



OFFICER DECISION RECORD

This form should be used to record Executive decisions taken by Officers

Type of Decision:	Urgent Key Decision		
Decision Maker:	Amanda Barrie		
Service Area:	Commercial Operations	Date:	26 June 2025
Contact Name:	Rob Thomas	Tel No:	
E-mail:	Rob.Thomas@bcpcouncil.gov.uk		
Subject:	Acceptance of additional grant funding		
Decision taken:			
<p>Accept supplementary Environment Agency grant funding of £9,778,988 for the budget of the Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme, increasing the total Environment Agency grant in aid to £22,175,988 including £2,380,252 contingency which can be claimed when needed.</p>			
Options considered:			
<p>The option of not accepting the supplementary grant funding, would mean the project budget falls short of that for delivery. This is not a viable option. Grant funding is the best means of securing additional funding.</p>			
Reasons for the decision:			
<p>Officer Decision is required because BCP Council does not have time to follow EA4 and CP1 within the financial regulations, and doing so would incur significant delay and additional cost on a large works contract.</p> <p>The service needs to appoint the contractor for the Zone A works by 4 July so that they have enough time to mobilise for a 4 August start date. If the council misses the August start date then works will have to be delayed until April 2026.</p>			
Background:			
<p>The flood defence scheme was initially granted £12.397m in Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid, in 2021. The project team has successfully bid for additional grant funding, within the Environment Agency funding rules.</p>			

The construction contract has three 'notice to proceed' notification for the discreet sections of the work (in accordance with the form contract). In summary:

- Zone 'C' of the works – notice to proceed given – £160k
- Zone 'A' of the works – notice to proceed planned for 4 Jul - £2.5m
- Zone 'E' of the works – notice to proceed planned for early Aug - £20m

BCP Council have just received the grant approval letter from the Environment Agency on the 26 June 2025, for supplementary grant funding, bringing our total EA grant funding to £22,175,988.

If BCP Council follows the Financial Regulations, Part H ref EA4 and Part D ref CP1 apply. BCP Council requires this supplementary £9.8m to have the budget required to give notice to proceed for all zones to be delivered. Meaning that, the procedure for Full Council to accept the funding would need to be followed before we can award the 'notice to proceed' to the Contractor for Zone E, which is the majority (80%) of the budget.

The works have construction activities that are confined to environmental windows to reduce impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The works in Zone E need to start latest by 1 October 2025.

If the approval goes to Cabinet (earliest) 16 July 2025 and Full Council best case 22 July 2025, worst case 14 October 2025, we will miss our construction window and the high profile project will be subject to approximately 4 - 6 months delay, causing significant impact on our relationship with directly impacted stakeholders and increase our costs on the project.

The ODR is a very low risk, given:

- BCP has secured £12.397m in grant funding from the EA already
- BCP's Full Council has strategically approved £7.3m of CIL to this project in the 25th March 2025 meeting.
- BCP's Full Council has approved £7.3m of CIL to the project in the 3rd June 2025 meeting.
- This is the final amount of budget required to deliver the project on site.

Consultations undertaken:

This project has undertaken significant stakeholder consultation and engagement, which is well summarised in our Statement of Community Involvement (SoCI), located here: [BCP Register](#)

Consultation:

Note:

- Consider carefully who should be consulted – and on what basis.

- Advise those you are consulting that their comments may be included in the Record of Decision.
- List who was consulted internally. This includes Councillors and groups of Councillors, Officers, Working Groups. Ensure ward councillors are engaged on local issues, and if approval is subject to required consultation with specific councillors, please ensure this is undertaken and captured in this record.
- Generally comments from Officers should state: “The following Officers have been consulted. They have comments as follows:” If this cannot be set out within a single paragraph, you may need to attach the comments as an appendix to the report.
- Depending on the subject matter, it may be appropriate to provide a summary of comments – but properly balanced.
- List who has been or will be consulted externally. This includes residents, customers, community groups, visitors, businesses, representative bodies, partners or third sector organisations.
- If external consultation is still to be carried out, confirm that Part One of the Consultation Plan has been completed.
- For completed external consultations, confirm that Part Two of the Consultation Plan has been completed and attach as an appendix to the report.

Note: It is the responsibility of the ‘Responsible Officer’ – that is the Officer making the decision – to obtain the comments and signature of the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer **before** taking the decision and then send the completed record of the decision to Democratic Services for publication.

Finance and Resourcing Implications:

The table below shows the full Environment Agency grant aid and CIL funding for this scheme as well as the total expenditure to date.

Funding secured for Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill flood defence scheme

FCERM2 Approval letter LDW42886 Feb 21	£12,397,000
Environment Agency - FCERM grant in Aid Oct 24	£3,557,000 Acceptance approval
Environment Agency - FCERM grant in aid 26/06/25	£6,221,988 Acceptance approval
Total Environmental Agency funding	£22,175,988
CIL 24/25 Council approved 3/6/25	£7,300,000
Total funding	£29,475,988

Spend to date

2020-2023	£1,193,343
2023-2024	£855,262
2024-2025	£2,025,617
2025-2026	£255,120
Total expenditure	£4,329,342

The Council has secured £29.5 million for this flood defence scheme. The cash for the £7.3m CIL funding approved by Council 3/6/25 has been received and is factored in the cash flow strategy shown in the table below. The environment Agency is retaining the contingency part of the grant which will be released only when the council needs it.

	Prior years	25/26 Q1	25/26 Q2	25/26 Q3	25/26 Q4	26/27 Q4	Contingency
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Forecast expenditure	3,794,222	255,120	6,065,457	5,919,947	6,551,643	4,509,347	2,380,252
Environment Agency drawdown	(4,160,000)	(673,000)	(7,024,000)	(2,114,000)	(2,398,000)	(3,426,736)	(2,380,252)
Use of CIL already received				(2,429,524)	(4,153,643)	(716,833)	

Name: Adam Richens

Date:27/06/2025

Signature (of Chief Finance Officer):



Legal Implications:

- It will be necessary for BCP Council to comply with all requirements relating to grant funding including all contractual obligations and requirements, all funding requirements, all property or land requirements, all requirements under BCP Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations.
- In addition, it is necessary for BCP Council to comply with all relevant procurement requirements, including BCP Council's Financial Regulations and the Public Contracts Regulations 2024 and the Procurement Act 2023 (where applicable) for any works or services that are to be carried out for BCP Council by third parties under contract to meet the requirements of the funding requirements.
- This decision is taken in accordance with Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions), Delegations to Chief Officers, line 68 in the revised Constitution. This decision will be reported to Council at the next available meeting.

Robin Watson**Sign-off by Monitoring Officer****Name: Richard Jones
2025****Date: 30 June****Signature (of Monitoring Officer):****Risk Assessment:**

Note:

- The risk of not accepting this grant is that we have insufficient budget to progress the scheme
- The risk of waiting for full council is that we will miss our start on site of 4 August and have a 6month delay to starting the works, due to environmental restrictions, which will cause EA grant funding profile issues and reputational issues for council.

**Name: Peter Christie
27/06/2025****Date:****Signature (of Officer Completing Assessment):**

Impact Assessments: [EIA Panel outcome form Poole Bridge.docx](#)

Note:

- Include an Equality and Impact Needs Assessment (EINA) as an appendix. EINA guidance is available at the following link
- If no EINA has been undertaken please set out clear and valid reasons as to why one has not been done
- Include Environmental Impact Assessments and attach as appendix if appropriate

Information for publication / not for publication

Note:

- Set out whether it is in the Public's interest for this decision to be published or not and the reasons

Background Papers

Background Papers are those documents relating to the subject matter of the report that disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based and have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, but do not include any published work. Examples are sources of evidence and research.

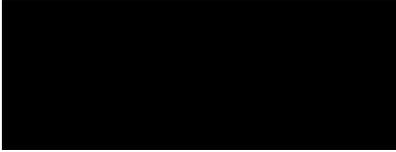
There is no requirement to list or publish any confidential or exempt information as defined by the Local Government Act. If officers have any concerns or want further advice – particularly in relation to Business Cases - they should contact the Monitoring Officer to discuss the matter **at an early stage in the report's preparation.**

List background papers at the end of the report using bullet points.

- A copy of each document listed **must** be available for public inspection at the Council's offices and on the Council's website.
- You **must** therefore provide a web link to these documents in your report. Where this is not possible an Adobe PDF version of the document must be sent to Democratic Services for publication on the Council's website.

Any declaration of interest by the Officer responsible for the decision	Nature of Interest
Yes/No*	

Note: No Officer having an personal financial interest in any matter should take a decision on that matter. Other interests of a non-disqualifying matter should be recorded here.

Any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the Officer taking the decision	Name of Cabinet Member	Nature of interest	Details of any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer
Yes/No*			
<p>Decision taken by: (print name and designation) Graham Farrant</p> <p>Signature:  Date of Decision: 30/6/25</p> <p>Date Decision Effective:</p> <p>Date of Publication of record of Major Operational decision: As shown on web site</p>			

Note: A record of this decision should be kept by the Service Area within which the decision falls.

* delete as appropriate

Include additional guidance if considered appropriate

- Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Planning Application: [BCP Register](#)