

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### **Report to Planning and Development Policy Development and Review Panel**

**Date**                    **9 July 2014**

**Report of:**            **Director of Planning and Development**

**Subject:**              **RIVER HAMBLE TO PORTCHESTER COASTAL FLOOD AND  
EROSION RISK AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY -OPTIONS FOR  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

This report summarises the progress of the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy and sets out the preferred Strategic approach for managing the Fareham coastline over the next hundred years. The report also sets out the details of the public consultation of these options which will run for 3 months from 01 September 2014 to 01 December 2014.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Members are invited to support the Strategy's preferred options and make any comments they wish on the public consultation process due to commence in September.

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP), in collaboration with URS (Consulting Engineers), is undertaking a Coastal Flood and Erosion Management Strategy on behalf of Gosport Borough Council and Fareham Borough Council. The study area covers the coastal frontage between BurrIDGE on the east bank of the River Hamble to just west of Portchester Castle. The project is being fully funded by Flood Defence Grant in Aid administered by the Environment Agency.
2. The coastline along the Strategy frontage comprises of a mix of highly developed residential and commercial areas including MOD (Ministry of Defence) land, historical land marks, potentially contaminated land, open space and agricultural land, much of which is potentially at risk of coastal flooding and / or erosion. There are also significant environmental designations present, particularly in Portsmouth Harbour.
3. The North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (NSSMP 2010) provides high level policy information for managing the Fareham and Gosport coastline.
4. When complete, the Coastal Strategy will set out how to deliver these policies and manage the complex local issues along this coastline. It will identify where and when coastal flood and erosion risk management works are required over the next 100 years and their likely cost.
5. The principle aim of the Strategy is:
6. *'to reduce the risks to people, the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion through the development and implementation of a sustainable strategy that encourages provision of technically, economically and environmentally sound defence measures.'*
7. The Strategy will provide a long term plan for the implementation of capital projects, routine maintenance, further studies, surveys and investigations. The Strategy will also help the Local Authorities and Environment Agency prioritise day-to-day activities whilst ensuring the best use of public funds.

## STRATEGY PROGRESS

- **March 2012** Scoping Phase of the Strategy commenced – collection of baseline evidence required.
- **August 2013** Development Phase of the Strategy commenced - assessing the preferred options for mitigating flood and erosion risk.
- **September 2014** 3 month public consultation to commence following presentation of the proposed options to the Planning and Development Policy Development and Review Panel.
- **Summer 2015** Approval and adoption of Final Strategy by Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council and Environment Agency.

## OPTION DEVELOPMENT

8. The Strategy coastline was broken down into option development units and a long list of options was drawn up for each unit. A wide range of options were captured at this stage with a strong consideration for stakeholder views and aspirations.
9. The long list of options was assessed against several categories including; technical feasibility, environmental impacts, cost, funding opportunities, stakeholder objectives, etc. This process produced the short list of options.
10. A preferred strategic option has now been selected based on a detailed economic appraisal of the costs and benefits of each shortlisted option and its impacts on the environment. This appraisal has been undertaken in line with the Environment Agency Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Appraisal Guidance.

## PREFERRED STRATEGIC OPTIONS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. The options are presented strategically for coastal management zones where the preferred approach is spatially aligned. Where a priority scheme has been identified for flood and erosion risk mitigation more detailed information on cost and type of defence required will be presented for consultation.
12. Where the SMP policy is one of Hold the Line (from Portchester Castle to Hill Head, Swanwick and Warsash) The strategy proposes one, or a combination, of four options for implementing the NSSMP policy;
  - a) **Do Minimum** (reactively maintain defence until end of residual life).
  - b) **Maintain** (proactively maintain defences at same standard of service);
  - c) **Sustain** (maintain existing standard of protection to adapt to sea level rise, typically by raising defence levels in Year 1);
  - d) **Improve** (raise existing defence levels, allowing for future sea level rise).
13. Where the SMP policy is Managed Re-alignment (Hook Spit) or No Active Intervention (remainder of strategy frontage) an adaptive strategic approach has been developed.
14. Strategy Management Zones: Preferred strategic options for consultation
  - **Management Zone 1** – North Portsmouth Harbour (Hospital Lane to Upper Quay).  
**Delay Sustain** – Maximise life of existing defences and then sustain minimum 1:100 year Standard of Protection (phased) from 2030.
  - **Management Zone 2** – Gosport and Fareham Harbour West (Upper Quay to Fort Monkton).  
**Sustain a minimum 1:100 flood Standard of Protection** (phased)

- **Management Zone 3** – Stokes Bay & Lee on the Solent (Fort Monkton to Hill Head Sailing Club).

**Maintain Protection** – Scheduled maintenance and beach recycling to maintain beaches, prevent erosion but accepting flood Standard of Protection will fall in the longer term.

- **Management Zone 4** – Titchfield Haven to Hook Lake (Hill Head Sailing Club to Hook with Warsash nature reserve).

**Allow natural coastal process to continue but Sustain protection (phased) to environmentally important sites at Hook Lake and Titchfield Haven** - Seek to create new intertidal habitat through regulated tidal exchange at Hook Lake from 2030 in order to offset the habitat losses created by holding the line elsewhere.

- **Management Zone 5** – Hamble Estuary east bank (Hook with Warsash nature reserve to Eversdown Copse).

**Do Minimum until 2060** – Maximise life of existing defences managing flood risk with local measures, then sustain minimum 1:100 year SoP from 2060 at key flood risk locations. Solent way footpath adaptation from 2030.

*Note – Further details on how each strategic option can be delivered for each development unit is presented in the background paper.*

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

15. Engagement with public and partners has taken place throughout the duration of the project to raise awareness and understanding of coastal flood and erosion risk. Early involvement in the decision making process has also been encouraged to aid the management of our coastline. This has to date included on-site meetings, presentations, website and social media updates which will continue to be on going.
16. In October 2012 a key community engagement workshop was held where interested parties were invited to share their aspirations for the Strategy coastline. Where feasible these aspirations have fed into the development of options.
17. Four public exhibitions are scheduled during the consultation period to seek opinion on the proposed options:
  - 9th September 2014 (13.00-19.00) – Ferneham Hall, Fareham
  - 10th September 2014 (13.00-19.00) – Gosport Discovery Centre
  - 11th September 2014 (13.00-19.00) – Hill Head Sailing Club, Fareham
  - 18th September 2014 (13.00-19.00) – Warsash Sailing Club, Fareham
18. Following consultation the final strategy will be drafted taking account of feedback. All comments received will be documented and will form part of the Strategy consultation reporting.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

19. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

## **CONCLUSION**

20. Members are invited to support the Strategy's preferred options and make any comments on the public consultation process due to commence in September.

## **[APPENDIX 1: River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy – Preferred Options by Development Unit](#)**

### **Background Papers:**

Appendix 1: River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy – Preferred Options by Development Unit

### **Reference Papers:**

Minutes of the Planning and Development Policy Development and Review Panel  
Tuesday, 14th May, 2013 6.00 pm

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