



## Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

**1. Subject and details of the matter** (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

Approval is sought to award a contract for the preparation of the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Grimsby and Immingham Flood Resilience Innovation project.

On 29 March 2021 it was announced that a project submitted by North East Lincolnshire Council as Lead Partner, in partnership with Doncaster Council, Anglian Water and Yorkshire Water, was one of only 25 projects nationally that was successful in securing funding from DEFRA's Innovative Resilience Fund for new innovative flood risk management works. Cabinet approved the scheme on 16th June 2021.

The project's funding process is being managed by the Environment Agency (EA), and the project development will have to meet their assurance criteria to ensure value for money. The preparation and submission of the OBC to secure the funding of up to £6M has been given a deadline of 31 March 2022. This is a challengingly short deadline for the preparation of a document of this nature.

The only way of successfully meeting the deadline will be to appoint a consultant from the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework. This framework has been designed to be used by Risk Management Authorities such as North East Lincolnshire Council and can be used to procure the consultancy works enabling the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 business case completion deadline to be achieved

ARUP is the consultant the Environment Agency have in place for consultancy work in the Framework's Midlands Hub which includes North East Lincolnshire. Early engagement with ARUP to offer some guidance on the costing for delivery of the OBC has suggested that the price of the works would be between £110k - £150k. A claim including the £150k cost has already been submitted to the Environment Agency. The Innovation project is fully externally funded with no NELC contribution required.

A Project Exception Report has been prepared giving further details of the proposed appointment of ARUP from the Environment Agency Framework for preparation of the OBC.

## **2. Decision being taken**

1. That the recommendations of the Exception Report are approved.
2. That the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework consultant, ARUP, be appointed to complete the works required for the Outline Business Case for the project.

## **3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

The appointment of ARUP, the specialist consultant, will allow work to commence on the Outline Business Case for the Grimsby and Immingham Flood Resilience Innovation project. This will allow for achievement the OBC submission deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and remove the risk of the loss of funding up to £6M.

## **4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision**

NELC's own in-house tendering and procurement exercise could be carried out to find an alternative supplier. However, the potential three months needed for this runs the significant risk that the project might not meet its strict deadline requirements.

## **5. Background documents considered** (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

Grimsby and Immingham Flood Resilience Innovation Funding – Exception Report

**6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

No

**7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

N/A

**8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

The decision is consistent with the Cabinet decision for the scheme. Awarding the contract via an approved framework allows for accountability and transparency and in this instance to utilise the grant funding and work within the time constraints. Relevant officers will support as appropriate.

**9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

The costs are to be fully funded through external grant.

**10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications

**11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

If the exception report is approved, then the risk of missing the Outline Business Case submission date is removed.

**12. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?**

The decision does not link to a previous one taken by Cabinet.

**13. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Mark Nearney

Title: Assistant Director of Housing,  
Highways and Planning

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**14. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Councillor Stewart Swinburn

Title: Portfolio Holder for Environment  
and Transport

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021