

REPAIRS TO INLET/OUTLET AT ROCHFORD RESERVOIR

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' agreement to bid for additional funding in 2005/06 to finance repairs needed to the inlet and outlet to Rochford Reservoir.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A sum of £10,000 was set aside in the Capital Budget for this year to carry out repairs to the inlet of the reservoir.

3 INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 In developing the scheme for this year's repairs, specialist advice was sought from a company experienced in water management. They have now identified that, due to wear and tear around the inlet and outlet of the reservoir, a new inlet control gate and protection works are required to both channels to prevent serious scouring damage.
- 3.2 They have also suggested that a "silt trap" be built around the inlet. This would retain silt and stop the remainder of the reservoir from silting up. The silt trap would enable silt to be removed at a much lower cost in the future. The silt was last cleared from the reservoir in 1995/96 at a cost of £30k.

4 ESTIMATE FOR WORKS

- 4.1 These works are far in excess of that originally proposed. An initial estimate from the company puts the total cost of works in the order of £60,000. It is anticipated that there would be future savings in retaining the silt and reducing the cost of removal, although this task is carried out only on a periodic basis.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Strategic Risk

Rochford Reservoir is a well known landmark, popular with the residents of Rochford and a local fishing club. Damage to the banks, where excess flows have washed over the outlet, are causing problems for users of the footpaths around the banks.

5.2 Resource Risk

Bearing in mind the change in rainfall patterns with more periods of intense rainfall, if no action is taken to remedy the control of the reservoir, the rate of damage could accelerate and require far more extensive repairs in the future.

5.3 Operational Risk

The reservoir forms part of the capacity of the drainage system for the River Roach; if the flow through the reservoir is not controlled during intense rainfall or pollution, the potential risk of damage to the reservoir could increase.

5.4 Regulatory Risk

The ability to properly manage the water flows through this reservoir is essential, if the reservoir is to be kept safe.

5.5 Third Party Risk

The reservoir, as stated, is a popular place for people to walk and fish. Conditions in and around the reservoir must be managed to maintain a safe environment.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The reservoir is an important fish and wildlife area and needs protection from occasional pollution spills. The inlet control valve is in need of repair, to ensure the ability to close off the reservoir and protect it from pollution.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Currently there is £10,000 allocated for works to the inlet. There is, however, no money allocated for the additional works identified, which are £50,000 over the current budget provision.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Council has a legal responsibility to manage the reservoir and ensure that it is in a safe condition.

9 RECOMMENDATION

9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That a bid for funding of a sum of £50,000 in the 2005/06 budget strategy be agreed for the works to the inlet, outlet and silt trap at Rochford Reservoir, to supplement the existing £10,000 contained within this year's budget.

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Background Papers:

None

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