

Recommendations to Cabinet 6th May 2014 from the Regeneration, Environment and Community Panel meeting on 30th April 2014

REC154: **CABINET REPORT – FLOOD SUPPORT SCHEMES**

The Environmental Health Manager presented the Cabinet report which provided an overview of the Flood Support Schemes available to households and businesses for flood affected properties. He reminded the Panel that at their previous meeting they had received a report on the recent tidal surge and the report being considered today was a follow on report detailing the support schemes available.

The Environmental Health Manager explained that the Repair and Renew Grant was a grant available to fund measures over and above those which would be covered by insurance. Homeowners and Businesses could apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to cover the cost of improving the flood resilience of their property.

The Business Support Scheme would help small and medium enterprises in the flood affected areas and was a business hardship fund. £60,000 had been allocated to the West Norfolk area and businesses could claim up to £2,500.

The Environmental Health Manager drew the Panel's attention to section four of the report which outlined the other flood support schemes available including the Bellwin scheme, grants for farmers, Business Council tax relief, sports grants and grant for fisheries.

The Panel was informed that the Council had submitted a grant application to the Environment Agency for repairs to sea defences, the outcome of which was awaited.

The Environmental Health Manager informed the Panel that the recent tidal surge had resulted in 37 businesses and 78 residential properties being flooded.

The Chairman thanked the Environmental Health Manager for his report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, some of which are summarised below.

The Chairman explained that he was pleased to see all grant applications being co-ordinated and channelled through one section of the Council, meaning that a complete overview of all grants was available.

In response to a question from Councillor Pitcher, the Environmental Health Manager explained that Business Rate Relief was paid through a reduction in business rates. Other grants were paid by cheque.

Councillor Crofts asked what checks were in place to ensure that households and businesses were not claiming for items that had already been covered by their insurance. The Environmental Health Manager explained that work which could be claimed from insurance was not eligible for grants. Officers who processed the grant applications would survey the business or household and carry out checks to ensure that work was not covered by insurance.

Councillor Bubb asked who would be responsible for repairs to Borough Council facilities which would be transferring to the Leisure Trust. The Executive Director explained that the Leisure Trust would not be introduced until 1 July 2014, so at the time of the tidal surge the Council was responsible for the facilities. He explained that after the Leisure Trust was established, the Council would retain responsibility for maintenance of the buildings.

Councillor Collop commented that he was pleased to see that funding was available to businesses and households and asked what measures were being put in place to prevent flooding in the future. The Environmental Health Manager explained that a Government Minister had been allocated to each flood affected region and they had been allocated a budget to look at flood prevention measures.

In response to a further question from Councillor Collop, it was confirmed that King's Lynn town centre was covered by the Wash East Coast Management Strategy. Other strategies and plans, such as the Shoreline Management Plan and Rivers Catchment Plan covered the King's Lynn area. The County Council would also create a Surface Water Management Plan in the near future.

RESOLVED: That the Regeneration, Environment and Community Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as follows:

1. Agree delegation of schemes to the Chief Executive.
2. Agree implementation of the Repair and Renew Grant.
3. Agree implementation of the Business Support Grant.

REC155: **CABINET REPORT – WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Principal Planner LDF and Water Management Officer presented the Cabinet report which summarised the progress being made towards establishing partnership funding arrangements in accordance with the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy for the sea defences for the South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek (Snettisham Beach) area.

The Panel was informed that the report also recommended that the Council made a financial contribution toward the costs of a further beach recycling operation in the financial year 2015/2016 in a proposed

funding partnership with the Environment Agency and Norfolk County Council.

The Principal Planner LDF and Water Management Officer explained that the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy had recently reviewed its partnership funding arrangements and concluded that the formation of a Community Interest Company would be the best way forward.

The Panel was informed that the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy was due to be published for public consultation in the summer of 2014.

The Chairman thanked the Principal Planner LDF and Water Management Officer for his report. There were no questions or comments from the Panel.

RESOLVED: That the Regeneration, Environment and Community Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as follows:

1. Cabinet is invited to note the progress being made towards establishing a long-term funding arrangement for the sea defences for the South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek area.
2. Cabinet is requested to agree a financial contribution of £50,000 towards the cost of the February/March 2016 beach recycling operation in partnership with Norfolk County Council and the Environment Agency.
3. Cabinet is requested to authorise the Cabinet Member for Environment to approve the consultation document for publication in the summer.