

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 5 September 2022

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Planning and Development
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Salterns recreation ground, Fareham - interim sea defence works</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Planning and Regeneration
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	Protecting and Enhancing the Environment; and Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council

#### **Purpose:**

This report seeks a decision to fund interim sea defence works at Salterns recreation ground, Fareham. This will reinstate a 27 metre section of failed defences which are situated within Fareham Council owned land, to manage flood, coastal and financial risks to the Council, as a Coast Protection Authority.

#### **Executive summary:**

Fareham's sea defences are critical to managing flood and erosion risk, as well as providing safe public amenity spaces. Their upkeep and maintenance are a recommendation of the adopted River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Strategy.

An aging Council owned seawall at Salterns recreation ground, Fareham collapsed on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 during Storm Barra, leading to coastal erosion and increased flooding. Left unchecked this damage will likely spread to the adjoining Council owned defences, putting the road and homes at risk. This proposal is to undertake interim Capital Works to reinstate the defences to avoid further deterioration, while a longer-term replacement scheme is considered.

The proposed works are to be funded by FBC capital and are not eligible for central government Grant-in-Aid.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) approves the proposal to carry out interim sea defence works at Salterns recreation ground, as outlined at paragraph 9 of the report;
- (b) agrees a capital budget of £98,000 to undertake the interim Capital Works once all the necessary procurement and consents have been secured; and
- (c) delegates authority to the Director of Planning and Regeneration to make a direct award of contract for the works.

**Reason:**

Fareham's sea defences are critical to managing flood and erosion risk, as well as providing safe public amenity spaces. The replacement will reduce the risk of further deterioration, reinstate the flood defence standard and prevent erosion of what is believed to be historic coastal landfill into the sensitive harbour environment.

**Cost of proposals:**

Total Capital Budget request of £98,000.

Estimated construction costs circa £60,000.

Contingency Sum of £38,000 to offset any of the following:

- extraordinary inflation in construction costs affecting the final contract award price;
- potential cost of using mats for winter working;
- potential programme delay to Spring 2023 (to follow the over-wintering bird season);
- further deterioration of the sea wall prior to the works being undertaken.

**Appendices:** None

**Reference papers:**

1. River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Strategy Proposal for Adoption – PDPDR Review Panel Report 03 March 2015.
2. River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Strategy Proposal for Adoption – Decision by Executive 20 April 2015.
3. North Solent Shoreline Management Plan – Adoption – Decision by the Executive 8th November 2010.

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

<b>Date:</b>	05 September 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Salterns recreation ground, Fareham - interim sea defence works</b>
<b>Briefing by:</b>	Director of Planning and Regeneration
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Planning and Development

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Fareham's coastline extends over a length of 26km, comprising both open coast and harbour environments. Areas prone to flooding and erosion are afforded protection through sea defence assets including beaches, groynes and seawalls. These defences also support the amenity function of coastal places and protect historic landfills from erosion.
2. Coastal Partners undertake regular inspections of coastal assets through a risk-based inspection programme that considers the age, fragility and protection afforded by the coastal asset e.g., people, property, open space. These inspections inform a prioritised programme of maintenance works, which is implemented via a contractor framework.
3. The recommended policy from the River Hamble to Portchester Strategy, adopted by Fareham Borough Council in 2015, is to maximise the life of existing defences through repair and maintenance, however, the Council's coastal defences are aging and becoming increasingly prone to damage and failure.
4. During Storm Barra, which struck the UK on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the sea defences at Salterns Recreation ground off Salterns Lane were over washed by a storm surge and waves. This overwhelmed the ageing seawall, which collapsed into the harbour along a 27 metre section. Urgent works are required to reinstate this wall to avoid deterioration of the adjoining defences and coastal erosion of historic coastal landfill; erosion of former landfill into the sensitive environmental harbour would prompt the need for emergency work.
5. Following the failure, the seawall was fenced off for public safety. Coastal Partners proceeded to investigate the nature of the failure and progress the detailed design of defence options. Due to the proximity of the proposed works to a number of designated sites, environmental consents have been obtained from regulators where necessary to undertake the proposed works.

#### PROPOSAL

6. It is proposed that the failed defences are replaced. This will avoid further deterioration of

the adjacent defences and will reinstate the flood standard of protection and avoid coastal erosion into the sensitive harbour. This will buy time for the ongoing Council lead studies into a long-term sea defence scheme here over the next 5 years.

7. A quotation has been provided by an experienced framework contractor to undertake these urgent works, on a Direct Award basis to avoid delay ahead of the winter storm season and winter environmental restrictions which commence in October 2022. The Direct Award process allows a fast appointment of an approved contractor to undertake urgent works such as those as Salterns recreation ground. The contractor has already undertaken a number of site visits prior to preparing the quotation and worked with Coastal Partners to provide guidance on site planning matters, such as compound space and haul routes, helping to reduce impacts to users of the area. The framework has been approved by Fareham Borough Council for undertaking these types of minor coastal engineering works.

## **DETAILED OPTIONS**

### **Option 1 – Do Nothing.**

8. Without investment the damage will be expected to expand and cause a much wider and therefore more costly defence failure. This would lower the flood defence standard and expose more of the recreation ground to coastal erosion, which may include exposure of historic coastal landfill materials. Doing nothing puts people and property behind these defences at increased risk, puts the harbour environment at increased risk of harm and therefore the Council, as the defence owner, at risk.

### **Option 2 – Urgent replacement**

9. The defence would be reinstated using large concrete blocks. These will allow a robust and efficient defence replacement without committing the Council to excessive cost, that could be abortive if a new scheme comes forward in the next 5 to 10 years. The proposals are adaptable to the situation on site and can be re-used if required. Fareham Borough Council, Development Management service has confirmed these works would be permitted development and planning permission is not required.

### **Option 3 – Sea defence upgrade**

10. The option to replace the defences with a more robust sheet pile wall to prevent erosion was considered. This was estimated to be of the order £120k to £150k for the failed section, with a significant proportion of the cost in mobilising the piling equipment to site. This was considered inefficient to undertake such a small repair, which will potentially put added pressure on the adjoining defences which remain in a poor condition.

## **BENEFITS**

11. The Option 2 proposal manages coastal flood and erosion risk, avoids further deterioration and potential environmental harm. It helps to maintain amenity function of the coast as a leisure asset, improving well-being for the public who use this area. The proposal is in line with the approved River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Strategy policy.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

12. Fareham's sea defences are critical to managing flood and erosion risk, as well as providing safe public amenity spaces. Without intervention there is a high risk that current failure will spread to the adjoining defences causing their failure; particularly if the frontage

experiences a further winter period. This would increase the risk of exposing historic coastal landfill, and therefore the Council's liabilities as the landowner and a need for more costly works.

13. There are significant inflationary cost pressures on the UK construction market. These are causing increased costs and extended lead times. A non-complex design has been developed to mitigate these impacts and budget quote provided by an experienced framework contractor, to enable the works to progress to site promptly. However, if there is a delay to start works beyond September, the environmental restrictions may require that the works are delayed until April 2023, and a risk of further cost escalation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. The Total Capital Budget request for these works is £98,000. This amounts from an estimated construction cost circa £60,000 and a Contingency Sum of £38,000. The construction cost is based on a contractor produced quote from June. The contingency allowance has been derived to allow for potential project risks. These include further programme delays leading to wetter working periods and potential soft ground, which would require the hiring in of track mats to protect the park surface and avoid compacted ground. The risk of unforeseen ground conditions and additional waste disposal costs. The risk of a further wall failure between now and contract award. As well as the extraordinary construction cost inflation currently being experienced in the sector.

In summary, a 30% (£18,000) contingency allowance has been made to cover all site risks, with an additional £20,000 for park protection measures if working during the wetter periods.

15. The proposed works are to be funded by FBC capital and are not eligible for central government Grant-in-Aid.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

16. Due to the proximity of designated sites any work within this area requires permissions from Natural England. Permissions have currently been gained for the proposed works to be undertaken and completed before the end of September 2022. Additional permissions will be required for works beyond this time and there is a risk that permissions would not be gained for works during the overwintering bird season. Public consultation of the defence policy here was undertaken as part of the approval of the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Strategy. Further public communication will be undertaken prior to the work commencing on site through website and social media updates, as well as notification and information posters on site to ensure users of the area are always informed.

## **CONCLUSION**

17. Fareham Borough Council is a coast protection authority, with sea defence assets. Following a recent failure, the proposal is to urgently reinstate these defences to avoid further deterioration and potential exposure of historic coastal landfill. Even though these works are acknowledged as being considered urgent, the time to undertake the various workstreams from design, procurement and consenting have only finally been completed to enable the works to proceed subject to completion by the end of September ahead of the overwintering bird's season. A delay beyond this end of September date could result in additional damage, risks to the environment and significantly increased costs. This

paper seeks to approve the required capital funding as current approved revenue funding is not sufficient.

18. This investment will reduce risk to the Council, will reinstate the flood and erosion risk standard to the road and homes, while promoting coastal amenity. The proposal is in-line with the recommendations of the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Strategy Study.

**Enquiries:** For further information on this report please contact Richard Ward, Coastal Partners (Richard.ward@havant.gov.uk).