

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR DECISION

Open		Would any decisions proposed :		
Any especially affected Wards	Mandatory	(a) Be entirely within cabinet's powers to decide YES		
Wards bordering the Borough's coastline		(b) Need to be recommendations to Council NO		
		(c) Be partly for recommendations to Council and partly within Cabinets powers – NO		
Lead Member: Cllr Brian Long E-mail: cllr.brian.long@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted: None		
		Other Members consulted: None		
Lead Officer: Alan Gomm E-mail: alan.gomm@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial:01553 616237		Other Officers consulted: None		
Financial Implications YES	Policy/Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications YES	Equal Impact Assessment NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications NO
Date meeting advertised: 07/03/2012		Date of meeting decision to be taken: 14/03/12		
Deadline for Call-In: 21/03/12				

THE WASH AND NORTH NORFOLK COAST EUROPEAN MARINE SITE MANAGEMENT PROJECT – FOURTH MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT 2012 - 2015

Summary

This agreement aims to establish the funding of the wash and north Norfolk coast European marine site management project to implement the wash and north Norfolk coast European marine site management scheme and sets out the arrangements for running the project.

Recommendation

That the Borough Council enters into a Memorandum of Agreement with the other parties to continue the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Project for a further 3 years until 2015

Reason for Decision

To enable the Borough Council to carry out it's statutory responsibilities in a cost effective way through partnership working.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site shown outlined on the plan attached consists of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated

under the “Habitats Directive” (European Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and three Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC) which created a network of protected wildlife areas across the European Union, known as the Natura 2000 series. These Directives have been incorporated into UK law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994.

1.2 The agreement aims to establish the funding of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast (W&NNC) European Marine Site Management Project to implement the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Scheme and sets out the arrangements for running the Project. Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA) are to take the lead and employ the Project Manager to implement the Project.

1.3 The Project is to be funded by those “Relevant Authorities” listed below. The Project will work closely with other complementary initiatives, for example The Norfolk Coast Project. The area within which the Project will operate is the statutorily designated areas of the European Marine Site, but on occasions will also include the wider adjoining areas in relation to specific issues, for example water quality, where a wider working area may be required to maintain favourable condition of an interest feature within the Project’s area.

2. Project Objectives

2.1 The purpose of the Project is to deliver the requirements placed upon Relevant Authorities and local agencies to implement the U.K. Habitats Regulations as these affect the W&NNC, in particular to maintain/achieve favourable conservation status for the interest features for which the area has been designated, and also to contribute to the sustainable development of the area. This should be achieved by working with all stakeholders for the area to implement The Management Scheme. There are several strategic goals which provide a framework for the tasks of the Project:

- Implementing and reviewing a Management Scheme for the area.
- Reporting as appropriate on the achievements of the Project.
- Delivering Natural England (NE) conservation objectives for the marine site interest features.
- Undertaking a condition monitoring programme.
- Promoting the Project and the sustainable use of the area, including the exercising of traditional activities.

3. Employment of Project Manager

3.1 The Project will be implemented through a Project Manager (PM) appointed to the staff of the EIFCA and funded through the project.

3.2 The appointment is for a period of 23 months, to be reviewed during 2013 jointly by the participants to this Memorandum of Agreement as part of the overall review of the Project.

4. Policy Implications

4.1 There are no particular policy implications arising from this report. The work of the project is directed to fulfilling a statutory requirement in respect of

the designated areas and technical considerations of conservation considerations.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The Project's annual cost for core and output funding will be shared between the various participants to this Memorandum of Agreement, as set out below. A budget exists to cover the cost of the agreement for the Borough Council.

5.2 Distribution of costs

Boston Borough Council	£2,700
East Lindsey District Council	£2,700
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	£2,700
Lincolnshire County Council	£2,025
Norfolk County Council	£2,700
South Holland District Council	£2,700
Fenland District Council	£2,700
North Norfolk District Council	£2,700
Internal Drainage Boards (Excluding the Kings Lynn Consortium who will make a contribution in kind of up to £1100) (5 x £306)	£1,530
Natural England	£11,200
Environment Agency	£5,500
Defence Estates	£500
(Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority will make a contribution in kind up to a value of £7000)	
Total income 2012-13	£39,655

(There will be an amount of money left from the current agreement (approximately £33 000) which will be carried forward for project use at about £8,500 each year)

6. Staffing Implications

6.1 There are no direct staffing implications for the Borough Council. The Project Manager will be an employee of EIFCA and managed by them for the period of the project.

7. Statutory Considerations

7.1 The parties to the agreement fully recognise the nature conservation importance of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast and the statutory obligations placed upon them by the legislation referred to above. In order to assist in meeting these obligations the "Wash and North Norfolk Coast Management Group" will jointly prepare "The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Scheme'. Dedicated staff time will be provided to implement the management scheme to fulfil the relevant statutory duties.

8. Equality Impact Assessments (EIA's)

8.1 Report covers areas of nature conservation interest and technical issues around those. It is part of a statutory duty. There are no implications from an EIA viewpoint and an EIA is not required.

9. Risk Management

9.1 There are no particular risks associated with joining in to the project. There is a positive risk reduction aspect in that the project by working jointly reduces the degree of expertise that is needed in one single authority. It would be difficult to fulfil our statutory requirements working alone without significant cost.

10. Background Papers

10.1 Copy of the Memorandum of Agreement

Signed:

Cabinet Member for

Date