

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 April 2021

COUNCILLOR A FITCH-TILLET- CABINET MEMBER FOR COAST

For the period February to April 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Innovative Resilience Fund - Progress Update

A consortium of East Suffolk Council (ESC), North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) and Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC) has made a successful bid to Defra's 'Innovative Resilience Fund' to deliver the Norfolk & Suffolk Coast Transition Programme. Our bid proposed an £8M, 6-year programme to deliver coastal adaptation across 8 communities on the Norfolk and Suffolk coast.

Defra will make £40k available for the development of the final business case to unlock the grant. As the project has successfully cleared the competitive stage and close support will be provided with the development of the business case, the final funding approval stage is hoped to be straightforward. We are optimistic of the bid's ultimate success.

Our programme will offer a complete suite of planning, engagement, technical, financial and policy tools to support the sustainable transition of coastal communities in Norfolk and Suffolk, establishing methodologies which could be applied to the rest of the UK coast. Tangible, measurable and sustainable changes will be delivered in pilot locations. This will enable them to physically adapt to climate and coastal change now and for future generations.

The programme will be implemented in four core pilot locations across the Norfolk and Suffolk coast, plus four additional 'twin' locations. The work will be delivered in close collaboration with communities, alongside a multi-sector and national group of partner organisations with a proven track record of delivering tangible change within their sectors.

Cromer Phase 2 and Mundesley Coast Protection Scheme – Progress Update

The Mundesley and Cromer (phase 2) Coastal Management Schemes are multi-million (approx. £6M) coastal management schemes and are part of the NNDC and Coastal Partnership East (CPE) Capital Programme and the Environment Agency (EA) Flood Coast and Erosion Risk Management Programme. Both schemes are substantially funded by the EA with allocations for 2021-2023.

In order to deliver the schemes and generate the benefits of reduced coastal erosion risks, the scheme is progressing with detailed design, environmental assessment, consenting, contract and tender development. In order to seek time and financial efficiencies the schemes were tendered together.

A tender process was completed utilising the CPE Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). This is an OJEU compliant system and has been used previously by NNDC to procure coastal management services. Following the tender evaluation process, Mott MacDonald have been appointed as consultants to work with us to move these essential elements of the schemes forward.

UEA Secondment Research Associate

CPE, with funding from the Environment Agency, is now benefitting from the secondment, on a two day per week basis over a six-month period, of Dr Sophie Day from the University of East Anglia. She will seek to:

- a) Review existing scientific information and tools for assessing and understanding the likely evolution of coastal erosion over time, under different climate change scenarios
- b) Capture the key needs of coastal managers in planning adaptively for vulnerable frontages (with a focus on erosive frontages)
- c) Identify key gaps and opportunities for developing existing science and tools (where relevant linking these to existing/potential policy mechanisms and community engagement approaches) to support more adaptive coastal management practice for eroding sections of coast.

This work will help build the evidence base needed to assist with decision making in light of climate change, broaden coastal knowledge and develop research opportunities, whilst also supporting Shoreline Management Plan refresh actions and delivery of the IRF OBC (see above).

National FCERM Strategy & LGA Coastal Special Interest Group

CPE staff have drafted the work plans for three of the national LGA SIG working groups with our national colleagues from around the coast, these include the topic areas of Adaptation, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management funding and Beach Safety. Key actions are to lobby for a national coastal minister and for a review of the Coast Protection Act (CPA).

Key staff attended the Coastal Group Network discussion on strategic asset management – and CPE were namechecked on the development of an asset monitoring collector app and discussion on the need to have better evidence on the real cost of coastal maintenance revenue.

Sandscaping

The Sandscaping scheme is being monitored in line with the approved Monitoring and Integrity Management Plan. This baseline monitoring is currently being intensified with additional bathymetric surveys (seabed) and LIDAR (beach).

Following the sand placement, it is expected that the beach profile will change and beach levels will continue to fluctuate and over time reduce. It is important to remember that the beach extends below the low water mark, and this part of the beach is essential in breaking waves and absorbing energy from the sea.

Analysis of the data capture up to November 2020 shows that the scheme is performing as modelled.

During this second winter, following the sand placement, there have been two more significant windblown sand events following periods of higher winds. Further

assessment is being completed with regard to these events and any further actions that may be considered to reduce the impact of such events in the future.

Sea Defence Maintenance

Works have included but are not limited to:

- Repairs to groynes at Cromer
- Temporary closure of Happisburgh ramp
- Removal of hazardous pill box at Kelling
- Removal of debris from Clifton Way beach access, Overstrand
- Repairs to pedestrian steps at Groyne 2a Cromer
- Removal of concrete debris
- Assistance with clearing windblown sand

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Response to 'FloodRe' Consultation

The CPE team are preparing a response to the current consultation on the FloodRe scheme. This scheme collects a levy on all home insurance nationally and uses this to re-insure insurance companies so that they can offer affordable home insurance to properties at flood risk. Without this scheme many properties would not be financially viable to insure. The consultation response will seek to highlight the potential for the FloodRe scheme to be expanded to other wider forms of risk, such as erosion risk which is also not currently insurable. This aligns with the current 'Coastal Loss Innovative Funding and Finance' project currently being led by the team.

3 Meetings attended – All Virtual

- All NNDC Committees appointed to: Development Committees, Governance Risk and Audit Committee (for information as substitute), Cabinet, North Norfolk Coastal Forum – in The Chair, Environmental Charter Workshop, Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party (Observer), Scrutiny Training, Scrutiny (Observer), Social Prescribing Workshop,
- Northrepps, Overstrand (By email), Trimmingham and Sidestrand Parish Councils
- Water Resources East Conference.
- CLIFF Steering Group.
- Norfolk Coast Partnership Core Management Group.
- Norfolk Coast Partnership Reopening The Coast Task and Finish Group.
- Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership Management Group, followed by Stakeholder Group.

- LGA Coastal SIG – presenting update on Adaptation Working Party.
- East Marine Plan Workshop and Briefing.