

Decision Number:

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject

Consultation on the changing Medway Flood Act to allow a greater extent of flood water to be stored at the Leigh Flood Barrier

Details of Decision taken

Raise no objection to allow for the extent of the flood water to be stored at the Leigh Flood Barrier to be increased from 28.05m AODN to 28.60m AODN subject to the construction and a fully operational of the flood defence wave wall around Pauls Farm/Ensfield Lane area prior the flood waters being stored to the increased level.

Reason for Decision

We have been consulted by the Environment Agency seeking our views on their intention to apply to vary the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976 to allow them to increase the maximum level to which water can be stored at the Leigh flood barrier. At present they are only permitted to hold flood water at the barrier up to 28.05m Above Ordnance Datum Newlyn (AODN) but will be seeking ministerial approval to raise the level to which flood water can be held to 28.60 AODN. The Leigh flood barrier is not being increased in height, but will hold flood waters to 55cm higher than currently permitted.

I have attached a copy of the impact of the increased flood capacity, the extent of the flood mitigation measures around Pauls Farm in Leigh and briefing note which was sent out to the landowners on the proposed changes.

Flood map shows three different colours:

- Natural flood outline without the Leigh flood storage area
- Current extent of flooding with impounding to current 28.05m AODN level

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- Modelled extent of flooding outline impounded level increased to 28.60m AODN.

Please note the modelling with the 28.6m AODN level includes the provision of the wave wall at Pauls Farm in order to protect a number of properties off Ensfield Road. The fourth attachment shows the extent of flooding without the wave wall at Pauls Farm, which indicates that flood waters would extend under the railway bridge and affect a number of properties in Ensfield Road and rear gardens of some of the properties in Well Close. Therefore the provision of the wave wall is essential to mitigate the increased flood waters stored at the Leigh flood barrier. The wave wall will be placed on an existing embankment and will involve the erection of a 0.9m high reinforced concrete wave wall. A planning application for the wave wall around Pauls Farm in Leigh will follow in due course and will be subject to a full public consultation.

In addition the increased flood storage area will slightly increase the flood areas around the Leigh flood barrier area, with the only land additionally affected being farmland and the relevant landowners have been contacted by the Environment Agency for their views.

Further upstream, the extent of the increase flood storage capacity will not affect Penshurst based the modelling they have provided.

Therefore we are intending on informing the Environment Agency that we will raise no objection to them increasing the level at which flood water can be stored, subject to the installation of the Pauls Farm wave wall prior to the increased flood level storage being implemented.

All Documents considered:

Email attached, along with the following attachments:

Paul's Farm flooding event without flood wall
Paul's Farm flood wall arrangement
Paul's Farm flooding event with flood wall
Landowner briefing note

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Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision

Without the provision of the flood defence wave wall, we would be imposed to the proposal, as it would result in the flooding of a small number of properties in Leigh. Crucial at the increased flood storage is not carried until the new flood wall is in place and fully operational.

Financial implications

None - as consultation by Environment Agency

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

None - as consultation by Environment Agency

Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty)

The decision recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users. Also note this is a consultation by Environment Agency

Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted

Cllrs Osborne-Jackson & Coleman (local ward)
Cllr Hunter (deputy portfolio holder)
Richard Morris (Chie Officer - Planning & Regulatory)

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Details of any conflicts of interest	
a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker	
None	
b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict	
None	
Decision taken by:	CUR. JULIA THORNTON
Signed by Portfolio Holder	[REDACTED]
Date of Decision	23/12/19
Record made by:	[REDACTED]
Date of record:	23/12/19

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