

Relocation of Flood Siren at Hullbridge

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report seeks Member approval to the relocation of the Hullbridge flood siren to Council owned land. This would be discretionary on the part of the Council. Approval as landowner would enable the County Council to apply for the required planning permission.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The flood siren in Hullbridge has, for many years, been located in the garden of the Police House, 136 Ferry Road, Hullbridge. The Police Authority recently sold the house. A condition of sale was that the siren be relocated.
- 2.2 Suitable sites are limited, particularly if one was to consider placing a siren nearer to an "at risk" area. The County Council made an approach to the District Council for some assistance in finding a suitable location. As a consequence, a position within the Hullbridge Recreation Ground was identified.
- 2.3 This would have the benefit of placing the siren nearer the river, and adjacent to the residential area ribbon between Brandy Hole and Ferry Road.
- 2.4 The plan attached to this report shows the proposed location of the flood siren, between the tree-lined boundary onto the adjoining Caravan Park, and the recreation ground pavilion.
- 2.5 The siren would be placed at the top of twin telegraph poles, and as near to the boundary as possible to minimise visual impact.

3 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Deterrent measures would be taken to obviate vandalism to the siren housing.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As referred to above, steps would be taken to minimise visual impact. Otherwise, sirens are tested once a year. Prior warning is given, as Members will be aware. Whilst there will undoubtedly be a high noise level during this time, the purpose of the siren is to benefit the population in an area that will be prone to flooding under severe

circumstances. Were Members to approve the proposal, the planning application to follow would invoke a consultation process.

- 4.2 It is anticipated that upto 3 car spaces will be required for one day, in order to complete the work, if approved.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is proposed that a simple form of licence at a nominal fee be granted to the County Council, as part of the public service. Some staff time will be involved in drafting this. No electricity nor maintenance charges will be incurred Rochford.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None, other than staff time in preparing the licence.

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Hullbridge Parish Council has been informed of the proposal. No objection has been received.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**:

That, subject to planning permission, the Head of Legal Services completes a licence to Essex County Council for a term of years and at a nominal fee to be agreed for the erection of a flood warning siren in the approximate position marked on the plan attached to this report within the Hullbridge Recreation Ground, and on such other terms and conditions as the Head of Legal services deems fit. (HLS)

Albert Bugeja

Head of Legal Services