

**EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Report to: THE CABINET**  
**30 January 2018**

**Wards:**

South East Holderness

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**The Tunstall Coastal Defence Scheme**

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Report of the Interim Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services

**A. Executive Summary**

A Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was made (minute 5436 refers) in relation to land near the Sand le Mere Caravan Park, Tunstall to enable the delivery of a “managed realignment scheme” where new modern defences are set back from the existing coastline. The scheme was granted planning approval in September 2014. However, current cost estimates suggest that this scheme cannot be delivered within the existing budget and it is considered that an alternative lower cost scheme can be provided that does not require the acquisition of the land which is the subject of the CPO.

If pursuing the alternative scheme is agreed, it will be funded (as was the original scheme) by a combination of National flood Defence Grant, Regional Flood Defence Committee Local Levy and East Riding of Yorkshire Council Capital Funding. Again, if the alternative scheme is to be progressed, this report also seeks approval to ask the Secretary of State not to confirm the CPO previously made.

**B. Corporate Priorities 2016-2021**

Valuing Our Environment

**C. Portfolio**

Strategic Asset Management, Housing and Environment

**D. Recommendation and Reason for Recommendation**

It is recommended that The Cabinet approves:

- an alternative, lower cost managed realignment scheme at Tunstall Drain is constructed in preference to the Tunstall Coastal Defence Scheme that was granted full planning permission in September 2014, and that,
- the Council does not pursue the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) which relates to the land required for the original Tunstall scheme and the Secretary of State be asked not to confirm that CPO.

## **E. Equality Implications**

There are no equality implications

### **1. Background**

1.1 There are existing Flood Defence Embankments approximately 1.3 kilometres to the south east of the village of Tunstall and just north of the site is Sand le Mere Caravan Park, at the outfall of the Tunstall Drain. As a result of coastal erosion these defences are beginning to breach and alternative defences will be required.

1.2 The Environment Agency (EA) approached the Council in 2010 to support the development of a coastal defence scheme at Tunstall Drain and asked the Council to make a financial contribution to the cost of the works. The objective of the scheme was to prevent damage and disturbance to high grade agricultural land, local communities and infrastructure. To enable the scheme to proceed, The Cabinet subsequently approved a financial contribution to the EA on 27 April 2010 (minute 3900 refers).

1.3 The EA were unable to deliver their scheme, and in 2011 the Council's Infrastructure and Facilities team produced an alternative lower cost design for the coastal defence works. On 29 February 2012 (minute 4382 refers), the Council agreed to provide additional funding to develop the scheme and take over responsibility for its delivery.

1.4 On 21 March 2012 the Council and the EA entered into a formal agreement whereby the Council took responsibility to provide the scheme and the EA agreed to make a £0.265m contribution to the overall scheme cost.

1.5 The particular engineering solution is known as a "managed realignment scheme" where new modern defences are set back from the existing coastline. Once the new defences have been constructed, the existing defences will be allowed to breach, creating a new intertidal area. Over time it is expected the intertidal area will present with natural dunes and will occasionally flood from the sea.

1.6 Following public consultations, environmental studies, and outline development of the scheme, the Tunstall scheme was granted full planning approval in September 2014. Agreement was reached for some of the necessary land with the Sand Le Mere owners to the north of Tunstall Drain and a 999 year license was negotiated. It was not possible to reach agreement with the owner to the south of Tunstall Drain and the Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order for the necessary land on 2 February 2016 (minute 5436 refers).

1.7 The business case for the scheme was reassessed by the Council's Infrastructure and Facilities team and updated with current pricing information obtained from the ongoing programme of flood alleviation works across the authority, together with current land value estimates. The assessment shows that the proposed scheme is no longer economically viable at a current cost of circa £1.8m and a significant budget shortfall exists.

1.8 Engineers have fully reviewed the problem and have developed a new scheme that can be delivered within the available funding envelope of £0.6m, to provide the required flood defence benefits. This alternative scheme does not require the current CPO land acquisition and comprises a series of defence structures adjacent to the local highway network. The defences include recycled plastic sheet piling with gabion baskets in the highway verges and a new control penstock on the Tunstall Drain. See Appendix A.

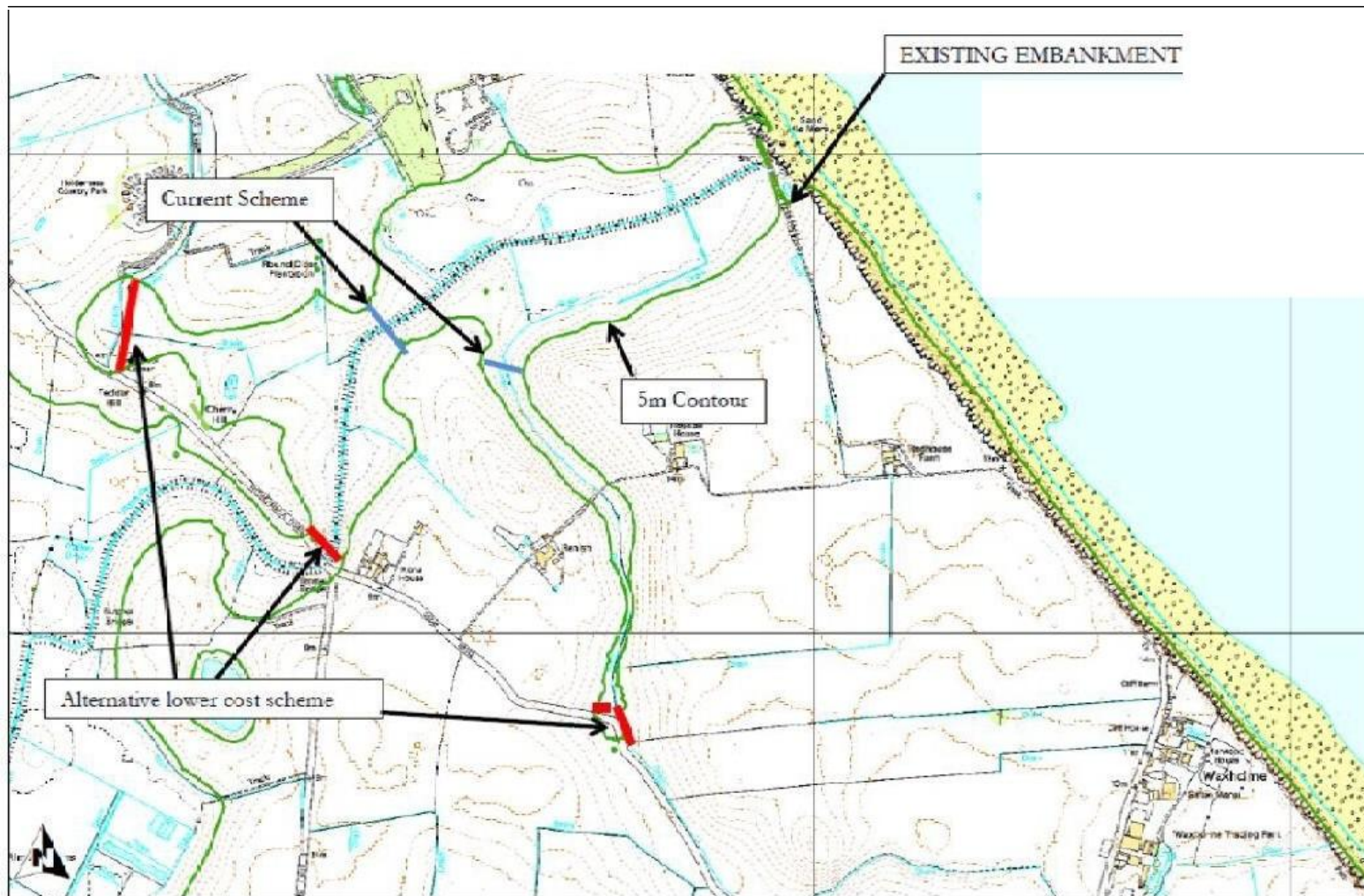
- 1.9 Both the EA and the Internal Drainage Board support the new scheme, which can be constructed without the need for further planning approval.

## **2. Considerations including Options**

- 2.1 It remains an option to continue with the Tunstall Coastal Defence Scheme that was granted full planning permission in September 2014 and seek to have the current CPO confirmed by the Secretary of State. This would require obtaining circa £1.2m of additional funding for the scheme and could still involve a public inquiry. It is unlikely that further EA funding would be available, and the potential scheme benefits will not attract other significant external funding sources. Consequently this option has been discounted as not economically viable.
- 2.2 The £0.265m funding contribution could be returned and responsibility for scheme delivery handed back to the Environment Agency. This could have a significant reputation impact on the Council in terms of both, public perception and credibility for scheme delivery with the EA. This option could also negatively impact on attracting further funding support from the EA, Local Levy and other flood defence sources, and as such has been discounted.
- 2.3 The preferred option is to develop and deliver an alternative, lower cost scheme that meets the original funding agreement objectives of providing flood protection for 50 years at a present day standard of 1 in 50 for the Keyingham Drain and its tributaries.

## **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 This report is presented to The Cabinet recommending that the alternative, lower cost managed realignment scheme at Tunstall Drain is constructed in preference to the original scheme. This would negate the need for the current CPO.
- 3.2 If The Cabinet resolves not to proceed with the original scheme the Council will write to the Secretary of State to confirm that the Council does not wish to pursue the current Compulsory Purchase Order and ask him not to confirm the Order.



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Drawing Title
