



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

## Officer Delegated Decision

20 March 2025

Tom Amblin-Lightowler –  
Environmental Health Manager –  
Environmental Protection & Private  
Sector Housing

### The Maintenance of the West Road Dyke, Pointon

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (IDB) has agreed to undertake required maintenance work beyond the existing maintenance contract to the West Road Dyke in Pointon. These works include the clearance of vegetation and self-set trees, desilting of the dyke and the reinstating of the relief dyke.

#### Contact

Tom Amblin-Lightowler – Environmental Health Manager – Environmental Protection & Private Sector Housing

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<b>Decision made by:</b>	Richard Wyles - Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
<b>Decision:</b>	To approve the additional funding required for Black Sluice IDB to undertake additional works associated with the maintenance of the West Road Dyke in Pointon.
<b>Public or Exempt:</b>	Public
<b>Reasons for exemption:</b>	N/A
<b>Conflicts of interest:</b>	No
<b>Policy compliant:</b>	Yes
<b>Details of delegation:</b>	The Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer has the necessary delegated authority to take this decision in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

## **1. Implications**

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance***

- 1.1 After careful analysis, it has been confirmed that these works are deemed high priority and therefore should be carried out without further delay. At Council on 27 February 2025, Council approved the increase to the Flood Reserve to a new balance of £100k and these works will be funded from them. The costs of the works have been carefully reviewed by officers.

Completed by: Richard Wyles - Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer

### ***Procurement***

- 1.2 Total value of this contract is £22,085.65.
- 1.3 A contract of this value would usually require quotes under the councils' contract procedure rules.
- 1.4 Given the urgency and that the value is less than the 25K threshold where the awards would need to be published publicly, the award would pose no risk of being challenged.

Completed by: Helen Baldwin (Procurement Lead)

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.5 These additional works are recommended following an official Section 19 report by Lincolnshire County Council as the Local Flood Authority. Details regarding responsibility for maintaining this element of the dyke is outlined in the report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

## **2. The Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 To Seek approval for additional funding to enable works to be undertaken to the West Road dyke in Pointon (See Appendix 1 for the map of the dyke) to return the dyke to a serviceable condition and reduce the flooding risk to the village of Pointon.

### **3. Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 Option 1 – additional funding is provided to ensure the required maintenance is completed and reduce the risk of flooding to Pointon and allow for the annual maintenance to take place in the future.
- 3.2 Option 2 – continue with the annual maintenance works on the dyke in its existing condition, which will be in effective and will not reduce the risk of flooding but remain a possible contributing factor.

### **4. Preferred Option**

- 4.1 The preferred option is option 1, the recent Section 19 reports relating to the flooding in 2024 have highlighted that the lack of maintenance to the dyke on West Road is possible factor in the flooding. A recommendation from the Section 19 is set out in section 5 of this report. The Section 19 is found in Appendix 2.

### **5. Reasons for the Decision(s)**

- 5.1 SKDC maintain a dyke along West Road Pointon (Appendix 1) which is situated on Crown land, it is unclear as to when this responsibility was moved to SKDC from the landowner, their most recent record is an agreement in 1986 between SKDC and the Crown to enable SKDC to widen its existing dyke on Crown land and to construct a relief dyke. The agreement has no end date and it is understood on the current information available to remain in place. See Appendix 3.
- 5.2 Over the years SKDC has reduced its maintenance of the approximately 1100m stretch to a 100m stretch. Following the flooding in 2024 this was revisited and the full stretch was reinstated on the annual maintenance contract.
- 5.3 The maintenance contract is with Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board and this was renewed in late 2024 and covers 20 watercourse and dykes within the district, one of which is this location in Pointon. This contract is a public sector cooperation agreement and is in place for up to 5 years.
- 5.4 SKDC are unable to pass their maintenance responsibilities onto any other party unless they are a Flood Risk Management Authority as per the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 section 13 (4) A risk management authority may arrange for a flood risk management function to be exercised on its behalf by another risk management authority. In this context the Black Sluice as an IDB are a risk management authority.

- 5.5 As additional works beyond the existing maintenance contract are required, Black Sluice IDB were approached to provide quotes, considering they are maintaining this section moving forward and are the IDB for that area. the works required are however time sensitive as they need to be completed prior to nesting season which is April to September the quote was provided via email see Appendix 4
- 5.6 The quote has two elements and the additional funding is only to cover the first. The second element will come from the remaining maintenance budget.
- For the bushing works and clearing of the drain has come out at £19,062.48
  - For the desilting and new cut section of drain it has come out at £3023.17
- 5.7 The full breakdown of the vegetation clearance is made up of the following elements:
- Labour and Supervision - £9,471.98
  - Plant and materials- £4,970.50
  - Admin and Contingency - £4,620.00
- 5.8 The works are expected to be completed over 3 days and start late March prior to start of nesting season, hence the urgency and time sensitive nature. Once the works have been completed there is anticipated to be a saving on the annual maintenance of the location as the maintenance works will be easier once the relief dyke is reinstated.
- 5.9 These works are essential to reduce the risk of flooding as this dyke is a primary drainage system. On completion of the works, it is expected to prevent the flooding of 12 properties that had confirmed flooding in 2024 and 4 of those suffered further flooding in January this year. As a whole the West Road Dyke runs behind 22 properties.
- 5.10 The village of Pointon has experienced flooding on three occasions over the last 2 years with the worst incident being in 2024 following Storm Henk and Babet.

## **6. Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Map of Dyke in Pointon
- 6.2 Appendix 2 – Section 19 report
- 6.3 Appendix 3 – 1986 Agreement
- 6.4 Appendix 4 – IDB quote

Signed by: Richard Wyles

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