

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 7 December 2017

Present:

Dr Ken Buchan, Dorest County Council
Mr Lyall Cairns, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Nick Gray, Environment Agency
Mr Nick Hardiman, Environment Agency
Dr David Harlow, Bournemouth Borough Council
Dominic Henly, Chichester District Council
Mr Matt Hosey, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Mr David Lowsley, Chichester District Council
Vincent May
Stuart McVey, Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme
Matthew Penny, Dorset Council Partnership
Mr David Robson, Borough of Poole Council
Mark Stratton, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Mr Neil Watson, Environment Agency
Carol Whitfield, Borough of Poole Council
Mr Gordon Wilkinson, Eastleigh Borough Council

149 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jenny Jakeways, Jo Matthews, Solent Forum, Steve Cook, Bryan Curtis, Tim Adams, Stevyn Ricketts, Hannah Williamson, Angela Marlow and Gavin Holder.

150 Minutes of the Last Meeting (Paper A)

Updates on the Habitat Creation Programme and Coastal Asset Data Project would be considered in the meeting. In relation to the Capital Programme Management Tool, one response remained outstanding.

The SMP Workshop would follow the Southern Coastal Group meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 15 September 2017 be set as a correct record.

151 Chairman's Update - Neil Watson (Paper B)

The Chairman provided an update on activities since the previous meeting. The update included the following key points:

- FCERM Stakeholders Forum – At its meeting on 13 November, the Forum had received presentations from leading figures in the EA and DEFRA, and had featured discussions on the use of drones in incident monitoring, securing private sector funding and the FCERM Strategy update. SCG Officers had raised questions on existing rules preventing the successful sourcing of private funding contributions.
- Coastal Erosion – John Curtin provided an update presentation on FCERM at the latest meeting of the Coastal Group Chairs and informed the meeting that a strategy for coastal erosion would be developed. This issue had gained increased priority in recent years and could be presented to ministers, but would need political support to take further. Officers discussed the Group taking a strategic lead in developing the national project, using officer expertise to deliver a coherent message on the issue and provide research on the scale of the national problem, utilising existing case studies from other coastal regions. Funds of £50,000 had been discussed but this source of funding would need to be formally bid for.

Officers confirmed that the ESCP would review resources with a view to undertaking the project, with clear links to existing projects on contaminated land. It was also confirmed that the project would not be delivered in the current financial year and would aim for deliverables in the summer of 2018.

- Succession Planning – The latest Coastal Group Chair's Meeting also discussed issues on succession planning, the loss of skills and expertise with departing officers and structural changes in local authorities. Concerns were also raised on the skills and expertise of consultants, and it was agreed that this issue would be discussed at the next Coastal Group Chairs Meeting.
- Coastal Groups Governance – The Terms of Reference document for coastal groups had been updated. The changes refreshed the document for 2017, while also capturing updated projects and maintenance of SMPs, and was intended as guidance for the governance of coastal groups. Officers highlighted the need for greater communication and engagement with communities to highlight the role of the Group to SCOPAC in times of austerity. It was agreed that:
 - a) the document would be circulated to officers and any comments be submitted prior to Christmas; and
 - b) The Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairmen, undertake a review to ensure the Terms of Reference are reflected in the SCG Constitution.

152 Coastal Asset Data - Neil Watson (Verbal Update)

The Chairman provided the Group with an update on the Coastal Asset Data project. The Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme had proposed to co-ordinate the collation of the baseline data, ensuring that requirements in relation to the collation of non-agency asset data, the need for consistent datafields for each asset and compatibility with the AIMS system would be met.

Officers discussed the scope of the project and the differing requirements at each local authority, while the Chairman confirmed that authorities could use different IT systems locally as long as they were compatible with the AIMS system.

It was agreed that;

- a) A short questionnaire be circulated to officers to understand the basic data requirements for each authority for the output data; and
- b) A workshop be held in February to discuss the methodology, finance and resource for the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.36am and reconvened at 11.44am

153 Research Report - Sam Cope (Paper C)

The Chairman introduced the update, which gave an overview on the progress of the Research Programme.

The ESCP and EA had recently been successful in securing £25,000 from the Southern Regional Flood Defence Committee and the Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee to cover the costs of the SCOPAC Contaminated Land Study.

The following studies were discussed:

- SCOPAC Minor Projects Fund – A call for potential research to be undertaken with the Minor Projects Fund would be advertised in January 2018. Officers discussed possible projects relating to Poole Harbour tide charts and Bournemouth Pier tide gauge information for submission. The importance of using MRes students was also highlighted.
- Monitoring of Poole Nearshore Replenishment Trials – The final report from the study was imminently due for final sign-off.
- SCOPAC Contaminated Land Study – The study had received political support. It was envisaged that the recovered £25,000 costs from this study would be reallocated to the SCOPAC Storm Analysis study.

- Vegetated Shingle study – The study aimed to investigate the response of vegetated shingle species to beach management activities and storm events at the Hurst Spit in the New Forest National Park. Officers discussed Highcliffe Castle in Christchurch as a possible area for future study.
- Scanning of Historical Aerial Photography – Locally held photographs at Bournemouth Borough Council were being scanned as part of Year 2 of the project.

154 Coastal Monitoring Programme Report - Stuart McVey (Paper D)

The Chairman invited Stuart McVey to introduce the report on the progress of the Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme and update the Group on any further developments.

Officers requested further details on the legislation and guidance in relation to the use of drones for conducting aerial surveys.

155 Habitat Creation Programme - Nick Gray (Verbal Update)

The Chairman invited Nick Gray to update the Group on the progress of the Habitat Creation Programme.

In relation to the identification of approximately 100 hectares of historic losses, the Group was informed that in 'epoch one', these had been offset with no significant losses. This had the effect of making the 'epoch two' targets more challenging but officers were confident that these targets would be delivered.

Concerns were raised over the sign-off procedures at Natural England and it was agreed that a briefing paper be circulated providing clarity on these processes.

156 Finance and Service Plan Progress Discussion - Lyall Cairns

The Chairman invited Lyall Cairns to provide an update to the Group on the Finance and Service Plans.

The Local Levy funding for the SCOPAC Contaminated Land Study would be received in the hosted SCOPAC accounts at Havant Borough Council.

The discussion also highlighted the spreadsheet used to detail the Group's Service Plan and how this could be replicated at other coastal groups to provide a simple overview of projects and outcomes. It was agreed that the Chairman would present the Service Plan spreadsheet at the next Coastal Group Chairs Meeting.

Officers were also informed that the Minor Works Framework was now operational and reminded to contact Matt Hosey for any further information. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Group meeting.

157 Any Other Business

Dave Robson advised the Group that the deadline for applications for the Head of the Dorset Coastal Partnership role was 21 December.

Dave Harlow informed the Group that the results of the structural analysis of timber groynes would be published shortly and circulated to officers.

158 Dates of Future Meetings

The Group agreed to set the following dates for future meetings in 2018:

- Friday 16 March
- Friday 15 June
- Friday 21 September
- Friday 7 December

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 12.39 pm

This page is intentionally left blank