

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**

DECISION OF SECTION 151 OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL,
CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE



DECISION NO: CSD126

SUBJECT: WRINGTON FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME – COMPENSATION

BACKGROUND:

Wrington is identified within the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as the area most vulnerable to flooding from local sources. Flooding over a number of years in the village has demonstrated that there is a significant flood risk within the village. The frequency, magnitude and impact of the flooding identified that a strategic approach to tackling the issue was required.

A scheme comprising three intervention measures was approved by the Environment Agency and North Somerset Council in February 2014. The scheme is jointly funded by North Somerset Council, Wessex Water, Environment Agency / DeFRA, Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and a developer contribution supported by the Parish Council.

The first two phases involving culvert improvement works in the centre of the village and providing Property Level Protection measures to nine properties are now complete. The final phase of this scheme is the construction of a flood storage area on land to the north-east of Rickyard Road, Wrington.

The land in question is farm land held by Messrs Clements within Rydings Farm, Wrington. The scheme will involve the construction of a raised embankment across the stream that flows through the farm and into the village in order to create a storage area up-stream of the embankment which will flood in times of high water flows in the stream. This will enable water to be held back at times of flood before subsequently being released back into the stream as the flow in the stream reverts back to normal levels.

By creating the embankment an area of farm land will be taken out of productive use for which the landowner is entitled to receive compensation. The landowner is also entitled to compensation in respect of potential future loss of crop/grass arising from when the storage area up-stream of the embankment floods.

Following detailed negotiations terms have been agreed for the payment of a one-off compensation figure of £35,000 plus fees to cover the installation of the embankment and associated works and its future use and operation.

In order to ensure that the embankment and works will be retained in perpetuity a legal agreement will be entered into with the landowner to cover both the installation of the works and their future retention.

DECISION:

That the Council enters into suitable agreements with the owners of Rydings Farm for the installation of the final phase of the Wrington Flood Protection Scheme as described above, subject to payment of a one off compensation figure of £35,000 plus fees

Reasons:

To enable the final phase of the Wrington Flood Protection Scheme to be implemented

Other Alternatives Considered:

None

Financial Implications:

The scheme is jointly funded by North Somerset Council, Wessex Water, Environment Agency / DeFRA, Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and a developer contribution supported by the Parish Council.

Implications for Future Years:

As above

Signed: 
Section 151 Officer, North Somerset Council

Dated: 14/3/16