

15 – 29 APRIL 2022

FLOOD AND COASTAL RESILIENCE PROJECT - THE GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE GROUNDWATER PROJECT, SUBMISSION OF OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

COMMENTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On 12 April 2022, the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee considered a report in relation to the Flood and Coastal Resilience Project - the Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project, submission of Outline Business Case and unanimously supported the Recommendations to the Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning.

The following points were highlighted:

- Members echoed that the report was very comprehensive, exceedingly well written and paved a great way forward and congratulated Officers for their efforts.
- Members recognised that a partnership approach was adopted for the whole of Greater Lincolnshire, however, asked for clarity around how it was ensured that in addition to large projects, funds would be used to tackle issues in small villages which had experienced significant flooding. Officers clarified that the proposed was not a project based to address specific issues in the county, rather aimed to develop learning and understanding of the effects of groundwater and what that meant as to use that when issues emerge in the county by enabling the roll out of works on the ground to mitigate issues emerging from groundwater. The areas initially identified were Scopwick, Grimsby and Barton and Barrow Upon Humber across three authority areas where groundwater issues have previously been identified. This would facilitate community engagement in terms of warning and informing to ensure preparedness against the effects of groundwater. Officers emphasised on funding allowing for greater exploration the potential opportunities to harness that groundwater either for environmental benefits or for increased water capacity.
- Members noted concerns related to potential for coastal inundation and the risks of flooding and other defences of water courses failing (reflecting on Wainfleet flood in 2019). Hydraulic pressure being a major force may infiltrate the foul water drains and overflow into properties; specific examples of areas similar in terms of geology and hydrology, to Scopwick were mentioned, with emphasis on the complexity of issues emerging from groundwater which required a great level of understanding before implementing any mitigations. Members were pleased to see that this project viewed groundwater as a resource to be managed rather than merely a problem to be mitigated.
- Further information in relation to the 25 local areas that had been successful in bidding for funds. Officers explained that these were spread across the country and mentioned two major projects focused on groundwater, the Groundwater Resilience and Community Engagement project, located in Buckinghamshire and the

Sunderland and East Durham Ground Water Stations in North East Durham. Links had been made with project leads in those areas for information to be shared and learning to be taken between those projects. Other projects looked at different types of flooding issues and water resource problems for example coastal problems. Further liaisons will be made to extract learning from these areas as well.