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Philip Burton  
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30<sup>th</sup> November 2009

From Huw Irranca-Davies MP  
Minister for Marine and Natural Environment

*Dear Mr Burton*

Thank you for North Norfolk District Council's bid seeking funding under Defra's coastal change pathfinder programme.

I am pleased to tell you that North Norfolk District Council has been selected as one of fifteen pathfinders being announced today and will be allocated £3,000,000 from the coastal change fund. This reflects the recommendations of the pathfinder panel which assessed all bids against the criteria set out in the Coastal Change Policy consultation. Further details on this and the other pathfinders are available on our website at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/manage/pathfinder/index.htm>


As you will be aware, the funding allocated to North Norfolk is less than the total funding sought by your bid. This reflects the pathfinder panel's assessment of your bid against the published criteria, particularly the proportionality of the total costs in relation to wider community benefits. The panel felt that your bid contained a number of interesting ideas, and were particularly impressed by your proposals for supporting business and tourist infrastructure in adapting to coastal change. If you would like further feedback then please contact Paul Barrett ([paul.barrett@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paul.barrett@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) in Defra's coastal change team.

Like the panel, I was impressed by the wide range of exciting and innovative proposals put forward in bids. The pathfinder programme provides a real opportunity to explore these ideas and put new approaches to the test. The evidence and understanding generated by this will help inform development of future policy and/or guidance in this area.

I am keen to ensure that this learning and experience is captured and shared both between the fifteen pathfinders and with other authorities and organisations, so that all can

benefit from the programme's outputs. That is why we asked all pathfinder bids to include a clear commitment to share lessons and participate in wider evaluation of the pathfinder programme. I am sure you will recognise the value of this aspect of the programme and would encourage North Norfolk District Council's full participation.

My officials will be in touch soon with further details of the dissemination and evaluation plan for the pathfinder programme. They will also be happy to discuss any other questions about the programme. In the meantime, I wish you all the best with implementing your pathfinder projects. I look forward to hearing how the different pathfinders are progressing and hope to have the opportunity to visit some of them over the course of the programme.

*Yours sincerely,*  


**Huw Irranca-Davies**