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| Report to: | Cabinet Council | Date of Meeting: | 24 th June 2021 15 th July 2021 |
| Subject: | Extension of the North West Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme | | |
| Report of: | Head of Highways and Public Protection | Wards Affected: | Ainsdale; Blundellsands; Cambridge; Church; Dukes; Harington; Linacre; Meols; Ravenmeols; |
| Portfolio: | Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing | | |
| Is this a Key Decision: | Yes | Included in Forward Plan: | Yes. |
| Exempt / Confidential Report: | No | | |

Summary:

The continuation of the North West Regional Coastal Monitoring programme has been approved by the Environment Agency and allocations of grant funding have been made. This report seeks approval to include the capital grant into the capital programme from 2021 to 2026 with a total value of £5.699m. The allocation for 2021/2022 is £834,000.

Recommendation(s):

that Cabinet consider and recommend to Council;

(1) approval of the inclusion of the capital allocation of £834,000 into the capital programme for 2021/2022 and the associated supplementary capital estimate;

(2) approval of the inclusion of future annual capital allocations (2022-2026), as outlined in this report, in the capital programme subject to annual confirmation from the Environment Agency; and

(3) delegation of the acceptance and administration of the grant in each of the six years to the Head of In-House Operational Services.

that Council;

(1) approve the inclusion of the capital allocation of £834,000 into the capital programme for 2021/2022 and the associated supplementary capital estimate;

(2) approve the inclusion of future annual capital allocations (2022-2026), as outlined in this report, in the capital programme subject to annual confirmation from the Environment Agency; and

(3) delegates the acceptance and administration of the grant in each of the six years to the Head of In-House Operational Services.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Grant to be included in the capital programme in accordance with the constitution.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

N/A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue cost implications. Eligible in-house staff time will be recharged against the capital budget for this scheme.

(B) Capital Costs

The total cost of the programme will be £5.699m over six years, 100% grant funded by the Environment Agency.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

The programme funds three FTEs within Sefton Council, they are fully funded through this programme. Any equipment and software required is also funded through the programme.

Legal Implications:

N/A

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

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| Have a positive impact | N |
| Have a neutral impact | Y |
| Have a negative impact | N |
| The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors | Y |

The delivery of the project will have some short term negative impacts, such as using specialist vehicles on the beach to survey, driving to sites across the northwest to survey and commissioning vessels to go and maintain marine monitoring equipment. However, the purpose of the programme is to better understand the changing coastal conditions to enable future sustainable management along the northwest coastline. The project actively seeks to use new technologies that reduce the need for site based surveys, thus reducing carbon footprint.
On balance the project has a neutral impact.

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Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

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| Protect the most vulnerable: N/A |
| Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Provides the evidence to support discussions with communities at risk |
| Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A |
| Place – leadership and influencer: N/A |
| Drivers of change and reform: The project actively seeks to use new technologies that reduce the need for site based surveys, thus reducing carbon footprint |
| Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A |
| Greater income for social investment: N/A |
| Cleaner Greener: N/A |

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6395/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4595/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately after the meeting of the Council

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1. Sefton MBC has been the lead authority (since 2011) for the collection of coastal process monitoring data for the Northwest of England. This is being delivered by the Green Sefton - Development Team within Locality Services. As lead authority Sefton Council will continue to:

- Act as Accountable Body in respect of all payments to contractors (including in-house teams), participating local authorities and recharges to participants.
- Act as Banker in respect of all receipts of grant aid (whether Environment Agency or externally funded)
- Coordinate all applications for grant aid from Environment Agency, and other agencies where appropriate, in consultation with the National Implementation Board for Phase 3 of the National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes.
- Undertake the supervision and administration necessary to co-ordinate the project.
- Co-ordinate procurement of all programme elements, within the Northwest Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

2. Grant Allocation

2.1. The programme has been allocated a 6-year funding stream. Only the value for the first year 2021/22 has been confirmed, which is normal practice for grant from the Environment Agency. Sefton Council will receive annual confirmation of budget values. The funding programme is detailed below.

| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | Total |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|------------|
| GIA | £834,000 | £735,000 | £1,058,000 | £1,306,000 | £888,000 | £878,000 | £5,699,000 |
| Contingency | £95,000 | £96,000 | £96,000 | £96,000 | £96,000 | £96,000 | 575,000 |

It is anticipated that the contingency will not be drawn upon due to the nature of the work.

2.2. As the grant allocation is only approved each year updates to the capital programme will have to be undertaken annually. Any variation to the above profiled amounts will be approved in line with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

3. Monitoring programme spend profile

3.1. The programme has an outline spend profile against the various datasets it collects over the 6yr period. The profile is subject to change as the data collection is sensitive to weather related delays.

| | Year 2021/22 | Year 2022/23 | Year 2023/24 | Year 2024/25 | Year 2025/26 | Year 2026/27 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | (£ k) | (£ k) | (£ k) | (£ k) | (£ k) | (£ k) |
| Topographic Surveys | 207 | 171 | 187 | 182 | 187 | 193 |
| Bathymetric Surveys | 250 | 200 | 200 | 641 | 300 | 300 |
| Aerial photography/photogrammetry | 21 | - | 276 | - | 23 | - |
| Hydrodynamics | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 |
| Terrestrial Ecological Mapping | 10 | 11 | 33 | 114 | - | - |
| Assets | 34 | 35 | 37 | 37 | 39 | 40 |
| Project Management | 52 | 53 | 55 | 57 | 59 | 60 |
| Data Management (regional) | 62 | 64 | 66 | 68 | 70 | 72 |
| Data Analysis & Reporting | 93 | 96 | 99 | 102 | 105 | 108 |
| Total | 834 | 735 | 1058 | 1306 | 888 | 878 |
| <i>Contingency</i> | 95 | 96 | 96 | 96 | 96 | 96 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>929</i> | <i>831</i> | <i>1,154</i> | <i>1,402</i> | <i>984</i> | <i>974</i> |

3.2. The programme funds three full-time-equivalents within Sefton Council (c£135k per year) and reimburses other northwest maritime authorities for legitimate staff time spent on the project. Within Sefton Council the staff are based within Green Sefton's Development Team. The staff undertake the following project activities:

- Project management
- Contract management
- Engagement with Northwest Maritime Authorities
- Data management
- Data analysis and reporting
- Asset inspections
- Coastal surveys

4. Risk Management

4.1 There are several risks inherent in a programme of this scale that require management:

- **Procurement** – The programme requires the appointment of several contractors to deliver different work packages. The national network of coastal monitoring programmes, of which this north west programme is a member, has developed a dynamic purchasing framework of quality assessed suppliers to minimise procurement risks. Tendering is undertaken through the Chest portal via a mini competition with the framework suppliers under Sefton Council's terms and conditions. This will minimise procurement risk.
- **Weather related delays** – There is a high likelihood of weather-related delays due to the nature of the surveying and monitoring. Where possible these delays are specified in contract documents to manage financial commitment risks. Many surveys have a specified survey period for data collection that includes an allowance for weather related delays.

- **Financial** – the programme allocation has been specified based on the previous programme survey requirements and costs, a review of this for this programme and allowances for inflation. However, there is a contingency allowance that can be drawn upon should insufficient funds be available in the allocated programme. Based on previous programme not calling upon this contingency it is unlikely that this programme will need it.

5. Programme Outputs

- 5.1 The programme collects coastal datasets to inform the delivery of the Shoreline Management Plan and sustainable coastal management decisions. As well as collecting a variety of coastal datasets such as beach topographic surveys, aerial photography, wave data, the programme also undertakes analysis and interpretation of this data to provide coastal managers with informed information. This data and reports are made freely available on www.coastalmonitoring.org
- 5.2 The programme is collecting data to inform decisions across the Sefton frontage and, in particular, the Crosby Coastal Defence Scheme has benefited from the information the programme has collected.