

## REPORT TO CABINET

<b>Open/Exempt</b>		Would any decisions proposed:		
<b>Any especially affected Wards</b> Snettisham, Heacham, Hunstanton	Mandatory/	(a) Be entirely within cabinet's powers to decide YES/NO		
	Discretionary /	(b) Need to be recommendations to Council YES/NO		
	Operational	(c) Be partly for recommendations to Council YES/NO and partly within Cabinets powers –		
Lead Member: Cllr I Devereux E-mail: cllr.ian.deveraux@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr B Long		
		Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: Dave Robson E-mail: dave.robson@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616302		Other Officers consulted: Ray Harding, Peter Jermany, Alan Gillings, Local Sea Defences Funding Group		
Financial Implications YES/NO	Policy/Personnel Implications YES/NO	Statutory Implications YES/NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications YES/NO

Date of meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

### LOCAL SEA DEFENCE FUNDING UPDATE

#### Summary

The Local Sea Defence Funding Group has raised over £206,000 towards the costs of the annual beach recycling works which will be carried out in February 2017

#### Recommendation

- 1) Members note success in raising contributions to fund local sea defence works and congratulate the Community Interest Company for the progress made
- 2) To request that officers work with the Environment Agency, the Community Interest Company and other partners to identify a funding package that will meet the costs of the 'mini recharge' referred to in paragraph 3.2
- 3) Members thank King's Lynn Police Cadets in their help delivering the Flood Warning and Local Sea Defences leaflets in Hunstanton, Heacham, Snettisham and King's Lynn areas

#### Reason for Decision

To update Members on the work of the Local Sea Defences Funding Group

### 1 Background

1.1 The Wash East Coastal Management Strategy (WECMS) is a joint coastal management strategy between the Environment Agency (EA) and Borough Council. The strategy covers the coastline between Wolferton Creek to Hunstanton. The strategy area was divided into three units which have their own unique characteristics. The whole area has 1,100 residential properties, over 4,000 static caravans, key infrastructure (Anglian Water Sewage

Treatment Plant), tourism amenities and agricultural land at risk of coastal flooding and erosion over the next 100 years.

Unit Name	Geological Area/ Coast	Responsible Agency	Characteristic
Unit A	Hunstanton Cliffs	Borough Council	Erosion frontage
Unit B	Hunstanton Promenade	Borough Council	Erosion frontage
Unit C	South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek	Environment Agency	Flood risk

1.2 The Wash East Coastal Management Strategy (WECMS) was adopted by the Borough Council in January 2015.

1.3 The annual recycling of beach material in Unit C is an integral part of shoreline management and is led by the Environment Agency. This work was until recently funded wholly by central government via Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCRM GiA). Policy changes in 2010 meant that the recycling could no longer be fully funded by FCRM GiA and local communities are now expected to contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of local sea defences.

## 2 Policy Implications

2.1 The recommendations for the short term and a potential approach for the long term future are: -

Area	Timeline (Epoch)	Policy
Unit A	Up to 2025	No active intervention
	2025 – 2055	No active intervention
	2055 - 2105	No active intervention/ Hold the line
Unit B	Up to 2025	Hold the line
	2025 – 2055	Hold the line
	2055 - 2105	Hold the line
Unit C	Up to 2025	Hold the line
	2025 – 2055	Hold the line/ Managed retreat/ No active intervention
	2055 - 2105	Hold the line/ Managed retreat/ No active intervention

2.2 To help implement the WECMS agreed policies, a Local Sea Defence Funding Group was set up to develop and maintain a funding strategy and a Stakeholder Forum to keep interested parties up to date on progress.

2.3 The Local Sea Defence Funding Group is chaired by the Borough Council (BC) and includes Environment Agency (EA), Anglian Water (AW), East Wash Coastal Management Community Interest Company (EWCMCIC) and initially Norfolk County Council (NCC). The group meets regularly and the agenda's and minutes of these meetings are available on the Councils website.

2.4 Last year the £150,000 to fund the beach recycling works in February 2016 was funded equally by the EA, BC and NCC.

2.5 Following on from the pathfinder work which started in 2011 to examine ways in which communities could contribute to local sea defence, various funding models were considered as part of the WECMS adoption. It was concluded that there was no practical and legal mechanism for mandatory contribution without a change in legislation. Therefore a voluntary approach should be explored through a Community Interest Company. This was found to be the most realistic and practicable solution for local fund raising within the required timescale.

### **3 Communication and publicity**

3.1 An important element of the WECMS is maintaining close links with the local community and keeping them up to date with progress. A Stakeholders Forum has been formed and will now be chaired by Cllr I Devereux, Environment Portfolio Holder for the Borough Council. The Stakeholder Forum is made up from different agencies, parish and town councils and local interest groups and bodies. The forum meets every six months and the agenda's and minutes of these meetings are available on the Council's website.

3.2 The Funding Group agreed an engagement strategy between February 2016 to August 2016 to raise awareness amongst the local community and encourage voluntary donations.

3.3 The first event was to publicise the annual beach recycling which was undertaken in February 2016. A media release also highlighted a dedicated Borough Council webpage that updated progress on the local sea defences work and allowed contributions to be made to the local sea defences fund.

3.4 Officers visited and provided local sea defences funding posters to local businesses and parish councils along the coast and displayed posters at various points along the coast such as access/egress points to the beach and car parks.

3.5 A series of beach front drop in's were held at Snettisham beach, North beach Heacham, South beach Heacham and the Spinney, Hunstanton where BC and EA staff were able to provide information and advice about flood awareness and the local sea defences fund.

3.6 A local sea defences funding leaflet was also distributed to beach front properties as part of the annual flood awareness work by Emergency Wardens, with great assistance from King's Lynn Police Cadets.

## 4 Financial Implications

4.1 The WECMS initially concluded that grant funding would be in the region of around 25% of the costs of the recycling works, leaving 75% to be funding locally. The most recent work by the EA has provisionally secured 43% central government grant leaving 57% to be funded locally. The EA are currently developing the business case for the recycling works to seek assurance from the EA Large Project Review Group (LPRG). We expect to receive assurance in the near future. Once the project has been assured, the EA will recommend the project for financial approval. The annual beach recycling is still expected to be completed in February 2017 as normal.

4.2 The EA has now recommended that a 15 year project be adopted rather than the previous 5 year. This will give local businesses and the community more certainty of funding from central government over a longer period of time, and will lead to efficiencies as the project business case will not have to be reproduced every 5 years. The change from a 5 to 15 year project has led to an increase of FCRM Grant in Aid to 43%. The project will still require checks every 5 years before continuing with the project. The 15 year proposal also includes provision of a mini beach recharge between year 6 and 15. Beach recharge is a process where beach material is dredged from the sea bed and pumped ashore. Beach recharges have previously been completed in 1990/91 and 2005/6. The exact time and cost will depend on which year the recharge is required and how much material is required to be brought ashore. At the moment the mini recharge will be likely to be around a third of the size of the last recharge in 2005/6 as monitoring has shown that the majority of material from the previous recharge has stayed on the frontage. Although this mini recharge is covered by the business case currently being developed for beach recycling it will require a separate legal agreement and funding.

4.3 The East Wash Coastal Management Community Interest Company (EWCMCIC) was set up on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 to raise funds from local business within the area, but notably caravan parks, land owners and some beach bungalows.

4.4 Total funds collected for are:

EWCMCIC	£178,920.97
Anglian Water	£20,000
Borough Council	£5,000
Beach Huts	£1,455
Local contributions	£755
Total for 2015/16	£206,130.97

Anglian Water has agreed an additional contribution of £80,000 for 2017/18.

Funds are now being raised for 2017 works.

4.5 The annual beach recycling cost will depend on how much material will be required to be moved, to where along the coast and how long it will take. Previously the costs have varied between £130,000 and up to £180,000. The EA have worked with Natural England to reduce the need for environmental monitoring to drive down costs. This has resulted in a saving of around £160,000 over 5 years.

4.6 If we use a £150,000 mean figure, then central government grant would be £64,500 leaving a contribution from the Funding Group of £85,500. If funding continues to be raised at the current rate, this would leave a surplus of £120,500 to contribute towards the beach recharge in year 6 onwards, or other works deemed suitable by the Funding Group.

4.7 In December 2016 a meeting was held with Hunstanton Town Council, Heacham, Snettisham and Dersingham Parish Council to discuss and explore ways that Parishes could contribute towards the cost of local sea defences. We will during 2017 continue to work with the Parishes to evaluate and determine if this is a suitable way forward.

## **5 Background Papers**

Funding Group [https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water\\_management\\_and\\_flooding/175/local\\_sea\\_defences\\_funding](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/175/local_sea_defences_funding)

Stakeholders Forum [https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water\\_management\\_and\\_flooding/176/wash\\_east\\_coastal\\_management\\_strategy](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/176/wash_east_coastal_management_strategy)

Wash East Coastal Management Strategy

Shoreline Management Plan 4

EA Briefing Note – Wash East Coast Management Strategy – Works Arising