

Committee: Cabinet

Agenda Item

Date: 17 January 2013

16

Title: Elizabeth Way Culvert

Portfolio holder: Cllr Susan Barker – Environment Portfolio Holder

Key decision: no

Summary

1. This report informs members of the collapse of the Elizabeth Way culvert on 20 December 2012 and the subsequent urgent remedial action taken.

Recommendations

2. That members of the Cabinet note the remedial action taken following the collapse of the Elizabeth Way Culvert as follows:
 - a. Spend of up to £350,000 has been authorised by SMB, the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Portfolio Holder for Environment
 - b. Schedule of works has been drawn up and costed
 - c. A claim has been lodged under the Government's Bellwin emergency scheme
 - d. All the main utility agencies have been informed and brought up to speed (Gas/Water/Environmental agencies)
 - e. The site has been made safe to prevent public access to the site (via a security boundary fence & a separate fence around the collapsed area)
 - f. One of UDC partnering contractors will be appointed to carry out the remedial works - the costs will be based on an existing schedule of rates. On the basis of the urgency, rather than delay the process going through a traditional tender process an exception request to contract procedure rules will be submitted. This will allow works to proceed quickly

Financial Implications

3. The cost of repairs is estimated to be in the region of £350,000. This is not recoverable from insurance because culverts are a standard exclusion in the policy due to their inherent risk. Officers are exploring the possibility of securing a contribution from Central Government under the Bellwin Scheme, which exists to provide emergency financial assistance to local authorities for emergencies or disasters caused by bad weather. The probability of a successful Bellwin application is thought to be low. It is therefore necessary to assume that the full costs will fall upon the UDC General Fund Capital Programme. There is existing budget approval for £109,000 so the estimated

Elizabeth Way Culvert

Cabinet, 17 January 2013, item 16

additional cost of £241,000 will be funded from favourable variances forecasted to arise on other capital schemes.

Background Papers

4. None

Published Papers

5. None

Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	Local residents written warning them about the recent activities
Community Safety	Repair work to the culvert is necessary as there could be a danger to the public
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	Dynamic risk assessments have been carried out and further risk assessments will be undertaken before contractors commence works. The site has been made secure to prevent members of the public entering the location.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	There are no legal implications associated with the report's recommendations.
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	Saffron Walden
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

Situation

7. On 20 December 2012 the concrete culvert at Elizabeth way collapsed resulting in a 14ft deep hole with a diameter of 12ft.
8. The collapse was due to a combination of the heavy flow of the water and the weight of the saturated ground above the culvert due to the heavy rainfall.
9. Following the collapse officers arranged for:

Elizabeth Way Culvert

Cabinet, 17 January 2013, item 16

- a. Additional safety fencing and warning notices to be erected around the perimeter to prevent unauthorised access
- b. A letter to be delivered to local properties informing them of the progress and to warn them about the recent activities
- c. Local service utilities (gas/electricity) and the Environment Agency to be informed about the incident

10. Due to the potential danger to the public approval from SMB and members was given, under emergency criteria, to commence any remedial works, without following the standard tender procedures.

Risk Analysis

11.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Full collapse of the culvert, causing the water to seek alternative route (possible flooding of local housing/businesses)	4 High	4 Flooding of local area housing/businesses	Carry out temporary safety works. Using one of UDC experienced civil contractors to quickly carry out the remedial works & long term solutions.
Main utilities damaged	4 High	4 Loss of amenities to local neighbourhood	All main agencies informed, some are taking steps to reroute main supplies to minimize risk

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.