

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**13 November 2019****Response by the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Notice of Motion on contributions to a flood and coastal protection scheme.****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the recommendation of the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in response to a Notice of Motion suggesting that ‘the Government ensures that where their assets and infrastructure will be protected by a flood and coastal protection scheme all Utility companies are required to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution towards that particular scheme, and subject to the costs of any contribution not being borne by the Utilities customers’.

Background

2. A Notice of Motion was put to County Council on 24 July 2019 by County Councillor Derek Bastiman, seconded by County Councillor David Jeffels, proposing that ‘the Government ensures that where their assets and infrastructure will be protected by a flood and coastal protection scheme all Utility companies are required to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution towards that particular scheme, and subject to the costs of any contribution not being borne by the Utilities customers’.
3. The Chairman determined that the Motion should not be debated on the day, and instead referred it to the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration before coming back to Council.

Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4. The Notice of Motion was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 24 October 2019. After some deliberation, the Committee resolved that the Chairman, Councillor Derek Bastiman, write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to call for the financial contribution from utility companies to be mandatory. The Committee also authorised Councillor Derek Bastiman in his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association Special Interest Group (LGA SIG) Coastal Issues to contact (in consultation with the Leader of North Yorkshire County Council) other relevant agencies to call for utility companies to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution where flood defence schemes will protect their infrastructure.

Recommendation

5. That County Council agree to support the recommended course of action determined by the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 24 October 2019.

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