

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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CABINET

23 JANUARY 2013

REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT AND COAST PROTECTION PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A.9 CLACTON AND HOLLAND COASTAL DEFENCE WORK

(Report prepared by June Clare and Mike Badger)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report the progress to date on the preparation of the Project Appraisal Report (PAR) for the frontage of Clacton and Holland-on-Sea and to seek approval for the options to be presented for public consultation as required by the Environment Agency's PAR process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the decisions made by Cabinet at their meeting on 14 March 2012 Mott MacDonald have been appointed to prepare the Project Appraisal Report for the Clacton and Holland frontage.

The target is to submit the completed document to the Environment Agencies Large Project Review Group (LPRG) in May 2013 and good progress has been made to date.

In addition, and running in parallel with the PAR, Officers have attended two meetings of the Environment Agency's LPRG, one hosted by TDC in Clacton on 6 September 2012 to consider the Clacton and Holland Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (STAR) for technical approval of the business case. Information about the frontage was presented and followed by a site visit to key locations.

Officers also attended a second meeting of the LPRG in Westminster on 4 October 2012 when further details of the frontage were considered.

The Council has recently been informed that the strategy (STAR) for the Holland and Clacton Frontage has been approved by the Environment Agency and this group now awaits the completed PAR to be submitted.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (a) That the Council note the progress to date and approve that the options identified be taken to public consultation as required by the Project Appraisal Report process.**
- (b) That the results of the consultation exercise be taken into consideration when the final option is developed.**
- (c) That the Environmental Baseline Review be submitted to the statutory consultees.**

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Council's Corporate Plan, Tendring Life, recognises that Tendring's 36 miles of coastline and award winning sandy beaches are both our greatest assets as well as our most difficult and expensive management issues. Both the priorities 'Our Place' and 'Our Prosperity' are impacted by coastal defence issues, in that they relate to the development of a thriving tourist industry and of course protecting our environment.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

At its meeting on 7 February 2012 the Council established a fund of £3 million for coastal defence and enhancement work and to be able to take advantage of any regeneration/activities that may arise.

The cost of engaging the consultant for the PAR work was funded from a contribution from Essex County Council along with funding from the Council's own coast protection special maintenance budget.

Risk: Coastal defence failure is included in the Council's Risk Register.

"There is a risk that, as a coastal authority and in relation to climate change issues, that reduced provision or maintenance of or a collapse of sea defences could have a severe environmental impact and cause damage to local property and infrastructure."

The Register highlights the following specific issues in the event of sea defence failure:

- Preventative / reactive improvements are not undertaken
- Problems stored for later years
- Breach of defences with subsequent flooding
- Threat to property and possibly life
- Complaints from public / litigation
- Adverse publicity
- Local economy adversely affected

LEGAL

The Council has permissive powers to carry out these works under the provisions of the Coast Protection Act 1949. The Council has a duty to exercise its powers reasonably having regard to all the relevant circumstances.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder – No direct implications

Equality and Diversity – No direct implications

Health Inequalities – No direct implications

Area or Ward affected – St. James, Pier, St. Paul's, St. Bartholomews and Haven

Consultation/Public Engagement – Public consultation and engagement has been undertaken for the Essex & South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan and the Clacton & Holland Coastal Management Plan

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The report to Cabinet 14 March 2012 detailed the very serious coastal erosion problems on the sea front at Clacton & Holland-on-Sea and provided a summary of the work previously carried out as well as the work required to address these problems. It is included as Appendix 1 to this report and provides important detailed information.

Due to the lack of DEFRA funding in 2005, following the first Clacton & Holland Coastal Strategy, Tendring District Council commissioned a review with the intention to produce a revised programme of coastal protection works.

This report follows the second Essex Shoreline Management Plan and develops its recommendations to 'hold the line' whilst identifying outline technical solutions.

The Government funding arrangements for coastal protection works altered in April 2012 such that only a proportion of any costs will be met centrally by government leaving the Coastal Authorities to source the remainder.

The new Clacton & Holland Coastal Coast Management Plan (Clacton Coastal Strategy), recommends a series of works along the whole frontage from the Martello Inn to Holland Haven with a programme spread over fifty years and a cost of up to £50 million.

However much of this work and expenditure is in the latter stages of the programme and a realistic view suggests that, within the next ten to fifteen years, only Holland-on-Sea and part of the Clacton frontage to the East of the Pier are required urgently at a cost of approximately £25m. The Council's proposals for coastal protection work include a commitment to reinstating the beach at Holland-on-Sea.

Within the last 6 months, the following actions have been completed:-

Condition Survey complete.

Environmental Baseline Review complete and ready for submission to the various statutory consultees.

Option Evaluation and review of existing data and identification of the problem and physical processes complete.

Technical appraisal and option development complete based on a sand and shingle beach recharge with a series of erosion control rock structures.

Risk Workshop held and risks identified together with processes to minimise them.

In addition an economic appraisal of the various options is underway.

The Council has also entered into an innovative partnership with Southend Borough Council in order to secure 'intelligent client' services on coastal matters. Both Tendring District Council and Southend Borough Council officers attend many of the same meetings with the statutory agencies on coastal defence matters and it is anticipated that this arrangement will bring about a greater pool of shared knowledge, improved resilience and potential cost savings to both councils.

An officer Seafront Project Team has also been established comprising representatives from planning, assets, engineering and coastal, seafronts, inward investment and Essex County Council in order to ensure that the coastal defence project is driven through and to examine the opportunities for the Council in terms of tourism, investment and regeneration.

It is important to keep in mind the possibility that catastrophic cliff and promenade failure could occur within this period which would require emergency works and immediate funding.

This report provides information on the progress being made in order to protect the coastal frontage of Clacton and Holland-on-Sea and the residential and tourism infrastructure that is supported by it. The three million pounds committed at the Council meeting on 7th February 2012 for coastal protection and enhancements is the foundation stone for this project and is key to attracting match funding by Essex County Council for the necessary work.

CURRENT POSITION

With regard to the current Project Appraisal Report Mott MacDonald have developed 5 different options for the area comprising the Zone B - Clacton Pier to Eastcliff and Zone C - Eastcliff to Holland Haven which are considered to be the areas at greatest risk.

The following options have been identified:-

- a) The do nothing scenario.
- b) Beach recharge with straight rock groynes.
- c) Beach recharge with fishtail rock groynes.
- d) Beach recharge with a combination of both fish tail and straight rock groynes.
- e) Beach recharge with and a combination of rock groynes and rock revetment.

These are shown in Appendix 2.

The PAR process requires the options to be taken to public consultation and provisional arrangements are being made for this to take place in late January/February with a display in the Town Hall and one at Holland on Sea. It is hoped that the consultation event will act as a springboard for involving the community affected by this issue so that they become fully engaged in the process.

The Environmental Baseline Review is also a requirement of the PAR process and the completed document is included in Appendix 3. This document must be submitted to the statutory consultees as follows:-

Marine Management Organisation
Natural England
English Heritage
Environment Agency

To assist and inform the current option work being developed, topographical geotechnical and bathymetric surveys of the coast defence frontage at strategic locations need to be undertaken to provide greater confidence at an early stage in the preliminary design process. Officers are currently in discussion with Mott MacDonald regarding the procurement of these services as a variation to their current works.

It would also be beneficial for the detailed design work to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity and that continuity is of high importance in order to deliver the early build stages of the project in 2015. Officers are therefore exploring how this can be achieved using the services of Mott MacDonald.

At the end of December 2012 the Council made an application for grant money of in excess of £500,000 from a newly established government growth fund which made the link between the coastal defence project and economic growth. The bid builds upon the Council's 'Celebrate on Sea' and 'Breath of Fresh Air' documents that set the Council's vision for this important coastal area. A decision on this application is likely to be made in February 2013

APPENDICES

1. Clacton and Holland Coastal Defence Work Report to Cabinet 14 March 2012
2. Appraisal Options
3. Environmental Baseline Review