year Environment Agency land management project designed to slow the flow of the water by increasing the time it takes from rain falling on the upper catchment to flood waters arriving in the watercourses flowing through Pickering and Sinnington.
- 3.3 The recommended project pilot looks to address this from the other side of the equation, looking at the potential effects of vegetation and sedimentation on water levels in the Vale of Pickering. It aims to quantify any benefits gained from enhanced river management strategies, focusing on key maintenance points in the river system. The project could facilitate the development of best practice, which could be applied to all critical watercourses.

#### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

- 4.1 There are no significant risks associated with undertaking the pilot.

### **REPORT**

#### **5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

- 5.1 The Vale of Pickering Channel Management Assessment and Planning report (funded by Ryedale DC) was completed in January 2009. This report provided an independent assessment of the existing condition of the main rivers in the Vale of Pickering
- 5.2 The report contained recommendations on how the watercourses could be managed with multi objective management goals which included:
- Flood risk management
  - Agricultural land drainage
  - Ecological biodiversity.
- 5.3 Key recommendations included the development of vegetation and sediment management pilot projects to be undertaken on certain reaches of the main rivers within the Vale of Pickering.

#### **6.0 POLICY CONTEXT**

- 6.1 Community Plan – Landscape and Environment Action Plan - Safeguarding environmental air quality including air, land and water
- 6.2 Council Plan 2009-13 – Corporate Aim – To have a high quality, clean and sustainable environment. This aim is underpinned by 2 strategic objectives, Objective 6 - Planning to adapt to Climate change and Objective 7 - To Improve the quality of our local environment.
- 6.3 Local Development Framework - The need to reduce the need to travel, avoidance of flood risk and protection of the landscape are all key considerations that will influence the future planning strategy for the District.

#### **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 The project has been considered in detail and recommended for approval to Committee by the Land Drainage Liaison Group. The group has a wide forum of members inc RDC Councillors, Land Drainage Board, Environment Agency, National Farmers Union, the Ryedale Flood Research Group, Pickering Householders.

## 8.0 REPORT DETAILS

8.1 The purpose of the report is to request a financial contribution from Ryedale Council towards a jointly funded Channel Management Pilot Project in the Vale of Pickering following the recommendations of the Vale of Pickering Channel Management Assessment and Planning report completed earlier this year.

8.2 The objectives of the pilot projects are to:

- Assess the effects of vegetation and sedimentation on water levels in the main rivers within the Vale of Pickering
- Assess the effects of maintenance of vegetation and sedimentation of the main rivers within the Vale of Pickering on ecological biodiversity.

8.3 Two main river reaches have been identified for investigation:

- River Hertford/Derwent- from the A64 at Staxton to the confluence with Thornton Beck. This is likely to be the bulk of the scope of work.
- River Derwent - Rye mouth to Old Malton

8.4 Full details of proposed Vale of Pickering pilot project are contained in **Annex A** regarding the draft scope of work prepared by cbec , eco engineering, at the request of the Land Drainage Liaison Group. Officers understand that would be financial support for the project from the EA but a response is still awaited from SBC and the Internal Drainage Boards. **(Table 1)**

**Table 1-Budget estimate of financial support required from partners**

Year	Total Cost	EA Cost Share	RDC Cost Share	IDB Cost Share	SBC Cost Share
1	£31,840 + £5,700 = £37,540	£10,000	£15,000	£6,000	£6,540
2	£21,840 + £2,300 = £24,140	£10,000	£8,000	£4,000	£2,140
3	£16,560 + £2,300 = £18,860	£10,000	£5,000	£3,860	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£70,240 + £10,300 = £80,540</b>	<b>£30,000</b>	<b>£28,000</b>	<b>£12,860</b>	<b>£7,790</b>

8.5 In brief, funding for the project scope encompasses:

- Project Management and Co ordination.
- Understanding and analysis of the historic conditions within the channel
- Assessment of the existing physical conditions of the rivers including water level monitoring, sediment sampling and hydraulic modelling analysis.
- Formulation of pilot projects to assess the benefits that potential channel management project strategies might have to water level management and biodiversity.
- Implementation and monitoring of the effectiveness of these pilot projects year two and three.
- A final project concept report for all partners.

## 9.0 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) **Financial:** The recommendations have financial implications for the Council as set out in **Table 1** equating to £28,000 over three years from 2010/11 to 2013/14. Funding is available for the project regarding Capital set aside for the Pickering Flood Defence scheme.
- b) **Legal:** There are no legal issues, which have been identified.
- c) **Others:** No other issues have been identified

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**Background Papers:**  
None