REPORT TO CABINET

Open		Would any decisions proposed:	
Any especially affected Wards Hunstanton, Heacham, Snettisham	Mandatory	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide Need to be recommendations to Council Is it a Key Decision	NO YES YES
Lead Member: Cllr Squire E-mail: *Sandra.squire@west-norfolk.gov.uk*		Other Cabinet Members consulted: None Other Members consulted: Environment and Community Panel	
Lead Officer: Dave Robson E-mail: *Dave.Robson@West-Norfolk.gov.uk* Direct Dial: 01553 616302		Other Officers consulted: Phillipa Hulme and George Fuhrmann- Representatives from the Environment Agency	

Financial Implications NO	Policy/ Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications NO	Equal Impact Assessment NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications YES	Environmental Considerations YES

If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s)

Date of meeting: 10th December 2024

TITLE: NOTICE OF MOTION 15/23- WASH EAST COAST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY- UNIT C- TECHNICAL REPORT

Summary

The Wash East Coast Management Strategy- Unit C- Technical report from the Environment Agency was presented to the Environment and Community Panel in response to the Notice of Motion 15/23 which was referred by Council for consideration by the Environment and Community Panel. The Notice of Motion is set out below:

"This council recognises the very real threat posed by coastal erosion and sea intrusion to human life and our historic coastal communities, vital tourist industry, important farming industry and wildlife.

We applaud the recent decision taken at the County Council that as a county Norfolk will now press the Environment Agency, government and local MPs strongly to find and invest sufficient funding to cater for the current level of threat posed and to enhance provision for future years so that coastal defences are up to the task.

Council on this matter on behalf of its residents and that 'managed retreat' from existing coastal protections, allowing any (NB) increased risk to life or property, or loss of land to the sea or elements is not a desirable short, medium or longer-term strategy or tactic and the matter of potential changes to shoreline management should now be referred to E&C'."

The Environment and Community Panel responded to the notice of motion with the following recommendation.

Recommendation:

Cabinet endorses the recommendation made by The Environment and Community Panel and requests that the Cabinet forward the response to Notice of Motion 15/23 to Council for consideration:

The Environment and Community Panel noted the progress and supports the future work on the Wash East Coast Management Strategy review and requested future updates on progress.

Reason for Report

This report is in response to the Notice of Motion 15/23 from Council meeting 19th October 2023.

1 Background

1.1 The notice of motion 15/23 was proposed by Councillor Dark and seconded by Councillor Joyce at the Council Meeting on 19th October 2023.

1.2 Following the motion, as requested a letter was sent to the Environment Agency by the former leader Councillor Parish.

1.3 Following the completion of a Unit C Initial Assessment (Technical Report) on the current condition of Unit C, the Environment Agency held a Wash East Coast Management Stakeholder Forum, provide an update to RFCC Members, attended a Cabinet Briefing, held Drop in events in Snettisham and Heacham and presented the Wash East Coast Management Strategy (WECMS) Unit C Technical Report to the Environment and Community Panel.

1.4 The Environment Agency identified the current management approach had triggered a change in the flood risk management approach which now be taken forward as a review of the current Wash East Coast Management Strategy.

2 Options Considered

2.1 The Unit C Initial Report considered if any of the three triggers in the existing WECMS had been met: -

- if funding (from any source) for continued defence management becomes insufficient,
- if the environmental impacts of defence management become unacceptable, or
- if the frequency of flood evacuations becomes unacceptable.

2.2 The report concluded that as there had been only one Precautionary Evacuation Notice, then this would not be considered unacceptable.

2.3 The report noted that environmental monitoring has showed no significant direct ecological impacts from the annual beach recycling activities.

2.4 The focus of the report considered the financial implications and updated the economics assessment from the previous WECMS. The re-calculated economics showed that the proposed beach recharge would exceed the previous £2.6m estimate and would now make funding for a beach recharge unlikely. The overall cost estimate for the beach recharge would be in excess of £7m, with a likely private contribution in excess of £5.2m There were also technical concerns raised about how to complete a beach recharge. Therefore, the report concluded the financial trigger had been reached and should lead to a review of the current WECMS.

3 Policy Implications

3.1

Unit Area	Up to 2025	2025 to 2050	2055 to 2100
Unit A – Cliffs	No Active Intervention	No Active Intervention	Hold the Line
Unit B – Hunstanton Sea Defence	Hold the Line	Hold the Line	Hold the Line
Unit C – South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek	Hold the Line	Hold the Line No Active Intervention Managed Realignment	Hold the Line No Active Intervention Managed Realignment

3.2 The WECMS review will consider which polices should be implemented post 2025.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Funding for the WECMS review will be subject to a funding bid to the Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC).

4.2 A review of the WECMS will trigger a review of the Council's Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan (HCMP) which covers Unit A (Cliffs) and Unit B (Hunstanton Town Defences). Once WECMS has been reviewed and updated, there will be a need to update the HCMP.

5 Personnel Implications

5.1 None identified.

6 Environmental Considerations

6.1 At the Environment and Community Panel meeting the Environment Agency representative outlined the current management approach which included the annual beach recycling, intermittent beach recharge and ongoing beach monitoring.

6.2 In reviewing the current management strategy challenges include the ridge mobility and beach recharge. The ridge has strengthened, and beach levels are stable meaning a recharge is not required at the moment and the annual beach recycling was to continue until 2031.

7 Statutory Considerations

7.1 As requested, the Notice of Motion was referred to the Environment and Community Panel for consideration and they determined that the Wash East Coast Management Strategy Unit C Interim Report had considered this area. The Panel noted the financial requirement had been met for a review of the WECMS and this would further review the relevant coastal management policies for the area. Panel requested that they be kept informed of progress.

8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 An EIA Pre- Screening Template has been completed which is attached.

9 Risk Management Implications

9.1 The flood risk to the area is mitigated by having the WECMS in place

9.2 The Unit C Interim Report shows the financial trigger has been met which will lead to a review of the WECMS. The review of the WECMS will provide an in-depth update of the current and future policies for the coastline.

9.3 The update WECMS policies will ensure flood risk is understood and mitigated for this stretch of coastline which contains over 4,259 vulnerable caravans, 597 residential properties and 63 businesses.

9.4 The WECMS area provided a significant holiday, tourism, amenity benefits and protection to residential and business properties.

10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

10.1 None identified.

11 Background Papers

- Presentation from the Environment Agency on the Wash East Coast Management Strategy to the Environment and Community Panel
- Notice of Motion 15/23

Stage 1 - Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Name of policy/service/function	Wash East Coast Management Strategy			
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function? *(tick as appropriate)*	New		Existing	X
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations, and identify relevant legislation.	The Wash East Coast Management Strategy- Unit C- Initial Report from the Environment Agency was presented to the Environment and Community Panel in response to the Notice of Motion 15/23. This will form a review of the current joint EA/ BCKLWN WECMS adopted in 2015 and will eventually require a review of Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan adopted in 2019.			
Who has been consulted as part of the development of the policy/service/function? – new only *(identify stakeholders consulted with)*	The Environment Agency, Cabinet, Wash East Coast Management Strategy Stakeholders, RFCC Members, Environment and Community Panel.			

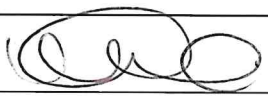
Question	**Answer**				
1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service? Please tick the relevant box for each group. NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group. ***If potential adverse impacts are identified, then a full Equality Impact Assessment (Stage 2) will be required.***		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			x	
	Disability			x	
	Sex			x	
	Gender Re-assignment			x	
	Marriage/civil partnership			x	
	Pregnancy & maternity			x	
	Race			x	
	Religion or belief			x	
	Sexual orientation			x	
	Armed forces community			x	
	Care leavers			x	
	Other (eg low income, caring responsibilities)			x	

Question	Answer	Comments
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favoring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	~~Yes~~ / No	The Policy area will cover tourism, residential and businesses. The Policy review will follow statutory guidance on coastal management which will consider aspects such as financial, environmental, amenity and climate change.
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	~~Yes~~ / No	The area covers the whole community within the WECMS area. This is in response to the know flood risks and follows statutory guidance.
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	~~Yes~~ / No	No, the main aspect covered is coastal management and flood defence mitigation.
5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section	~~Yes~~ / No	**Actions:** N/A **Actions agreed by EWG member:** .....

If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary:

Decision agreed by EWG member: .....N/A.....

full EIA not required.

Assessment completed by: **Name**	Dave Robson		
Job title	Environmental Health Manager		
Date completed	27.09.2024		
Reviewed by EWG member		**Date**	27/11/24

X Please tick to confirm completed EIA Pre-screening Form has been shared with Corporate Policy (corporate.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk)