

POW BECK VALLEY

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Mike Ashbrook

LEAD OFFICER: Mike Tichford

REPORT AUTHOR: Graham McWilliam

Summary: The report provides details of a proposed “Flood Risk Assessment Study” for the Pow Beck Valley together with a suggested way forward for working in partnership with West Lakes Renaissance.

Recommendation:	Members are requested to: a) agree to contribute £15k towards the cost of the Flood Risk Assessment Study funded from The Major Projects Fund. b) agree in principle to the proposals for joint working as outlined in Appendix A and that the Council is the client for this work.
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: Should the Pow Beck development take place in the future it will help the Council achieve its corporate objective of creating and sustaining a healthy local economy.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): None

Financial and human resource implications: At this stage the financial resource implications for Copeland Borough Council is a contribution of £15k towards the costs of a Flood Risk Assessment Study. It is proposed that the Council be the client.

Project & Risk Management: None

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** N/A
- **Ward:** N/A

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In partnership with West Lakes Renaissance the Council has been involved in establishing ambitious plans for the regeneration of the Pow Beck Valley area of Whitehaven.

1.2 The Pow Beck Regeneration Programme is one of the four key elements, which make up the Whitehaven Regeneration Programme. The master planning framework for the site envisages the phased development of a mixture of high quality commercial business (not retail) units, a redeveloped stadium, residential development, business industrial units, sports and leisure facilities, brought together linked together through the development of a new spinal road through the site.

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 Following discussions with the Environment Agency, it has been confirmed that much of the development site falls within the “Flood Plain Map” and has been identified as being a significant risk. It is therefore necessary to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment Study before the Environment Agency could respond to any future planning application.

2. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The Council has been approached by West Lakes Renaissance (WLR) to help to fund the costs of the Flood Risk Assessment Study in partnership with the Environment Agency (EA).
- 3.2 As the Council has a land ownership interest on the site and is keen to support regeneration initiatives it would seem reasonable for the Council to make a contribution to the costs of the study.
- 3.3 Following discussions with Copeland’s Flood and Coastal Defence Engineer it is clear that the results of the study would be beneficial for their future plans in addressing the flood risk issues in Whitehaven.
- 3.4 The cost of the study is estimated to be £40,000. Matched funding will be provided:

Environment Agency £10,000

Westlakes Renaissance £15,000

Copeland Borough Council £15,000

It is proposed that Copeland Borough Council’s contribution of £15,000 is found from the Major Projects Fund.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 In order to assess the financial viability of the Pow Beck development proposals, it is necessary to costs any flood alleviation measures that may need to be completed before development could proceed. The completion of the Flood Risk Assessment Study is the first component of this work.
- 4.2 Should the Flood Risk Assessment Study produce a positive result, the Council will want to be a partner in the future development of Pow Beck. Appendix A details a proposed way forward for a partnership with WLR. A further report outlining a proposed way forward for a partnership structure, will be submitted to the Executive at a later stage.

List of Appendices

None

List of Background Documents:

Correspondence from the Environment Agency dated 17.5.06

List of Consultees:

Corporate Team, Cllr M Ashbrook, Duncan Fyfe,

Environmental Health, Brian Kirkbride