

# Delegated decision report

## **DECISION UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

**DECISION CANNOT BE TAKEN BEFORE TUESDAY, 7  
DECEMBER 2010**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Title         | <b>SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>  |
| Report Author | <b>REPORT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT,<br/>TRANSPORT AND CORPORATE SERVICES</b> |

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### PURPOSE

1. To adopt the coastal defence policies set out in the Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2). A draft SMP2 for the Isle of Wight was prepared and approved in principle on 28 June 2010, prior to public consultation. Public consultation is now complete, and the final SMP2 is presented for approval. There are no policy changes from the draft SMP2.

### OUTCOMES

2. The SMP2 will contribute to the Council's priorities by improved planning at the coast, protection of the coastal environment, responding to climate change and maintaining the quality of the shoreline.

### BACKGROUND

3. Shoreline Management Plans are an important component of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) strategic framework for the future management of coastal erosion and tidal flood risks.
4. SMPs provide a large-scale assessment of the coastline, including the risks to the developed, historic and natural environment associated with coastal evolution. They present a policy framework to address these risks in a sustainable manner. These plans are non-statutory, policy documents for coastal defence management planning. They take account of other existing planning initiatives and legislative requirements, and are intended to inform wider strategic planning. It is important to note that these plans do not establish policy for anything other than coastal defence management. However, from this perspective, they provide the context for management decisions in other sectors of coastal management.
5. A Shoreline Management Plan aims to:
  - balance the management of coastal flooding and erosion risks, with natural processes and the consequences of climate change;

- determine technically, economically and environmentally sustainable policies for management of the shoreline for the next 100 years, split into three time periods:
  - Present day (0-20 years);
  - Medium-term (20-50 years);
  - Long-term (50-100 years).

(For SMP2s to be consistent around the coast, this 100 year period is 2005 to 2105)

6. The SMP2 policies as defined by Defra are

| <b>Policy</b>                | <b>Comment</b>   |
|------------------------------|--|
| Hold the line (HTL)          | Maintain or upgrade level of protection provided by defences.                |
| Advance the Line (ATL)       | Build new defences seaward of existing defences.                             |
| Managed Realignment (MR)     | Allowing retreat of shoreline with management to control; or limit movement. |
| No Active Intervention (NAI) | Do not invest in providing or maintaining defences.                          |

7. The SMP2 will have an impact upon the future development of the emerging Island Plan. It is proposed that the impact of coastal change should form an integral part of planning strategies and plan making at local level and of decision-making on all types of application for consent required for development in areas that might be vulnerable to coastal change. The plan will provide the means of identifying the risks for a local area and proposals on how to manage them. They would provide the evidence for designating the area likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast in the Local Development Framework.

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

8. The first Isle of Wight SMP was completed and adopted by the Isle of Wight Council in 1997. It defined policies for the next 50 years, whereas this revised plan aims to set policies for the next 100 years. Using guidance produced by Defra, SMPs are being updated for the entire coastline of England and Wales. Shoreline Management Plans are based on long coastal frontages and generally cross a number of administrative boundaries. The Isle of Wight SMP2 is the only plan which contains just one coast protection authority.
9. The SMP2 has been developed by a client steering group comprising representatives from the Isle of Wight Council, the Environment Agency and other key bodies. These key bodies included Natural England, which provides guidance on nature conservation, the National Trust and English Heritage, who provide guidance on heritage issues. Defra, with delivery by the Environment Agency, has overall policy responsibility for flood and coastal risk in England including producing guidance and grant aid funding of the SMP2.
10. In producing the draft SMP2, the Island's coast has been broken down into seven zones based on land use, environmental importance, natural sediment movements and coastal processes, and the assets and features potentially at risk of flooding and/or erosion within each zone. These have been termed policy development zones. These have then broken down further in to management units where the influences are primarily land use and existing defences. Each management unit is then divided into policy units defined by the changes in type of defence or change in land use. A preferred coastal defence option has been developed for each policy unit for each of the three time periods.

11. Appendix 1 includes a plan showing the policy development zones, the sub divided management units and individual policy units. Appendix 1 also includes a table which identifies the coastal defence policy for each of the 61 policy units.

## CONSULTATION

12. A draft SMP2 for the Isle of Wight was prepared and approved by delegated decision on 28 June 2010, in readiness for public consultation. A three month public consultation period commenced on 23 July 2010 and ended on 23 October 2010. An information leaflet was prepared to explain the SMP2. This leaflet is shown in Appendix 2.

13. All associations and individuals who expressed an interest in the coast were invited to participate in the consultation process. The draft SMP2 was displayed at five locations around the Island during a week of roadshows. For the remaining 12 weeks of the public consultation period, the display was based at the Coastal Visitors Centre in Ventnor, where anyone could discuss their concerns in person with the authors of the SMP2. Paper copies of the draft SMP2 and feedback forms were also available at Newport reference library.

14. The entire draft SMP2 was available to view via the council website, as well as an online feedback form.

15. All consultation responses are available in Appendix 3, as well as how or whether the response impacts on the SMP2.

## FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Coastal defence strategy studies for the Island's coast will follow the SMP2 and these will investigate and assess how the SMP2's policies should be implemented in a sustainable way. These will identify the individual flood prevention or coastal defence schemes that will deliver the policies of the SMP2, and the costs associated with those schemes. Limited Isle of Wight Council funding is likely to restrict major schemes to only those qualifying for Coast Protection grant aid, with the exception of a capital project at St Helens Duver which the Council has a legal obligation to implement. Government funding is under review and it is likely that this will be restricted in a manner similar to the council's own resources.

17. The current approved cost of preparing the SMP2 is £340k, and this is funded from grant aid from the Environment Agency. The project commenced in 2006/07 and will be completed in this financial year. If the SMP2 is not adopted the Council may be required to repay the grant aid already received of £194,784.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

18. There are no legal implications at present arising from this report.

19. Failure to adopt the new SMP2 will prevent the receipt of coast protection grant aid in the future.

## PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

20. There are no property implications for this report.

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

21. The Isle of Wight Council and the Environment Agency sought the views of the public on the Isle of Wight SMP2. The consultation lasted for a period of three months, during which time the draft SMP2 was available to any interested party.

22. Public consultation events were held across the Island so that the public could speak to officers of the council and the Environment Agency in person, and to discuss any concerns. All the venues used had regard to facilities for disabled access.

23. No specific equality or diversity issues arise from the coastal defence policies proposed in the draft SMP2.

## OPTIONS

24. Option 1 – To adopt the coastal defence policies set out in the draft Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan 2, and summarised in Appendix 1.

25. Option 2 – To vary some or all of the coastal defence policies set out in the draft Isle of Wight SMP2, and summarised in Appendix 1.

26. Option 3 – Not to adopt the draft Isle of Wight SMP 2.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

27. If the Isle of Wight SMP2 is not adopted by the national deadline of 31 December 2010 there is a risk that the council may be required to repay the grant aid already received of £194,784.

28. Failure to adopt the SMP2 would mean that the policies established in 1997 would remain in place.

## EVALUATION

29. Once adopted, the plan will be the document which explains the council's preferred coastal defence policy for the entire Isle of Wight coast, and supersede the policies adopted in the 1997 Shoreline Management Plan.

30. Options 1 and 2 allow the future planning of the coast to proceed in a managed and strategic way although Options 2 would result in a delay to the programme. This would mean that the Isle of Wight SMP2 was not adopted by the national deadline of 31 December 2010 and expose the council to a degree of financial risk as explained in paragraph 27.

31. Option 3 would result in a failure to adopt the SMP2 and would mean that the policies established in 1997 would remain in place. This would expose the council reputational and operational risks. In this event it is likely that the council would be required to repay the grant aid already received of £194,784.

RECOMMENDATION

32. Option 1 – Adopt the Isle of Wight Coast Shoreline Management Plan 2, and the policies set out therein.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

33. [APPENDIX 1](#) – Policy Unit Options

34. [APPENDIX 2](#) – Consultation leaflet

35. [APPENDIX 3](#) – Summary of public consultation responses

BACKGROUND PAPERS

36. The Shoreline Management Plan 2 can be viewed at [www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp](http://www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp)

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Director of Economy and Environment

COUNCILLOR EDWARD GILES  
Cabinet member for Environment, Transport and  
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Decision

Signed

Date

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