



CLLR PHILL BRIGHTMORE
ENVIRONMENT

CABINET
26 JUNE 2017

COASTAL STRATEGY SCRUTINY REVIEW

Councillor Phill Brightmore, Cabinet Member for Environment said:

“Effectively managing flood risk is essential to protect our coastal communities and our Coastal Strategy plays a key role in this.

I am grateful to the Members of all parties who took part in this scrutiny review and I believe the insight they have provided will prove extremely valuable as we continue our work in this area.

I am pleased to support all of the four key recommendations arising from this report for endorsement by Cabinet.”

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the findings of the review, as conducted by the Task & Finish Scrutiny Review Panel, following the Wirral Coastal Strategy Scrutiny presented to the former Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee. The purpose of the review was to look at how the Council will deliver the Coastal Strategy with a focus on how coastal defence will be delivered in areas that require intervention in the short term.

The review links to the Wirral Plan for 2020 and in particular the pledge under the Environment theme to ensure that:

- Wirral’s neighbourhoods are safe

The report identified that funding is a key issue for the delivery of coastal defence schemes and recommended that all viable funding opportunities should be explored to

support scheme delivery prior to consideration of internal capital bids. The report also recognised the value of Local Levy as an alternative funding source for scheme delivery and recommended support for approval of annual increases in contributions.

The theme of maximising opportunities in relation to funding was also carried through to ensuring coastal defence schemes tie-in, where possible, to regeneration opportunities.

Awareness of flood and coastal erosion risk was also highlighted and it was acknowledged that Members have an important role to play in engaging with Wirral's residents and businesses in raising awareness of this risk.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Cabinet are requested to:

- (1) Note the findings of the Review and thank the Members of all parties that took part; and
- (2) Endorse the four key Recommendations set out in the Executive Summary of the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 Cabinet are requested to endorse the findings of this Review so that implementation of the recommendations can commence.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The full scrutiny report appended to this cover report sets out the findings and recommendations arising from a Scrutiny Review completed in summer 2016. The final report was considered by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2016, where it was agreed that it should be referred to Cabinet for consideration of the findings and recommendations.

3.2 Due to scheduling there has been a slight delay in this report being referred back to Cabinet, however in the meantime good progress has been made in the development and submission of the business case to secure Grant Aid for a scheme to reduce the risk of sea flooding at West Kirby.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All recommendations are based on implementation through existing resources.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 All recommendations are based on implementation through existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation with the relevant service team and related external organisations has been undertaken as part of this Review.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

Coastal Strategy Scrutiny Review report.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18 July 2016