

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
11 December 2012

Subject: EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME, DALTON AIRFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Thirsk Ward(s)
Portfolio Holder for Customer Services: Councillor T Swales

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for financial support for a flood relief scheme at Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate. This is in line with the Council's priority of supporting local economic growth in an area recognised for its importance in this regard.
- 1.2 The Chairman of the Occupiers of the Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate submitted an application for funding towards a proposed emergency flood exit to the Council in November 2012. The application has been assessed in line with the Council's new grant procedure and it has been determined that the application cannot be progressed through this mechanism. This is because it does not fit within the key criteria of the scheme, namely the constitution of the body, the type of organisation it represents and the funding level applied for.
- 1.3 The application outlines key concerns of the Dalton Occupiers as follows:
- Flooding negatively impacts on both the business at Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate and their staff and customers.
 - Flooding stops and disrupts movement of delivery and collection traffic and spoils supply continuity for each of the businesses and in turn affects the operations of Dalton's customers.
 - The disruption has the potential to downgrade the service levels that businesses can provide to their customers with the potential to lose future orders.
 - Access for staff on and off the estate, to and from their place of employment is impeded and stopped for periods of flooding. This has an impact on both employment attraction and retention of high quality staff.
 - Flooding disruption can be seen to reduce the attractiveness of working at Dalton and/or working with businesses based at Dalton and so has the potential to reduce the value of business, property and investment to date.
- 1.4 The Occupiers assert that this long standing problem of flooding is in part the responsibility of the District Council due to the direct negative impact on employment and business growth. However, the Occupiers also recognise that a solution to this issue will not be resolved in its entirety through the District Council and has also approached North Yorkshire County Council for funding support. In addition to these approaches, the Occupiers intend to take personal responsibility through making significant contributions to the overall cost of the flood project.

1.5 The Dalton Occupiers have requested a financial contribution of 20% of the total cost of the project. Total project costs are estimated at £228,800. As there are a range of variables associated with the project which are outside of the control of the Council, including increased costs of the project once works begin due to unforeseen circumstances, a fixed sum contribution of £25,000 is considered to be more appropriate. This sum will be dependant on formal agreement by the County Council to a minimum contribution of £25,000.

2.0 DECISIONS SOUGHT:

2.1 To approve a grant of £25,000 to the Occupiers of Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate from the capital programme.

3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES:

3.1 The Council has a priority of supporting local economic growth. The emergency flood exit is considered to have a direct positive impact on employment and business growth in this area which is recognised by the Council as a prime location for businesses and employment.

4.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Risk in approving the recommendation(s)

Risk	Implication	Prob*	Imp*	Total	Preventative action
Funding provision by the Council is insufficient to support overall delivery	The project does not get delivered	3	4	12	Contribution of a one-off amount is clearly communicated with payment dependant on key criteria being met

Overall the risk of agreeing with the recommendations outweighs the risks of not agreeing them and is considered acceptable.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Addressing the long term flooding issues will support the ongoing sustainability of the site as a key place of employment and its importance to the local economy.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES:

6.1 Capital provision will be required to enable the Council to support this project.

Capital Expenditure	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
Cost of	<u>25,000</u>	-	-	-
Financed by:				
Included in: Capital Programme				
	<u>25,000</u>	-	-	-

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 The works required to alleviate the risks of flooding will be subject to achieving the requisite planning permissions.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):

10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves a capital grant of £25,000 to the Occupiers of Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate, subject to:

- (i) A minimum equivalent amount being agreed by North Yorkshire County Council.
- (ii) The required planning approvals being in place.
- (iii) A formal agreement being in place regarding the constitution of the Dalton Occupiers.

SANDRA WALBRAN

Background papers: None
Author ref: SW
Contact: Sandra Walbran
Director of Customer Services
01609 767235

111212 Dalton Airfield

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Capital Scheme :

To support the development of infrastructure required to enable a Flood Exit from Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate, Dalton, Thirsk

Description of Project :

The project will involve the creation of a new flood exit route at Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate including concrete ramps, gates and fencing, a hardcore road and repairs to the existing runway. The project will also include costs for supervision, planning fees and a highway licence.

The project will be owned, developed and overseen by the Dalton Occupiers, a group of 15 private sector companies with mutual interest concerning the management of common areas and matters relating to the Estate.

The Council's involvement in the project will only relate to the provision of the grant and any planning matters to be considered as part of the development.

Revenue Implications and how they are to be financed :

The current cost of the project has been estimated at £228,800. This is to be financed as follows:

- £25,000 Hambleton District Council – capital only
- £25,000 North Yorkshire County Council - capital
- Remaining project costs - To be met by the Dalton Occupiers (estimated at £178,800)

Community/Business Benefits :

Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate is an important area for employment locally. The improvements to the Estate will have a positive impact on the businesses, their staff and customers in the following ways:

- Reduce the disruption to delivery and collection traffic, improve supply continuity for each business and in turn the operations of Dalton's customers.
- Reduce the risks of downgrading service levels that Estate businesses can provide to their customers and for future orders
- Improve access to the Estate and enable the retention of high quality staff and the Estate as an attractive site for employment
- Improve the value of businesses, property and the investments made to date