

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Presentation to Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel

Date: 19th July 2023

Report of: Director of Planning and Regeneration

Subject: Coastal Partners Update

SUMMARY

The Panel will receive a presentation from the Coastal Service which will include an update on the service, maintenance of the day-to day FBC coastal assets, climate change and information on current projects.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to note the contents of the presentation.

COASTAL PARTNERS UPDATE AND PROGRESS

1. Fareham Borough Council coastal officers are working collaboratively in a Partnership providing a shared coastal flood and erosion risk management service with our neighbouring local authorities of Portsmouth CC, Gosport BC, Havant BC and as of June 2022 welcomed their fifth partner, Chichester District Council to Coastal Partners. Providing a stronger more resilient partnership, increasing the knowledge and skillsets and increasing future work opportunities and income.
2. The Partnership has grown with staff roles increasing to sixty-seven and a 2023/24 budget of £4.3m. With now five partners and a Capital Investment Plan exceeding £286m over the next ten years benefiting from Grant in Aid from Defra / Environment Agency funding, the future looks exciting and robust.
3. Delivering services more efficiently has led to lower costs to the Partner Authorities, with Fareham's current savings standing at £295,000 (£396,000 including inflation) against pre- partnership budgets. With overall savings of more than £2.4million across all Partners (3.2million including inflation) in revenue since its inception in April 2012.
4. Overall including Fareham there has been a saving of £7.7million of project efficiencies to date.
5. The partnership continues to be committed to its vision, *"To manage coastlines, improve community resilience and enhance the natural environment"*.

OUR APPROACH TO ASSET MANAGEMENT AT THE COAST

6. Asset management and maintenance is provided for all of FBC's owned and maintained coastal assets, covering 15.5 km of coastline. These are routinely inspected using a risk-based approach and an asset maintenance plan is kept live, highlighting remedial works required to those needing attention. Professional guidance continues to be provided to owners of private sea defences along the Fareham coastline (for example Chilling Foreshore), who are responsible for upkeep of these assets.
7. Repairs to FBC assets are prioritised based on risk and available budget. A framework of contractors provides a competitive and efficient route to market for FBC to deliver these works. Recent examples include repairs to the seawall at Portchester Sailing Club and works to manage safe beach levels at Monks Hill.
8. In the last financial year, 2022-23 completed projects included Portchester Sailing Club, where maintenance was carried out to the concrete bagwork wall fronting the coastal path to reduce erosion risk in the area. Five of the groynes at Monks Hill Beach were repaired following reports from members of the Fareham Beach Hut Association of a depleting beach and damaged groynes near the beach huts. A 25m section of seawall at Salterns Recreation Ground was designed, consented and reinstated following collapse in December 2021. A study into longer term replacement of these aging defences is ongoing.
9. Our Geomatics Team continue to offer topographic survey services to our partner authorities, and other local authorities. These include coastal, highway and building

surveys. We operate a small fleet of UAVs and have licensed UAV pilots for film, photography and building inspection work.

CLIMATE CHANGE – ADAPTATION

10. The Environment Agency national FCERM strategy 2020, includes core ambitions to: make climate resilient places; ensure infrastructure resilience and to create a nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change. In developing our projects, we carefully consider these ambitions and follow guidance provided by the Environment Agency regarding sea level rise and climate change predictions. This ensures our option appraisals and designs are robust to future impacts. Coastal Partners work closely with research initiatives as part of the Southern Coastal Group and the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline (SCOPAC). These are showing concerning trends in sea level rise, wave height and storms along the south coast of England.

PROJECTS AND WIDER PLANS:

Hook Lake Habitat Creation Study

- This study received Executive approval in July 2020 and is fully funded by FCERM-GiA.
- The study aims to present outline designs for an intertidal habitat creation scheme at Hook Lake, Fareham.
- The project type is identified as ‘Legal Obligation’; for projects whose main purpose is to fulfil legal obligations. In this instance, the legal obligation is to create compensatory intertidal habitat, and contribute to the Environment Agency’s Habitat Compensation & Restoration Programme mechanism for offsetting habitat losses occurring through implementation of Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) policies.
- To date, the project team have undertaken preliminary investigations, and appraised a longlist of options against the project objectives to identify three feasible shortlisted options. An appraisal (which identifies the least-cost option which meets the objectives) using Cost Effective Analysis (CEA) has been undertaken, alongside multivariate analysis of the impact of each shortlist option.
- Outline designs for a cost-effective solution to deliver intertidal habitats are being prepared and the team are currently working with stakeholders to assess the economic viability and deliverability of the leading solution.
- The study is due to conclude later in 2023, and the project team will be undertaking wider engagement to communicate the project findings.
- Any future phases of work will rely heavily on the affordability of the scheme and how its impacts on features such as footpaths, the road bridge and freshwater habitats are mitigated. There is no guarantee the project will progress to the next stage.

Fareham Quay and Alton Grove to Cadour Drive Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Studies

- These studies received executive approval in February 2022 and appointed the consultant ‘AECOM’ via direct award in July 2022.
- The studies secured £457,500 in funding over 2 years from Southern RFCC Local Levy (including risk), with an additional £30k contribution from FBC.

- The project commenced in October 2022 and will be delivered over 18 months, with completion currently programmed for May 2024.
- The studies will identify long-term, sustainable options to address climate change, coastal flood & erosion risk to properties and historic coastal landfill, increasing costs of maintaining defences in poor condition and reaching the end of their serviceable life, and the public safety risks posed by these.
- At Fareham Quay, present day, there are 29 properties at risk of flooding (1:100 year), increasing to 163 in 100 years + 5 at risk of erosion
- At Alton Grove to Cadour Drive, there are 20 properties at present day risk of flooding, increasing to 237 properties in 100 years + 1 at risk of erosion
- Between October 2022 and April 2023, the project team concluded Stage 1 (Baseline Assessment & Data Review) of the Studies, which included preliminary investigations such as Defence Condition Assessments for each frontage, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and hydraulic flood modelling.
- The project is currently in Stage 2 (Options Appraisal), which commenced in May 2023 to begin to develop a Long List of potential future coastal management options for each frontage. This will be appraised against the project objectives to develop a Short List of options and eventually a Leading Option.
- A meeting is programmed with FBC's Environmental Health and Contaminated Land officers on the 14th July to seek advice on the historic landfill at each frontage, to help inform the options appraisal.
- Public engagement will take place throughout the studies via webpage and social media updates and e-newsletters where relevant. Meetings with stakeholder and resident group representatives will take place from September 2023, with two public exhibitions (one at each frontage) in early 2024 (dates TBC) to showcase the Draft Leading Options.

Hill Head to Portsmouth Harbour Beach Management Plan (BMP)

- As recommended by the River Hamble to Portchester Strategy (2016) the BMP will consider a 10km frontage of open coastline between Hill Head Harbour in the west and Portsmouth Harbour Entrance in the east, taking a holistic approach to beach management across two Local Authorities (Fareham Borough Council & Gosport Borough Council). It will look to rebalance beach levels between areas of erosion and accretion alongside potential import of additional material: providing a healthy beach, reducing flood and erosion risk to properties, people, infrastructure, and coastal structures, whilst continuing to provide good amenity space for local residents and beach users.
- In February 2023 Coastal Partners began the development of the BMP documentation and Outline Business Case for submission to the Environment Agency (EA). The project has a total of £561,994 allocated from Other Government Department funding through the EA, which can be unlocked subject to approval of the Outline Business Case (OBC) by the Environment Agency. Alongside submission of the OBC, Coastal Partners will look for additional funding sources to supplement the existing funding to enable the full BMP to be delivered.
- The current programme is for the Outline Business Case to be submitted in the Autumn 2023, with licences and consents application during early 2024. Construction is programmed for the 24/25 and 25/26 financial years and is subject to the approval of required funds and necessary consent approval. This will be updated as the project progresses through each stage.

