

URN: 23-077

Report Title : Resilient Coasts Project – Coastal Partnership East

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting : 10th July 2023

Responsible Cabinet Member: Tourism Culture and Coastal

Responsible Director / Officer : Head of Coastal Partnership East

Is this a Key decision No

Date added to Forward Plan of Key Decisions if a Key Decision:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / INTRODUCTION FROM CABINET MEMBER

This report recommends the formation of the Resilient Coasts Project Board as the governing board for the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP). Funding for this programme was approved in June 2022.

The initial governing group Joint Coastal Project Board is recommended for amendment to become Resilient Coasts Project Board with the Elected Members representing the Coastal Partnership East Board to attend on behalf of Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

That Cabinet :

(1) Approves the creation of a Sub-Group (Resilient Coasts Project Board) of the Coastal Partnership East and that representatives be those that are appointed to the Coastal Partnership East.

1. Introduction / Background

Coastal Partnership East submitted an Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Flood and coastal resilience innovation programme **FCRIP** in 2021 it was approved by East Suffolk Cabinet on the 7th of June 2022 to receive £8.4 million external funding from the Governments Innovation Programme, with CPE contributing £750K. Projects Duration is March 2022 – 31st March 2027

The funding for projects stems from a government announcement in 2020 of £200 million of innovation funding to help meet the aims set out in the: Government’s policy statement on flooding and coastal erosion and the Environment Agency’s National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England

FRCIP managed by the Environment Agency has allocated 25 local areas funding to demonstrate how practical innovative actions can work to improve resilience to

flooding and coastal erosion, Coastal Partnership East has been successful in confirming £8.4m of this fund.

2. Work to Date / Proposal

FCRIP broad aims include:

- nature based solutions
- sustainable drainage systems
- approaches for making existing properties more flood resilient
- encouraging local businesses to improve their flood resilience

building community and voluntary sector capacity to respond and recover

Programme aims:

The aims of the flood and coastal resilience innovation programme are to:

- encourage local authorities, businesses, and communities to test and demonstrate innovative practical resilience actions in their areas.
- improve the resilience of 25 local areas, reducing the costs of future damage and disruption from flooding and coastal erosion.
- improve evidence on the costs and benefits of the innovative resilience actions and demonstrate how different actions work together across geographical areas.
- use the evidence and learning developed to inform future approaches to, and investments in, flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Types of innovation

- Combinations of actions that maximise overall resilience.
- This includes a combination of different resilience actions working together to improve resilience to flooding and coastal change. Specifically, we want to understand how actions complement one another, and add more value compared to individual actions.

Broadening the range of resilience actions, the projects will:

- fill gaps in our evidence on the costs and benefits of types of resilience actions.
- seek to roll out resilience actions that have only been trialled in a limited number of places or circumstances.
- trial new flood and coastal resilience activities
- Increasing uptake and achieving resilience actions

This includes:

- new approaches to achieve a resilience action, for example, using new partnerships, or different ways of working or funding projects to achieve the outcomes.
- actions which seek to overcome existing blockers or barriers.

Project specifications: Resilient Coasts Project March 2022 – March 2027

The Resilient Coasts project works alongside affected coastal communities in carefully selected pilot locations to create practical resources that enable practitioners, people, economies and environment of the Great Yarmouth and Suffolk coastal frontages to transition to a climate resilient coast.

Short description of the benefits

- The Resilient Coasts project will deliver practical solutions to deal with climate change and sea level rise that are co-created and implemented by communities. The project aims to facilitate a sense of ownership that increases community resilience to tidal flooding and coastal erosion.
- High risk communities with no resilience options will benefit from a suite of innovative resources that will allow them to plan and transition in response to coastal change to viable, sustainable places whilst delivering wider outcomes of local plans and strategies.
- Our project will add value to traditional coastal management and planning approaches and go beyond other resilience work initiatives by offering the first dedicated joint UK erosion and tidal risk resilience project. This will generate significant learning locally, nationally, and across public and private sectors. The project will provide evidence for policy change and underpin how coastal practitioners manage the coast as we learn to adapt to coastal change now and in the future.

There are a number of Resilient Coasts Work Packages:

- 1 Understanding risk and mapping coastal erosion
- 2 Coastal spatial mapping
- 3 Adaptation funding and finance - Outputs from the nationally applicable CLIFF (Coastal Loss: Innovative Funding and Finance) project will form a part of this option.
- 4 Community resilience - Engagement
- 5 Integrated infrastructure and investment strategy
- 6 Community master planning
- 7 Policy challenge

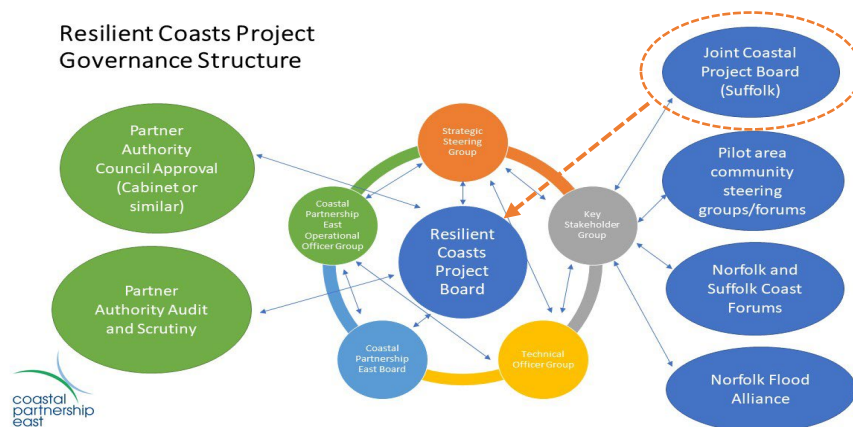
8 Asset management – innovative engineering and adaptation

Specific areas benefiting from applying Resilient Coasts outputs and learning include case study sites: Lowestoft, Hemsby, Pakefield, Great Yarmouth, Southwold, Thorpeness, Shotley, Winterton, Corton and Gunton

The Project Team are now in place and work has begun to provide a baseline for all eight work packages mentioned above. The baseline is necessary for Defra to evaluate the future findings of the 25 projects

3. Impact / Next Steps

The next important step is to formulate the details of the governance structure incorporating the Joint Coastal Project Board into the Resilient Coasts Project Board. The following chart identified how this will be achieved:



4. Financial Implications

No additional costs. The change to the above governance structure will create savings in officer time and resources.

5. Risk Implications

None

6. Legal Implications

None

7. Conclusion

The Resilient Coasts Project Board will increase interaction and transparency with the Pilot sites and improve the legacy of the project.

Consultations	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	Within the report
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	N/A
Existing Council Policies:	Considered
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	N/A