EAST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL
County Hall Beverley East Riding of Yorkshire HU17 9BA Telephone (01482) 393939
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Darren Stevens Executive Director of Corporate Resources

To: Members of the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Your Ref:	
Our Ref:	E&R Agenda
Enquiries:	Rob Close
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Tel. Direct:	(01482) 393899
Date:	10 April 2024

Dear Councillor

I hereby give you notice that a meeting of the ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE will be held at COUNTY HALL, CROSS STREET, BEVERLEY, HU17 9BA on **THURSDAY**, **18 APRIL 2024** at **10.00AM.**

Public and press attendance at meetings

Seating in the public gallery is limited, therefore **places must be booked in advance** by contacting the Committee Manager on the contact details above. Members of the public and press are encouraged to view proceedings on the Council's YouTube channel where the meeting can be viewed live or at a later date.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR6ExCx8bLOJUyRfmClIMeQ

The business to be transacted is as set out below.

Yours sincerely

for Darren Stevens
Executive Director of Corporate Resources

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A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Pecuniary, Non-Pecuniary Interests and Prejudicial Interests - Members to declare any interests in items on the agenda and the nature of such interest.

2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 6 March 2024 (pages 3 - 10).

   Exclusion of Press and Public - The Sub-Committee is asked to consider excluding the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. In making its decision, the Sub-Committee is asked to confirm that, having regard to all circumstances, it is satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

3. Beverley Park and Ride Scheme – To receive a report of the Joint report of the Interim Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Communities and Environment.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council ("Council") use third-party video conferencing platforms in order to facilitate meetings, seminars and webinars remotely. The Council uses a variety of platforms including Zoom and Microsoft Teams. These products are external, third-party platforms and, as such, security cannot be assured. The Council does not directly host these platforms, nor does it exercise control over their infrastructure or privacy protocols. It is the responsibility of the participant to be aware of the risks involved in using these, or similar platforms, and to satisfy themselves that the security of any platform they elect to use is sufficient for their needs. Each participant should read the relevant privacy policy of the platform provider and should exercise adequate caution, including using appropriate anti-virus/malware/spyware software and device encryption.

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Alan Menzies

Interim Chief Executive

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

6 MARCH 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Lee (in the Chair), Gallant, T Gill, Hopton, Howard, Meredith, Norman, Redshaw, Shepherd and Wilcock

Officers Present: Annabel Allen - Service and Business Development Manager, Robin Barmby - Principal Asset Officer - Energy/Carbon, Rachel Gennery – Senior Transport Policy Officer, Carl Gillyon - Group Manager - Technical Services, Richard Jackson - Coastal Change Manager, Helen Jenkins-Knight - Climate Change Manager, Richard Lewis - Civil Engineering Services Group Manager, Alan Menzies – Interim Chief Executive, John Pemberton - Sustainable Environment Manager, Jeremy Pickles – Sustainable Development Group Manager, Suzanne Tose - External Funding & Policy Manager, Claire Watts - Director of Economic Development & Communications, Jennifer Woollin - Team Leader: Trees and Ecology, and Rob Close – Senior Committee Manager.

Councillor Barbara Jefferson - Portfolio Holder for Heritage and Coastal and Councillor Paul West - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport were also in attendance.

The Sub-Committee met at County Hall, Beverley. The meeting was streamed live to the Council's committee meetings YouTube channel.

6/24 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY, NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS –

Councillor Meredith declared a personal interest in minutes 8/24 and 9/24 noting that he was a member of the Humber Forest.

Councillor Redshaw declared a personal interest in minute 8/24 noting that his spouse was a deferred member of the East Riding Pension Fund.

7/24 MINUTES – Agreed – That the minutes of the meeting held 24 January 2024 be approved as amended.

8/24 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – The Sub-Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration presented by Councillor Paul West - Portfolio Holder for Environment, Robin Barmby - Principal Asset Officer - Energy/Carbon, Rachel Gennery – Senior Transport Policy Officer, Carl Gillyon - Group Manager – Technical Services, Helen Jenkins-Knight - Climate Change Manager, Jeremy Pickles – Sustainable Development Group Manager, The Sub-Committee was shown a brief presentation and advised that a significant portion of the work taken since the Strategy's previous consideration by the Sub-Committee was the development of the climate change action plan which was expected for corporate adoption in autumn 2024. A significant number of engagement activities were held throughout autumn 2023 with a sense of apathy towards climate change engagement observed. Officers felt that may be due to engagement fatigue or eco-anxiety. There was, however, a sense of urgency in responses that action should now be prioritised. Within the economic context that the engagement took place in, it was clear costs came up as both a barrier and opportunity for climate change action. Highlighting the financial benefits of net zero, particularly for businesses was essential. Desire for partnership working was clear amongst community groups and

organisations, so the Council could help facilitate where possible. A webinar with Town & Parish Council's was a good example of this, with a clear desire to work together on projects following the session. Given their position on the front-line of climate change, five separate sessions with farmers and landowners were organised. It was clear from those sessions there was opportunities to progress actions signposting to relevant funding opportunities, provision of on-site energy audits and flood resilience support. It was also clear that online communications and digital spaces were key to providing guidance on climate action, including housing retrofits, installation of renewables and waste management. Many respondents wanted to see immediate and fast action, with ambitious targets and the Council showing leadership.

The Council had thus far shown leadership in progressing actions through the Climate Change Review Panel. Since the Panel's recommendations of 2021, significant progress had been made against the recommendations. Recommendation four focused on climate change communications and networks, specifically the Council joining the UK 100 group. Although the Council had not been able to join due to the joining requirements, officers felt that, by signing the Climate Pledge' for the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission, the Council could send a clear messages to residents and businesses that the organisation was determined to make a positive difference. It was also felt that by formally declaring an ecological emergency, significant weight would be added to the pledge.

The Sub-Committee discussed the following issues:

Networks – The UK100 was a network of Councils across the country who had established ambitious carbon targets, some seeking neutrality, or net zero, by 2030. East Riding of Yorkshire Council was already a member of a number of other networks including the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and the Local Government Association. The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Pledge acted as a way to raise awareness within communities and throughout external stakeholders.

Council Assets – The Council operated energy contracts for its corporate and schools estates done through an external energy purchasing company seeking to secure better rates than the markets. In the interest if value for money, brown contracts were favoured. To reduce its energy bills, and consequently it's use of brown energy, the Council sought to invest in renewable technologies and improve the efficacy of its stock. It was noted that the Council's stock of street lighting was converted to LED in 2019 with over 95 per cent moved away from fluorescent lamps. The schools estate was being improved through some £0.25m per year to move to an LED lighting provision over the coming three years. The Council affixed Photovoltaic (PV) panels atop of the majority of its corporate buildings and depots, and was exploring the introduction of solar carports.

Environment Board – The development of the Environment Board was still in it's infancy, but officers sought to engage elected members and a number of external agencies.

Consultation – It was noted that there was a general fatigue for consultations but more specifically the broad strategic nature of the climate change engagement may have been a sub-optimal method to involve external stakeholders.

Infrastructure – It was noted that the green skills available to install grant funded green infrastructure ,such as ground source heat pumps, in the East Riding was limited. This was intended to be addressed by the Net Zero Hub through a green skills coordinator. Anything delivered for social housings was provided through the Council's engineering department. It was expected that the public may look to the Council for advice on a selection of green engineering professionals. The Council was in support of gully improvements to enable EV charging for terraced housing with a pilot taking place at a Council depot.

Targets and Ambitions – Climate data was notoriously difficult to monitor with a significant amount of processes to develop an accurate picture. While there was some suggestions of installing carbon monitors, these only provided a reading of where they were placed and were subject to weather conditions. Ultimately, this informed the Climate Change Review Panel's determination that bigger and more immediate reductions should be pursued. Moreover, managing reductions project by project provided much better monitoring of carbon reduction.

Fleet Management – Approximately a third of the Council's fleet had been highlighted to transition to electric vehicles should the Council have the infrastructure to support this. A challenge to archiving this was that a significant portion of the fleet went home with the user, as to respond to call outs or maintenance, thus making it difficult to facilitate charging. A current piece of work to support the introduction an electric fleet was identifying the telematics data, providing that to the user department as to securely identify the infrastructure required to enable this. This, of course, was subject to the current financial climate. The present rate of electric vehicle deprecation was expected to reduce over the medium to long term.

Ecological Emergency – The legislation that came about as a result of the Environment Act put a number of statutory obligations on local authority's to enhance the biodiversity of the County. It was felt that the declaration of an ecological emergency would indicate the Council's commitment to these statutory requirements. Moreover, a significant benefit to the visitor economy was expected through the promotion of the natural environment.

Resolved - (a) That the Sub-Committee commend the work done in the way of the climate change strategy;

Recommended - (b) That the Sub-Committee recommended that East Riding of Yorkshire Council declare an ecological emergency with the ambition of realising tangible benefits to the County.

9/24 ENVIRONMENT ACT 2021 – The Sub-Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration presented by Councillor Paul West - Portfolio Holder for Environment, John Pemberton - Sustainable Environment Manager, Jeremy Pickles – Sustainable Development Group Manager, Claire Watts - Director of Economic Development & Communications, and Jennifer Woollin - Team Leader: Trees and Ecology. The Sub-Committee was shown a brief presentation and advised that the East Riding was a rural county with significant opportunities for nature recovery to benefit people, the economy and wider environment The Environment Act 2021sought to drive nature recovery across England, help planning authorities incorporate nature recovery objectives, direct biodiversity net gain (BNG), and contribute to national targets through a new statutory system of spatial strategies.. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was a generational opportunity to demonstrate leadership and to be the first generation to improve upon the natural environment supported by a combination of public and critically private investment. The LNRS was a statement of biodiversity priorities for Hull & East Yorkshire Region which sought to map the most important existing habitat for nature, map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environment goals and agree priorities for nature's recovery. Moreover, the Act dictated that public authorities who operated in England must consider what they could do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This was the strengthened 'biodiversity duty'. Biodiversity duty underpinned both LNRS and BNG, guiding local authorities to prioritise nature recovery across all council functions and ensuring that biodiversity considerations were integrated into planning and development. These requirements would direct efforts to contribute to the national goal of 30 per cent of land in England and seas protected for nature by 2030.

The Sub-Committee discussed the following issues:

Ambitions – As the regulations for the biodiversity duty only mandated a broad spectrum of activity, officers encouraged a more ambitious approach in order to maximise the potential of the East Riding environment. Within the LNRS, the statutory requirement on the Council was to develop the strategy, monitor before reporting on progress. The content within the LNRS was still in its infancy but it's ultimate aims was based on the ecological evidence identified. The local plan update viability assessment considered a 10 per cent BNG achievable within this region and, as part of the local plan review process, there was scope to increase the BNG proportion requirements locally.

Land Management – The conflict between encouraging BNG and traditional agriculture was considered more of a matter of perception. It was however felt that further engagement activities could alleviate these concerns. Ultimately, the principal behind the strategy was to make nature recovery financially viable.

Funding – From a national perceptive there was some uncertainty on the delivery of local nature recovery strategies funding however there was clearer guidance on the Agri-Environment Grant Scheme, Environmental Land Management (ELM), and BNG. The Council sought to use core staff time to develop this further in order not to create the most sustainable development scheme possible.

Developments – The Council held a number of developer meetings stressing the importance of design stage mitigations linking back with the LNRS to retain the best habitats on site. Many major developers were already delivering 10 per cent net gain. It was however the smaller developments, up to 10 houses, that would struggle to deliver on site 10 per cent BNG. The Council was working with an off-site habitat bank provider to deliver units for sale. Moreover, there was concern from developers on matters of monitoring and reporting burdens. Officers felt that there may be an impact on affordable housing as a result of BNG. Ultimately, the Council would be liable to the Office of Environmental Protection for the delivery BNG. Officers stressed that local exceptions could not be introduced for BNG.

Agri-Sector – From a national perspective, there was a strong ambition to engage thoroughly with the agri-sector as the primary land managers. Locally, the development process was still in its infancy, however early engagement indicated desires for clear administration and strong effective working relationships.

Resolved - That the Sub-Committee welcome the report and thank officers for their contribution.

10/24 COASTAL CHANGE MANAGEMENT UPDATE – The Sub-Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration presented by Councillor Barbara Jefferson - Portfolio Holder for Heritage and Coastal, Richard Jackson – Coastal Change Manager, Richard Lewis - Civil Engineering Services Group Manager, Jeremy Pickles – Sustainable Development Group Manager and Claire Watts - Director of Economic Development & Communications. The Sub-Committee was shown a brief presentation and advised that, as of the April 2023 coastal erosion monitoring survey, Fraisthorpe had seen losses up to 4 metres, Ulrome had seen losses up to 6 metres, and Withernsea to Holmpton had seen losses up to 8 metres. Additionally, the Autumn 2023 Survey results indicated an average loss of 1.5 metres in Ulrome, up to 4 metres in Rolston, 0 metres to the South of Withernsea, up to 5 metres in Hollym and up to 8 metres in Out Newton. Notable losses at Atwick, Cowden, Easington, Mappleton, and Aldbrough had been observed since the most recent aerial survey.

In August 2023, the Council received EA approval of the Outline Business Case for the Changing Coasts East Riding (CCER) project, funded through £15m of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) grants. Funding from the project could not be used to fund any business as usual activity or the creation of new, or maintenance of existing, coastal defences. Rather, the funding was intended for innovative planning to coastal erosion. The outline business case set out the Council's ambitions for the CCER including improving knowledge and skills, practical transition delivery, identifying and trailing innovative ways of funding coastal transition, and monitoring national and local benefits of coastal transition activities. Since the fund was approved, drop in sessions had been held in seven coastal communities to raise awareness of the CCER project, a feasibility study had been carried out for the relocation of the car park and toilets at Mappleton, along with the creation of a community space, co-sponsored an international design challenge titled the climate creative challenge focussed around coastal change, held early discussions regarding potential community housing schemes, and developed the monitoring evaluation and learning framework for the project including systems mapping. Officers hoped to continue to talk to town and parish councils and community groups to scope out what they would like their location to look like and potential CCER actions to achieve this, finalise project governance including steering group, citizens' panel and coastal network, progress practical transition schemes including Mappleton, undertake a number of small-scale technical studies to improve understanding of current and future coastal change, and finalise monitoring, evaluation and learning framework for the project and begin baselining.

The Sub-Committee discussed the following issues:

Origin of Erosion Activity – The vast majority of erosion activity in the East Riding Coast was a result of wave action hitting the cliff however, when cliffs were saturated with water that contributed to instability.

Engagement – The Council sought to do joint engagement work wherever possible to reduce engagement fatigue and had utilised engagement specialists provided by the Environment Agency. Ultimately, the Council endeavoured to ensure engagement activity yielded results to promote it's value throughout the population of the East Riding. Moreover, existing community events were utilised in order to access readymade communities. To engage with those households who may not be present at community groups, the Council would individually contact them despite resource commitments to assess their needs and determine how the Council could offer support.

Selection of Areas for Defences – Areas would only be selected for erosion defences where there was an economic need or would protect essential infrastructure. In order to protect the whole East Riding coastline, several billions of pounds would be required. Comprehensive coastline defences was also not preferred too because of its impact on natural processes. Any intervention affects habitat, environment, and biodiversity to some degree.

Shoreline Management Plan – The Council had explored a number of innovations for erosion defences but ultimately concluded the more traditional greenheart timber groins, rock armour and reinforced concrete worked the best. A number of plastic products were also available, but these had not been proven and Council was reluctant to expose the sea to any further microplastics. It was identified that products to slow the approach of erosion were likely unsuitable for the East Riding coast.

Maintenance – All defended frontages and structures were inspected and repaired with safety critical areas prioritised. The Council was currently undertaking a larger study on the Hornsea sea wall before a capital bid for external grant funding was put together to improve these defences.

England Coast Path – The England Coast Path was set back from the coastline by around 5m, but as natural erosion of the coast continued, the footpath would automatically roll back. More permanent infrastructure such as culverts and bridges were set back further inland than the path to ensure their long-term sustainability.

Humber Estuary – It was noted that the Humber Estuary was the responsibility of the EA rather than the Council, however the Council worked closely with the EA to offer support.

Recommended - That the Sub-Committee welcome the report and thank officers for their contribution.

11/24 EXTERNAL FUNDING STRATEGY – The Sub-Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration presented by Annabel Allen Service and Business Development Manager, Suzanne Tose - External Funding & Policy Manager, and Claire Watts - Director of Economic Development & Communications. The Sub-Committee was shown a brief presentation and advised that the aim of the strategy was to maximise the potential of the Council to apply for, and secure, external funding and to ensure that the Council managed external funds fairly, responsibly, and transparently for the benefit of everyone in the East Riding. Officers envisioned the draft outcomes of the strategy being to further implementation of resources and systems to support staff who manage external funding; improved promotion of the Grants Manual of Guidance and of best grant management practice across the organisation; improved understanding, tracking, recording, and coordination of external funding bids made by the Council; more accurate representation and reporting of the Council's grant seeking and grant making activity; better promotion of the support available to the VCSE and business sectors to enable them to attract external funding; increased internal engagement with the Programmes Team to ensure a consistent approach to the compliant delivery and monitoring of grant funded programmes across the Council; and more effective monitoring and evaluation of project delivery, including the incorporation of social value measurements where appropriate. A number of key implementation systems were expected to be utilised including GrantFinder, East Riding 4 Community and East Riding 4 Business, Flexi-Grant®, How to do it for East Yorkshire, and the Social Value Engine (SVE).

The Sub-Committee discussed the following issues:

Post EU Funding – Part of the postponement in reviewing the External Funding Strategy was a result of expectations around the successor to the European Union Funding which ultimately proved to be the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. EU programmes ran seven years which was a different funding model to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which ran over three years. It was noted that the Council was given an allocation, following approval of an investment plan, rather than having to competitively bid for funding. 2024-2025 was the third and final year of this first tranche of UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding. The government planned to announce details of the next round of funding in its Autumn Review 2024.

Partner Working – The Local Government Association (LGA) helped coordinate an officers network group for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which met on a monthly basis. The LGA was currently conducting a feasibility study into the future of local growth funding which the Council contributed to through a cross-department response. Early feedback indicated a strong preference towards longer-term funding allocations. The Council was also seeking to promote some of its tools for the community and town and parish councils such as East Riding 4 Community. Officers had attended a number of community events to promote and support interested groups with funding applications. A Member development session to introduce them to East Riding 4 Community and Business, GrantFinder, How to do it for East Yorkshire and the Social Value Engine was under development for consideration by Member Services.

Best Practice – The Council would reinstate the Funding Officers' Group in order to share best practice, knowledge, and experience across all Council departments. Moreover, GrantFinder, which enabled officers and Members to search for funding opportunities, had seen increased usage in recent months.

Recommended – (a) That the Sub-Committee recommended that engagement activity done by the Council in the endeavour of promoting funding accessibility be spread out throughout a variety of community organisations.

(b) That the Sub-Committee consider a mid-year review of the External Funding Strategy as part of it's 2024/25 work programme.

12/24 DRAFT ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – The Sub-Committee received an update on its work programme for 2024/25, presented by the Senior Committee Manager.

Agreed - That the draft work programme be submitted to the Overview Management and Scrutiny Committee for approval at the meeting due to be held on 21 March 2024.

13/24 FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS – No forward plan items were reported.