

APPOINTMENT TO EXTERNAL BOARDS – GREAT OUSE REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

To: **Economy and Environment Committee**

Meeting Date: **16th January 2020**

From: **Steve Cox – Executive Director, Place and Economy**

Forward Plan ref: **N/A** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To appoint a third Great Ouse (was Anglian Central) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Member and deputies.**

Recommendation: **To consider recommendations/nominations put forward from members of the Economy and Environment (E&E) Committee and other councillors and select a third appointee plus deputies.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contacts:</i>	
Name:	Julia Beeden/ Quinton Carroll	Names:	Councillor Tim Wotherspoon and Cllr Mandy Smith
Post:	Flood Risk & Biodiversity Business Manager / Inerim Asst Director Environment & Commercial	Post:	Existing Great Ouse Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Members
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) exist under section 23 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Anglian Great Ouse RFCC area, in which most of Cambridgeshire sits, is shown in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 RFCCs play an important role in helping to protect communities from flooding and coastal erosion. They help the Environment Agency and partners to understand local issues better, and to balance local and national priorities. The Environment Agency must consult with RFCCs about works in their region and take their comments into consideration. RFCCs approve the annual programme of flood and coastal erosion works in their region and set the local levy that funds local priority activities.
- 1.3 Members of the RFCC vote on issues as they are brought before the committee, but the most important annual vote every October relates to the setting of the local levy. This is a flood management funding source levied under statute by the RFCC on upper tier councils. The local levy is calculated annually in line with the number of band D equivalent properties within the catchment. In 2019/20 the county council paid £362,904.54 in local levy.
- 1.4 Once collected the local levy is held centrally for the committee to use as a discretionary contribution from the RFCC towards capital projects, revenue studies or for additional local maintenance. Flood risk management partners within the area apply for the funding.
- 1.5 The County Council currently has two Anglian Central RFCC members, Councillor Tim Wotherspoon and Councillor Mandy Smith who can vote.
- 1.6 The very northern tip of Cambridgeshire, including Wisbech, falls under a different river catchment area (that of the River Nene) and is therefore instead covered by the Anglian Northern RFCC, on which Cambridgeshire and Peterborough share a seat on a rotating annual basis.

2 MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 In the summer, a consultation proposed changes to the constitution of the Anglian Great Ouse RFCC in order to make the number of members more aligned to the amount of levy paid by each council. Details of the consultation were brought to E&E Committee's September meeting. The preferred option from consultation was approved by the RFCC and the new constitution will be live from April 2020.
- 2.2 The impact of the changing constitution on Cambridgeshire is that the number of members the council has on the RFCC will increase from two to three. E&E Committee therefore needs to propose and choose a third member to sit on the Anglian Great Ouse RFCC starting from the meeting on 23rd April 2020.
- 2.3 The RFCC has also agreed that members will prepare a list of deputies who could attend if the appointed members cannot.

- 2.4 Attending members and observing officers can raise points at the meeting and take notes for any missing member, but it is important at the annual local levy vote (usually October) that the council can present a full suite of elected members. Attending members are not allowed under the RFCC constitution to have two votes i.e. to vote on behalf of someone else as well as themselves. The RFCC constitution allows for officers to deputise in certain circumstances but this is not appropriate under the Council's own constitution for those meetings when a vote needs to take place.
- 2.5 This paper has no impact on the Anglian Northern RFCC.

3 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

There is strong evidence linking floods to mental health and wellbeing issues. Estimates from the Environment Agency research suggest that the mental health impacts of flooding are equivalent to £3,000 - £7,000 per household depending on the scale of flooding. Some mental health impacts can be long lasting. Those who have resilient homes, are supported by resilient infrastructure and have been supported to understand, and take action to tackle flood risk, are more likely to have a good quality of life.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

Areas that are resilient to flood risk and climate change are more likely to have strong economies and thriving communities

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

There are no significant implications for this priority other than those already listed above under the other priorities

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 **Localism and Local Member Involvement**

From April 2020 the Council will need to appoint a third member onto the Anglian Great Ouse Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. The Council already has two existing members but its number of seats is being increased to three.

4.7 **Public Health Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Sarah Heywood
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes Name of Officer: Gus de Silva, Head of Procurement.
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Monitoring Officer: Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Elsa Evans, Funding and Innovation Programme Manager
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Eleanor Bell, Communications and Marketing Manager
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Quinton Carroll, Interim Asst Director of Environment and Commercial
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Iain Green, Public Health

Source Documents	Location
Map of Anglian Great Ouse Regional Flood and Coastal Committee region	Appendix 1