

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**REGENERATION, MARKETING AND
STRATEGIC FINANCE CABINET
MEMBER**

**PROVISION OF THIRD PARTY FUNDING FOR ALKBOROUGH FLATS
REEDBED PROJECT**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to release £7,744 from the Wind Prospect Environment Fund to provide a Contributing Third Party payment for the creation of a reedbed at Alkborough Flats Managed Realignment Site.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Alkborough Flats Managed Realignment site forms part of the Environment Agency's Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 2.2 Since 1998 the council have worked in partnership with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Associated British ports to deliver the managed realignment site and, since the site was breached, to develop into a Nature Reserve. The council, through the employment of two site staff, manage Alkborough Flats on behalf of the partnership.
- 2.3 The creation of the reedbed will increase the biodiversity of the site and will contribute to National and Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets for priority habitats and species.
- 2.4 Alkborough Flats is part of the South Humber Bank Collection and the South Humber Wildlife and People Project (SHWAP)
- 2.5 External funding for the creation of the reedbed has been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through the funding of the South Humber Wildlife and People Project.
- 2.6 In addition to the funding from HLF, on behalf of the Alkborough Flats partnership, the council have recently been successful in securing a grant of £70,400 from SITA trust towards the costs of creating the reedbed.

2.7 To be able to receive the funding from SITA trust, a Contributing Third Party payment, an amount equivalent to 11% of the grant has to be made. The council are the Contributing Third Party in this instance.

2.8 The value of the Contributing Third Party payment is £7,744.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The options available are as follows:

3.1.1 Endorse the release of £7,744 from the Wind Prospect Environment Fund.

3.1.2 Decline the release of £7,744 from the Wind Prospect Environment Fund. The money will then have to be provided through the Environment Team budget.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Releasing the required amount of money set out in the first option will ensure that the best use of the council's resources are made as it will have no impact on the Environment Team budget.

4.2 The council have a commitment to provide the Contributing Third Party payment. If £7,744 is not released from the Wind Prospect Fund, funding will need to be provided through the Environment Team budget. This will reduce the amount of money available to the Environment Team to carry out other pieces of work.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 If money is released from the Wind Prospect Environment Fund there will be no financial implications. If the money is not released from the fund then it will have to be sourced from the existing Environment Team budget. This will reduce the amount of money available for the Environment Team to carry out other pieces of work.

5.2 Staffing – There are no staffing implications.

5.3 Property – There are no property implications.

5.4 IT – There are no IT implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Environmental

6.1.1 The successful delivery of Alkborough Flats managed realignment site, including the creation of the reedbed helps to deliver the objectives of the Shoreline Management Plan and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. It also contributes to the targets for priority habitats and species within the National Biodiversity Action Plan. The Council have a commitment to help deliver the outcomes and targets identified in these plans.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The following organisations have been consulted regarding the creation of the reedbed: the Environment Agency, Natural England, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, English Heritage and the Site Monument Record.

7.2 This report has been discussed at the Cabinet Member for Highways and Planning and received support to go forward for a decision at this meeting.

7.3 No objections have arisen from this consultation.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member supports the release of £7,744 from the Wind Prospect Environment Fund as set out above.

SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING

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Date: 16 July 2008

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Alkborough Flats(electronic) held on the I drive church Square House