

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/2019 REPORT NO. 21

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet – 4 July 2018

REPORT OF:

Director
Environment and
Operational Services

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 10

**Subject: Proposed Wetland and River
Restoration Projects in Enfield**

**Wards: Various
Non Key**

Cabinet Member consulted: Leader

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 It is proposed to carry out wetland and river restoration projects in three parks in Enfield over the next 18 months. These projects will improve the environment for people and wildlife as well as reducing flood risk to several hundred properties. The estimated cost of these works is £1.25m. External funding of £0.9m has been allocated by several partner organisations including the Environment Agency, The Rivers Trust and the Greater London Authority.
- 1.2 These proposals have received great support from local residents and Friends groups.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet are recommended to:

Note this report for information.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Enfield's [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) (LFRMS) identifies that the number of properties at risk of flooding in the borough is high compared to most local authorities. This is mainly due to the geography and layout of Enfield – most of the properties at risk of flooding are in the Lee valley area, which was historically an area of marshland. The entire borough drains towards Edmonton and the Meridian Water development in the south-east following the route of the Turkey Brook, Salmons Brook and Pymmes Brook valleys.
- 3.2 The extent of the urban area in Enfield significantly increases rainfall runoff and is one of the main factors affecting flood risk from both localised surface water flooding and fluvial flooding from rivers. This has been exacerbated in recent years by urban creep and the associated increase in impermeable surfaces.
- 3.3 Storing excess water in parks and open spaces during times of extreme rainfall is one of the most effective ways of addressing the issue of urban flood risk. Enfield Council's Structures and Watercourses team, as part of Highway Services, have carried out a number of flood alleviation schemes in recent years that follow the principles of natural flood management – this involves working with the natural environment to restore rivers and wetlands, slowing and storing water thereby reducing peak flood levels.
- 3.4 It is proposed to carry out wetland and river restoration projects in three parks in Enfield over the next 18 months:
- **Broomfield Park Wetlands** – this involves the creation of a combined wetland and flood storage area in addition to improvements to the existing historic lakes adjacent to Broomfield House
 - **Enfield Town Flood Alleviation Scheme** – it is proposed to create a combined wetland and flood storage area in Town Park as part of a wider strategy to reduce flood risk in the Enfield Town area, approximately 200 properties in this area will have their exposure to flood risk reduced to some extent
 - **Albany Park River Restoration** – this project aims to transform Albany Park by naturalising a 300m long section of Turkey Brook that currently flows along the northern boundary of the park in a 3.5m deep concrete-lined channel; widening the river corridor and bringing it into the park will create interesting spaces for local people and significantly enhance the available habitat for a wide range of wildlife; wetland features and a large flood

storage area will also be delivered as part of this project resulting in reduced flood risk for over 200 properties

- 3.4 As well as reducing flood risk these schemes deliver the following additional benefits:
- Water quality – diverting surface water runoff through wetland features filters and breaks down pollutants which helps to clean Enfield's rivers
 - Biodiversity – the new features provide a habitat for a wide range of wildlife including birds, bees and amphibians
 - Amenity – the wetlands and restored river corridors will provide interesting focal points to these areas with potential for educational and social uses in the future

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing: These schemes are part of a series of improvements to reduce the risk of flooding in Enfield. To do nothing will lose an opportunity to attract significant funding to the London Borough of Enfield, improve the environment, for both people and wildlife, and reduce flood risk to local residents and infrastructure. Furthermore, it would mean the loss of an opportunity to comply with the actions identified in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Improvements to the environment through the creation of wetland features that contribute to a diverse range of habitats and improve biodiversity within three of Enfield's parks.
- 5.2 Improved flood protection through the creation of a significant flood storage facility which will reduce the risk of flooding to properties downstream. This complies with the recommendations in Enfield's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to reduce flood risk in these areas.
- 5.3 Improved utilisation of open space by providing amenity features and wildlife areas available to local schools and users of the park.
- 5.4 External investment of up to £0.9m through Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid, the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee's Local Levy, the Greater London Authority's Green Capital Grant and the River Trust's water management fund.
- 5.5 Improved public perception and understanding of sustainable drainage and wetlands, and increased interaction with local waterways.

6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 The estimated cost of these projects is £1.25m. The table below identifies the sources of funding that will fully fund these works and the timescales for delivery:

Project	Estimated Cost	External Funding	Funding Source	Construction Timescale
Broomfield Park Wetlands	£155k	£105k	The Rivers Trust	2018-19
Enfield Town FAS	£165k	£115k	Defra/EA *	2018-19
Albany Park River Restoration	£950k	£700k	Defra/EA * and GLA	2019-20

* Defra/EA Allocated funding refers to Defra's Flood Defence and Grant in Aid funding and the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee's Local Levy, both of which are administered by the Environment Agency

6.1.2 The Enfield Town and Broomfield Park projects will be fully funded from a combination of previously approved capital budgets (£100k KD4639) and external grants as detailed above.

6.1.2 Future maintenance costs which will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets. It has been agreed with the Parks Operations team that although the proposals will require a change in the pattern of maintenance activities, the overall cost of future maintenance will not be significantly increased and can be managed within existing revenue budgets

6.2 Legal Implications

6.2.1 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits local authorities to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of their functions.

6.2.2 The Council has a general power of competence under section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals may do, provided it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to Public Law principles. The proposals in this report are compliant with the Council's general power.

6.2.3 Furthermore, the recommendations in this report will enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duty as a Risk Assessment Management Authority (RMA). The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires RMAs to act in a manner that is consistent with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The proposals in this report implement the actions identified in the latter.

- 6.2.4 When procuring relevant service providers, the Council must also comply with all requirements of its Constitution, Contract Procedure Rules (“CPRs”) and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (“Regulations”), should the contract value be above the relevant EU Thresholds. The CPRs require a competitive tendering process for all contracts and the Council must ensure that the selection process is fair, transparent, proportionate and non-discriminatory. Each decision taken must be recorded in writing and all documentation supporting the decision must be retained.
- 6.2.5 The Council must at all times also adhere to the Duty of Best Value in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999.
- 6.2.6 All legal agreements arising from the matters described in this report must be approved in advance of contract commencement by Legal Services.

6.3 Property Implications

- 6.3.1 It is noted that planning permission is required for these projects. Planning consent has been obtained for the Enfield Town works but not, as yet, for the other two proposals.
- 6.3.2 When awarding contracts to the selected contractors, if a compound is to be utilised on site, consideration should be given as to whether this should be authorised by way of a temporary licence for the duration of the works.

7 KEY RISKS

- 7.1 The following key risks relate to not implementing the project:
- Loss of opportunity to reduce flood risk and compliance with an action in Enfield’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
 - Loss of attraction of up to £920k of external funding to Enfield
 - Loss of opportunity to increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat
 - Loss of enthusiastic cooperation with local residents and Friends groups

8 IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All

- 8.1.1 The main purpose of these schemes is to address the risk of flooding as part of an overall objective to reduce flood risk to all residents and businesses across the borough.
- 8.1.2 The combined proposals will improve the environment of three of Enfield’s parks for local residents and park users with an increase in biodiversity and amenity areas.

8.2 Growth and Sustainability

- 8.2.1 These projects manage flood risk in a sustainable way by using natural processes and having a positive impact on the environment through the creation of wetland features. They also improve adaptation to the possible impacts of climate change.
- 8.2.2 Further improvements and considerations to the general heritage, cultural and ecological environment will be realised where possible.

8.3 Strong Communities

- 8.3.1 The Friends of Broomfield Park, Town Park and other local groups, where relevant, will be engaged throughout and beyond the process of developing and delivering these schemes. Reducing flood risk in a way that improves public understanding about sustainable drainage and flood issues also contributes to promoting strong communities.

9 EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Corporate advice has been sought in regard to equalities and an agreement has been reached that an equalities impact assessment is neither relevant nor proportionate for this report.
- 9.2 These schemes have been designed in accordance with good practice to ensure they are reasonably accessible for all users. All new footpaths will be compliant with the Equalities Act 2010.
- 9.3 These projects aim to create sustainable and accessible green spaces which alleviate flood risk for a large number of residential properties.

10 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The implementation of these schemes will satisfy actions derived from the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy by reducing surface water runoff rates (Objective 4) and helping to protect existing properties from flooding (Objective 5).

11 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 These schemes will be designed in accordance with the Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015, and industry good-practice standards, to be safe for members of the public. For example, open water features are surrounded by vegetated margins and slopes are designed to be shallow to reduce the risk of accidental entry into the water.
- 11.2 As these flood storage areas reduce flood risk to several hundred residential properties, the scheme will have a significant positive impact on health and safety during flood events.

12 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

These improvements to the environment will reduce risk of flooding, improve the environment and encourage residents to visit parks so increasing the physical activity offer in Enfield.

Background Papers

Figure 1 below shows the location of these three projects:

1. Broomfield Park Wetlands
2. Enfield Town Flood Alleviation Scheme
3. Albany Park River Restoration

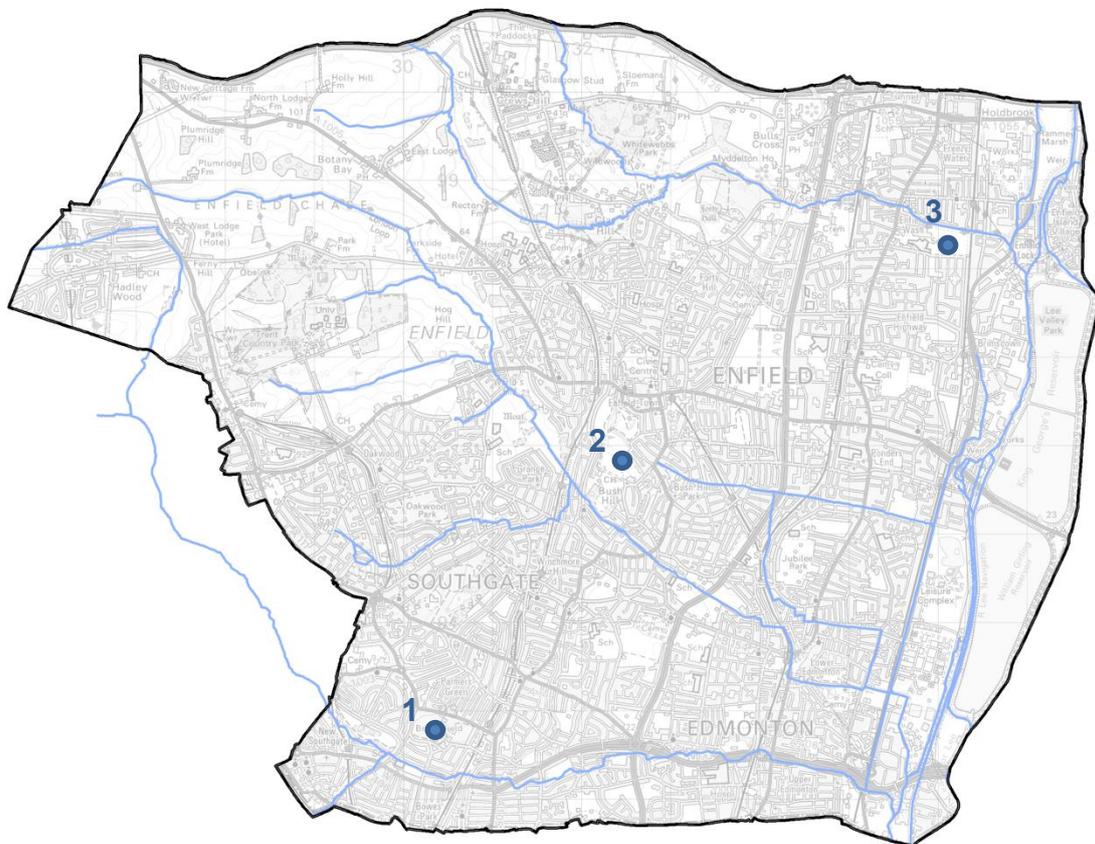


Figure 1 Map of Enfield with the location of 1. Broomfield Park 2. Enfield Town 3. Albany Park

Figures 2 to 7 overleaf show plans and other images that have been used to consult the public about these projects.

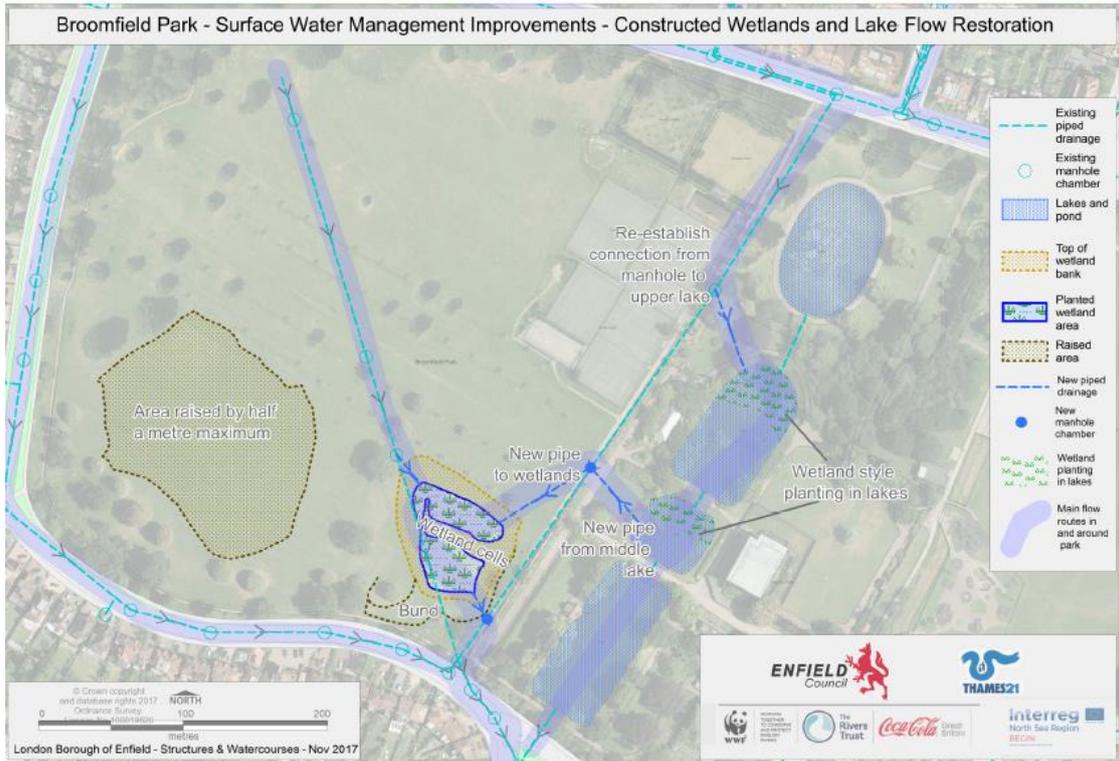


Figure 2 Plan of the proposed wetlands at Broomfield Park



Figure 3 Photograph of the Firs Farm Wetlands project that was completed in March 2017



Figure 4 Plan of the proposed flood alleviation scheme at Enfield Town Park



Figure 5 Artistic visualisation of the proposed wetland features at Town Park



Figure 6 Plan of the proposed river restoration works at Albany Park



Figure 7 Artistic visualisation of the proposed riverside walk at Albany Park