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| Report to | Communities Scrutiny Committee |
| Date of meeting | 9 December 2021 |
| Lead Member / Officer | Councillor Brian Jones, Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment / Tony Ward, Head of Highways and Environmental Services |
| Report author | Matthew Hazlewood / Helen Johnson / Wayne Hope |
| Title | Stakeholder/community engagement for potential Central Rhyl and Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Schemes |

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The report details of the stakeholder and community consultation activity of Prestatyn and Central Rhyl flood defence schemes during 2021.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To provide an update report on stakeholders and community engagement for Prestatyn and Central Rhyl flood defence schemes in line the recommendation from the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting dated, 10th December, 2020 (see extract from the minutes below):

Flood Risk Management across Denbighshire

Resolved Article (iv)

the respective Member Area Groups (MAGs) should be engaged with in relation to the design and development phases of the Central Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme and the Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Scheme during the course of the next 12 months and that the conclusions of this phase of the schemes be reported back to the Committee in due course.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee examines the scope and findings of the stakeholder and public consultation for the schemes, comments accordingly, and recommends to Cabinet (18th January 2022) that it is satisfied with the consultation approach and findings.
- 3.2. That the Committee confirms that, as part of its consideration, it has read; understood; and taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessments (*attached at Appendices 3a and 3b*).

4. Report details

4.1. Prestatyn

The existing coastal defences along Rhyl Golf Course frontage are about 70 years old and in poor condition, which means they could be breached in the next 30 years.

If the existing defences fail in this location, the flood risk to over 2,000 properties in the Prestatyn area will increase significantly. This is because low land elevations behind the defences will allow any tidal flood water to spread and flood a wide area.

After an appraisal of options, the preferred option (indicative cost £25m) is an earth embankment that follows the boundary of Rhyl Golf Club and is set back from the front-line defences. As the current front line defences become increasingly overtopped during storm events, flood water will be contained within the golf course until it can discharge back to the sea. The extent of the proposed scheme, and an image of the proposed design, can be seen in Appendices 1a and 1b.

Rhyl Golf Club, Prestatyn MAG, Denbighshire committees and staff have been the focus of consultation on this development. A public drop-in engagement event is also being organised for mid-December, 2021. The timeline of consultation with stakeholders, and the general responses, can be found in Appendix 1c.

The consultation and targeted engagement process has provided some useful feedback which will be incorporated into the final proposals. In addition to the targeted engagements, professional stakeholders have also been consulted e.g. Natural Resources Wales and The Crown Estate. Natural Resources Wales were particularly interested about the potential impact of the scheme on their pumping station on Rhyl Golf Course, any concerns raised have been addressed.

4.2. **Central Rhyl**

The central area of Rhyl (between Splash Point and the Drift Park) is currently protected by sea defences that are deteriorating. The Council wants to ensure that existing defences are replaced well ahead of time, to protect this popular part of Rhyl's coastline from flooding and coastal erosion. Design elements for consideration are:

- Rock armour scour protection, buried beneath the existing sand level, and concrete repairs to the existing sea wall, towards the eastern end of the proposed scheme area.
- Concrete stepped revetment to absorb energy from the waves, incorporating beach access steps and a large beach access ramp, between the Drift Park and Rhyl SeaQuarium.
- A new raised promenade and back of the promenade sea defence wall, between the Drift Park and Rhyl SeaQuarium.
- Widening the promenade adjacent to the Children's Village.

The extent of the proposed scheme, and an image of the proposed design, can be seen in Appendix 2a and 2b.

The location of the scheme, and the importance of the coastline to Rhyl, required public consultation as well as Denbighshire committees, staff and local stakeholders affected by the scheme. The timeline of consultation, with responses, can be found in Appendix 2c and 2d.

The consultation and targeted engagement process has provided some useful feedback which will be incorporated into the final proposals. In particular,

extensive discussions have taken place with Denbighshire Leisure Ltd and Rhyl SeaQuarium. In addition to the targeted engagements, professional stakeholders have also been consulted e.g. Natural Resources Wales and The Crown Estate.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. Denbighshire Council's Corporate plan (2017-22) has two priorities that are relevant in this case; Environment and Younger People. Progression of the schemes will meet an ambition under the Environment priority to protect residents from flooding. Work experience and work opportunities for younger people should be available during future construction phases.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. There are no cost implications from the stakeholder and consultation activities, as development work for both schemes are 100% grant funded from Welsh Government.

6.2. Communities & Customers and Business Improvement & Modernisation have been assisting (e.g. with web site development and surveys).

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment

7.1. Prestatyn Summary: The aim of the project is to reduce flood risk in Prestatyn. Provided this aim is fulfilled, the result will be a more prosperous, resilient, healthy, equal and globally responsible Denbighshire. See Appendix 3a for the full assessment.

7.2. Central Rhyl Summary: The aim of the project is to reduce flood risk in Central Rhyl. Provided this aim is fulfilled, the result will be a more prosperous, resilient, healthy, equal and globally responsible Denbighshire. See Appendix 3b for the full assessment.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 8.1. Prestatyn: For details of stakeholders and committees consulted please refer to the consultation timeline in section 1c of appendix 1.
- 8.2. Central Rhyl: For details of stakeholders and committees consulted please refer to the consultation timeline in sections 2c and 2d of appendix 2.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1. There are no direct financial implications relating to the engagement phase of these projects, although obviously both projects will require significant financial investment by the Council if progressed.

10. Risks

- 10.1. There is a risk that the Committee do not support the consultation approaches of both schemes, as this could result in delaying the submission of business cases for these schemes to Cabinet, Council and Welsh Government. This could jeopardise our ability to obtain funding for 85% of the cost of both schemes from Welsh Government, due to the existence of funding deadlines.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. Scrutiny's power to make the recommendation in relation to this matter to Cabinet is as per Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and as outlined in Sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4.2(d) of the Denbighshire Council Constitution.