

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2014

## **MARTON MERE HERITAGE LOTTERY PROJECT 2014-2017 AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY FUNDED PUMPING STATION AND SPILLWAY WORKS**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the commencement of £739,000 of works to Marton Mere Nature Reserve, which includes a Heritage Lottery funded project of £366,000 and Environmental Agency funding of £373,000 to invest in the pumping station and spillway.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

- 2.1 To agree to the commencement of the Marton Mere Heritage Lottery Project and Environment Agency funded Pumping Station and Spillway Works, with a total value and funding of £739,000.

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

- 3.1 To enable the progression of the projects in line with the agreements with the Environment Agency and Heritage Lottery Fund.

In relation to the Pumping Station and Spillway, to fulfil the legal requirements under the Reservoirs Act.2 in order to reduce the risk of flooding to local properties.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Not to proceed with the project.

**4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

“Attracting sustainable investment and creating quality jobs.”

**5.0 Background Information**

5.1 Marton Mere reservoir forms part of the land drainage regime for Blackpool and is an integral part of the Marton Mere Local Nature Reserve. The site is designated as a site of special scientific interest and comprises of a mixture of scrub, reed beds and open water plants.

5.2 Marton Mere and the surrounds make up around a quarter of Blackpool's open space and as such is an important recreational area. In addition Marton Mere is an educational resource visited by school children.

5.3 The Heritage Lottery Fund project includes biological heritage restoration works and the construction of facilities including visitor centre, bird hides, infrastructure as agreed with the grant provider.

5.4 The project includes the implementation of an audience development programme which will aim to increase the use of Marton Mere and involve more local people, particularly children and young people, in accessing it for pleasure and educational purposes.

5.5 Marton Mere Pumping Station is an essential flood defence and the only means by which water levels in the Mere can be maintained. The spillway and draw off apparatus are required to provide water level management and satisfy the legal requirements associated with the lease of Council owned land to Marton Mere Holiday Park.

5.6 The spillway is currently in a poor state of repair and the draw off apparatus is inoperable due to differential settlement of the structure. Following the last statutory 10 year inspection of the reservoir in 2013, the reservoir's engineer made three recommendations in regards to safety. Two of these were to repair or replace the spillway and repair or replace the draw off apparatus. There is a legal requirement to undertake these works by March 2016.

5.7 The surface water drainage from the Morris Homes development arrives at Marton Mere Pumping station and is pumped into the Mere. During heavy rainfall the pumping station is unable to cope with the volume of water and the surface water backs up into the residential area. The most recent significant event occurred in 2012 which led to residents being isolated due to significant highway flooding. An upgrade to the pumping station will increase the capacity of the pumping station and reduce the risk of flooding in the future.

5.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.9 **List of Appendices:**

None

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 The Council is finalising a lease for the new visitor centre which will be located on Marton Mere Holiday Village, Mythop Road.

6.2 The Council is required to undertake the recommendations of the reservoir's engineer to replace the spillway.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 The project will be managed by Council staff with appropriate works going to external contractors.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 Pivotal to the project is opening up the Mere, with greater accessibility to all.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 The Heritage Project is costing £366,000 and is fully funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Veolia Environmental Trust. Bourne Leisure is funding the domestic utility costs of the Visitor Centre under a 20 year lease agreement.

9.2 The Pumping Station and Spillway works are being funded through £373,000 of Environment Agency funding.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 Project risk analysis and mitigations are outlined in Heritage Lottery Fund application.
- 10.2 Flood risk will be reduced to properties upstream.
- 10.3 Non-compliance with funding requirements could lead to repayment of grant monies.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

- 11.1 The project supports the Council's core values, involving and engaging with people, creating empowerment, ownership and trust.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

- 12.1 Full stakeholder consultation was undertaken in 2012- 2013 as part of the funding application process.
- 12.2 Project Steering Group to be made up of key partners – to meet monthly and provide key support, expertise and ensure project targets, budget and timescales are adhered to.
- 12.3 Ongoing project consultation will take place through a series of site open days and promotional events.
- 12.4 Consultation has been undertaken with the Holiday Park, Natural England, Heritage Lottery Fund and the Environment Agency.

**13.0 Background papers:**

- 13.1 None

**14.0 Key decision information:**

- 14.1 Is this a key decision? No
- 14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:
- 14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? N/A
- 14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**15.0 Call-in information:**

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process?

No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: N/A

Date approved: N/A

**17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

17.1

**18.0 Executive decision:**

18.1

**18.2 Date of Decision:**

**19.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

**19.1 Date Decision published:**

**20.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

20.1

**21.0 Call-in:**

21.1

**22.0 Notes:**

22.1