

**Authority to enter into a Funding Agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme - Revenue & Research Project.**

Date: 31 January 2023

Report of: Executive Manager, Flood Risk & Climate Resilience

Report to: Chief Officer, Highways & Transportation

Will the decision be open for call in? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

## **Brief summary**

To enter in to a funding agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for Shared Prosperity Fund monies to deliver the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (WYFLIP) - Revenue & Research Project.

## **Recommendations**

The Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation is recommended to approve the following:

- a) To note the contents of this report and the terms of the related funding agreement.
- b) To enter in to a funding agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for Shared Prosperity Fund monies with a total value of £310,000 to deliver the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme ( WYFLIP) - Revenue & Research Project.

## **What is this report about?**

- 1 The funding agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority utilises Shared Prosperity Fund revenue funding that has been allocated within their programme for the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (WYFLIP) - Revenue & Research Project. The funding agreement has been drafted by WYCA and reviewed and negotiated with input from Legal Officers within Procurement and Commercial Services and has been checked for consistency with other council services that are also entering funding agreements.
- 2 The Council provides programme management for the WYFLIP in conjunction with the UoL (their services are covered by a separate partnership agreement between UoL and the Council). The programme will deliver a range of innovative projects that will enhance the climate and flood resilience of West Yorkshire by working collaboratively. WYFLIP has also received funding through the Yorkshire Regional Flood & Coastal Committee Local Levy fund administered through the EA. This additional SPF funding will enable a specific project to be delivered in conjunction with UoL, the Revenue & Research Project, which will deliver research, feasibility and development work on five work packages within the project which should lead to future project funding bids that will be included under the WYFLIP.

### What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 This proposal aims to utilise funding already secured through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Shared Prosperity Fund, which is administered through the WYCA Investment Committee to manage the delivery of a specific project, Revenue & Research Project, which is part of the wider WYFLIP programme. The funding allows the council to bring in external resource to manage, support and co-ordinate this particular project on the programme utilising the existing (separate) partnership agreement already in place with the University of Leeds.
- 4 The WYFLIP is a developing programme of innovative projects that is building a portfolio of partnership projects that look to tackle flood and climate risks, increasing the climate resilience of the region. It is sponsored by the West Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership, which is chaired by the leader of Calderdale Council. The Council provides programme leadership and is utilising external resource from UoL to manage the programme on behalf of the other 4 local authorities, West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and the EA. New technologies, techniques and solutions are being developed and trialled across West Yorkshire and the learning and legacy from these projects will be shared across West Yorkshire, the wider region and nationally.
- 5 This specific funding pot is to delivery a project that will utilise the existing WYFLIP collaboration and strong links to academia to develop clear proposals for future schemes using the latest academic research and practical knowledge and experience from across the districts.

### How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

☒ Health and Wellbeing

☒ Inclusive Growth

☒ Zero Carbon

- 6 The wider WYFLIP partnership utilises Local Levy flood funding to sustain and develop an important regional partnership programme. The additional SPF funding will allow the work of this programme to engage and support communities, develop new technologies and techniques and help make the city and wider region more resilient to climate change. The Natural Flood Management theme within the programme, in-particular, promotes the use of nature-based solutions to reduce the impacts of climate risks like flooding but also enhances biodiversity and many of the measures provide carbon sequestration. The WYCA SPF funding agreement is for the delivery of a specific project within the wider programme, but this project covers 5 work packages that span aspects that link to all three council pillars.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: N/A

Have ward members been consulted?

☐ Yes

☒ No

- 7 The Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate has been directly engaged in this work area and is also the Council's elected representative on the Yorkshire Flood and Coastal Committee who took the decision to fund the wider programme.

### What are the resource implications?

- 8 Council Officers already engage with these programmes and initiatives, the additional funding received from the WYCA allows for additional resources to be provided from external partners through a partnership agreement that is already in place with the University of Leeds.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

- 9 Resources are needed to maintain and manage these programmes; this risk is mitigated by partnering for delivery with external suppliers and securing external funding.

### **What are the legal implications?**

- 10 The funding agreement itself is a legal deed which will need to be sealed and returned to WYCA and has been drafted by WYCA and as such legal terms and risks have been identified and confirmed within the agreement document with input from Legal Officers within Procurement and Commercial Services.
- 11 Due to the value of the funding agreement, this is a Significant Operational Decision and is not eligible for call-in. There are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information Rules.

### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

#### **What other options were considered?**

- 12 The role the Council will undertake has been agreed and promoted through established partnerships and endorsed by the Yorkshire Regional Flood & Coastal Committee and West Yorkshire Combined Authority Investment Committee. SPF is administered by WYCA. A bespoke funding agreement has been drafted and will rely on terms consistent with those of other SPF agreements between the council and WYCA.

#### **How will success be measured?**

- 13 A programme of key milestones and deliverables are outlined in the funding agreement and will be reported to WYCA quarterly.

#### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

- 14 Jonathan Moxon – Exec Manager Flood Risk & Climate Resilience. The funding period is 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### **Appendices**

N/A

### **Background papers**

- N/A.