

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of the Director of Commissioning to the CABINET – 18 October 2011

REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

1. Purpose of Report

Cabinet is asked to consider the following reference from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission held on 6 October 2011 in respect of Drainage & Flooding.

2. Drainage & Flooding

- 2.1 The Commission received a presentation from the Chief Executive of the Water Management Alliance on the role of Internal Drainage Boards.
- 2.2 Two main issues were noted:
 - The Internal Drainage Boards only had powers over the areas they covered and could not control problems originating outside those areas
 - The Council had the power to create byelaws to protect activities in and alongside watercourses, but lacked the expertise and local knowledge required to effectively manage the problems.
- 2.3 The Chief Executive of the Water Management Alliance suggested that the IDBs would welcome the opportunity to work with the Council to formulate and adopt byelaws. Alternatively the Council could extend the areas of responsibility of the IDBs to cover the full extent of the water table.
- 2.4 Concerns were raised that the IDBs were not Statutory Consultees in the planning process. They could only object to applications through the Environment Agency and had difficulty negotiating financial contributions from developers.
- 2.5 Members sought to ensure that the IDBs were included as Statutory Consultees by the Council and were keen that the offer to work with the IDBs was supported.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask the Planning Committee to make a recommendation that the IDBs were included as Statutory Consultees in the planning process; and

to **RECOMMEND TO CABINET** that:

- (a) the Chief Executive of the Water Management Alliance's offer to give advice on the drafting of byelaws be considered; or
- (b) the catchment areas of the IDBs be extended to allow them to take a greater role in managing water courses and preventing future problems.