

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:	Monday 2nd September 2013
3.	Title:	MARE (Managing Adaptive Responses to the Environment) – Closure of Project; and CAMINO (Climate Adaptation Management) – Proposed Advent of Project
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

- 5.1 This report notes the successful conclusion of the MARE Project; the success of a further bid for EU funding under the same programme for a project known as CAMINO; and seeks approval to proceed with CAMINO.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That Cabinet Member notes the successful conclusion of MARE
- 6.2 Cabinet Member endorses the delivery of CAMINO in order to continue the work already delivered in this subject area

7. Proposals and Details

Approval was given to participate in MARE in January 2009 (Item 164 refers). The project entailed the Council being a full partner in the Programme, together with the University of Sheffield, Sheffield City Council and partners from Dordrecht, Hanover and Bergen.

The project entailed research into the effects of flooding on the environment and economic development and has resulted in the provision of funding and guidance towards the following outputs:

- The development of Learning and Action Alliances (LAA's), which promote integrated planning in flood alleviation projects so that knowledge of the discipline is shared and ensuring that the actions of one partner do not adversely affect others. Under the MARE Programme, Rotherham has developed the Don Valley (with Sheffield City Council) and Yorkshire and Humber LAA's.
- The development of climate proof toolkits designed to ensure consistent treatment when designing flood alleviation schemes. This is particularly important where flood schemes are carried out in a "piecemeal" rather than a comprehensive fashion, an increasingly likely prospect in view of reduced public spending. In Rotherham's case, the most important manifestation of this programme has been the Rotherham Town Centre Flood Risk Toolkit, which prescribes consistent treatment of new development in areas prone to flood risk.

- Managing 'demonstrator' projects, wherein the consistent standards required as part of the climate proof toolkit can be shown to have been incorporated. In Rotherhams case, this comprised the recent flood defence wall between Chantry Bridge and the Tesco Footbridge, the design of which was prescribed by the MARE Programme.
- Ensuring that trans-national, national and regional flood directives and regulations are applied at the local level. Again, in Rotherhams case this is largely achieved via the Flood Risk Toolkit, which contains relevant legislation and directives and is intended for use both by Council Officers and prospective developers alike.
- Ensuring that the good practices instilled by participation in the MARE project are applied at national and regional levels. In Rotherham this has been embedded in the above-mentioned Flood Risk Toolkit and is disseminated via the Don Valley and YHLAA alliances.

CAMINO is a project which seeks to build on the success of MARE by expanding the Councils knowledge and involvement from purely flood related issues to the wider climate change agenda and participating with larger stakeholders. As well as flood alleviation, this would for example develop the Councils knowledge of 'green energy' provision and bio-diversity, with climate change forming part of the upcoming EU Interreg Round V Programme. CAMINO's main objectives are:

- Establishing the extent of climate change knowledge within local authorities and developing this knowledge base further; whilst at the same time encouraging better internal communications between staff involved in climate change issues.
- Developing climate adaptation business cases in order to address development problems caused by climate change. In Rotherhams case, this will enable the Council to further investigate the feasibility of flood defence work in the town centre, with particular emphasis on the Forge Island re-development scheme, focusing on issues such as flood defence, green energy provision and bio diversity.
- Sustain and expand LAA's established under MARE, enabling them to reach a wider trans-national audience and expand their knowledge into the wider field of climate change. International stakeholders will include the likes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

8. Finance

In terms of the MARE project, the original allocation to Rotherham MBC was 500,000 EURO's (approximately £425,000 at current exchange rates) over the three year life of the project, including match-funding from Rotherham MBC in the form of in-kind staff time allocation (i.e. 250,000 EURO's staff time and 250,000 EURO's EU funding). Final expenditure amounted to 451,151 EURO's. However, the Council has been awarded a further 10,244 EURO's in respect of additional work carried out on the project after the original intended closing date of September 2012 and so the final award to Rotherham is 235,819 EUROS.

For the CAMINO project, Rotherham MBC is again required to provide staff time as match for European funding under the Interreg Programme as a full partner, hence in-kind staff time will support funding at 50% of total costs. This has been identified from existing staff in the Environment and Development Service (comprising members of the Economic Development, Drainage, Planning Policy and Asset Management teams) who will support

the project work. The total allocation to Rotherham MBC is 95,000 EURO's between September 2013 and March 2015.

Additional funding to cover Rotherham MBC staff time on the project is also being sought from the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (Yorkshire and Humberside Region) under the Climate Change Skills Fund (CCSF). CCSF supports policies aimed at reducing carbon, adapting to climate change and helping local communities to bring forward renewable energy projects. It is specifically intended to enhance the skills required by local authority staff to support these policies.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The MARE project has been successfully concluded and there are no risks and uncertainties entailed.

The main risk of not participating in CAMINO is that Rotherham may not be able to influence the issues in respect of the research work being developed and will begin to lose experience in the fields of flood alleviation and climate change. Involvement will ensure that the Council is well-placed to participate in the upcoming Interreg Round V Programme (2015-2020).

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Developing plans and implementing measures to reduce the risk of flooding is a key policy in the Corporate Plan. In addition the work described in this report is supportive to European Union (Floods Directive 2007/60/EC); UK National (2010 Flood and Water management Act); and Regional (Environment Agency National/Regional Strategy 2011) legislation/directives as well as the National Planning Policy Framework.

In addition, this programme of work is supportive to the regeneration of the Town Centre, which is a significant corporate priority to the Council and its ambition to create a vibrant place for people to live, work and visit as outlined in the Community Strategy.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Report to Cabinet Member for Economic and Regeneration Services, 5th January 2009, Item No; 164 – MARE Project: Flood Risk Research, European Links

Rotherham Flood Risk Toolkit –

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/8307/rotherham_flood_risk_toolkit_and_level_2_sfra_2011

Contact Name: Andy Newton, Project Officer,
Ext 23849 andy.newton@rotherham.gov.uk