

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

27 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A.3 CLACTON AND HOLLAND-ON-SEA CLIFF STABILISATION PHASE 2: REQUEST FOR FUNDING

(Report prepared by Ian Ford, based on information provided by Andy White and James Ennos)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To refer to Council, subject to Cabinet's related decision on 23 April 2021, my recommendation that Council commits the allocation of funding to the implementation of the proposed remedial work, which will stabilise approximately 200m of the cliff at several locations in Holland-on-Sea for the next 50 to 100 years and create new locations for approximately 30 new beach huts.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since February 2020, three areas of cliff in Holland-on-Sea have collapsed or been identified as likely to collapse.

Monitoring of the movement is continuing to take place. Design of remedial measures has been completed and tenders invited. At the time of writing tenders have been received within the allocated budget. Evaluation is ongoing and separate decisions will be made, subject to the decision of Full Council to approve the allocation of the necessary funding. If no action is taken further collapse is likely which will expose the Council to significant reputational, financial and legal risk.

Tenders have been invited, received and assessed. The lowest tender is in the sum of £1,930,212.92. An allocation of funding in excess of this would be prudent to allow for contingencies and potentially increasing material costs.

It is for these reasons that I have submitted a report to the formal meeting of the Cabinet that is due to be held on Friday 23 April 2021 that, inter alia, requests Cabinet to recommend to Council that it approves the use of the £1.5m beach recharge reserve to fully fund the proposed cliff stabilisation scheme.

The provisions of the Financial Procedure Rules, as set out in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution and specifically Section 6.15 (Part 5.37) require the approval of Full Council for the use of this reserve. Conventionally the Annual Council meeting does not consider general business. However, in this case I propose that an exception to that convention is accepted in order to enable the Coastal Protection Team to accept the tender for the work as early as reasonably practicable. A timely commencement will maximise the proportion of work that can be attempted during summer weather, reduce the risk of increasing material prices and address urgent stability work more quickly.

Full background, implications and current position information is set out in my report to Cabinet which is appended to this report.

Following the meeting of the Cabinet on 23 April 2021, the Committee Services Manager will circulate, as soon as possible, to all Members of the Council the text of Cabinet's decision on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That, subject to its full consideration of the related decision that will be taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 23 April 2021, Council approves the use of the £1.5m beach recharge reserve to fully fund the proposed cliff stabilisation scheme.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder's Report to Cabinet on 23 April 2021.