

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC meeting, 10:00am, 19 November 2021 on MS Teams.

Attendees:

Cllr Mary Penfold	SCOPAC Champion – Dorset Council
Lyall Cairns	SCG Chair – Coastal Partners
Matt Hosey	SCG Vice-chair – BCP Council
Dave Picksley	SCG Vice-chair – Environmental Agency
Dr Samantha Cope	SCOPAC & SCG – Research Chair
Cllr Hugh Mason	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Jackie Branson	Havant Borough Council
Cllr Jonathan Bacon	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Lance Quantrill	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Mark Anderson	BCP Council
Cllr Mark Roberts	Dorset Council
Cllr Paul Fuller	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Penny Plant	Chichester District Council
Cllr Piers Bateman	Gosport Borough Council
Dr Andrew Pearce	Coastal Partners
Ben Meredith	Environmental Agency
Clare Newton	Coastal Partners (minutes)
Dominic Henly	Chichester District Council
Esmari Steenkamp	Dorset Council
Fiona Crayston	Environmental Agency
Jenny Jakeways	Isle of Wight Council
Jonathan Griffiths	Environmental Agency
Keith Nursey	Environmental Agency
Lauren James	Marine Management Organisation
Lucy Taylor	Coastal Partners
Mark Stratton	Coastal Partners
Matt Penny	Dorset Council
Neil Watson	Environmental Agency
Nick Everington	Crown Estates
Peter Christie	BCP Council
Peter Ferguson	New Forest District Council
Richard Austin	Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Richard Craven	Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Samantha Box	Coastal Partners
Siân Platt	Balfour Beatty
Simon Cramp	Hampshire County Council
Steve Cook	New Forest District Council
Steve Fitzmaurice	Coastal Partners
Stuart McVey	Channel Coastal Observatory

Apologies

Name

Cllr Alvey	New Forest District Council
Cllr Daniells	Fareham Borough Council
Cllr Green	BCP Council
Cllr Marsden	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Warwick	Hampshire County Council
Alan Frampton	BCP Council
Dr Charlie Thompson	Channel Coastal Observatory
Emma Stainer	Coastal Partners
Jane Ryan	Coastal Partners
Jonathan Potts	University of Portsmouth
Karen Thompkins	BCP Council
Stevyn Ricketts	Gosport Borough Council
Tim Adams	Yarmouth Harbour
Dr Uwe Dornbusch	Environment Agency

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Penfold welcomed the group to the meeting. Apologies reported above.

2. What's being delivered? [attachment – Item 2 All Slides]

Lyll Cairns introduced the update for Members on the last 12+ months and presented the summary for Coastal Partners.

Fareham

Hook Lake Coastal Management Study – Primarily in response to the legal requirement to offset losses from coastal squeeze (saltmarsh, mudflats, coastal grazing marsh). Appraisal is to identify intertidal habitat. £556,000 grant-in-aid funding has been secured from the Environment Agency. Project launched in March 2021.

Fareham Quay to Cadour Drive – Ageing defences coming to the end of their serviceable lives. £457,500 has been secured from the Southern Region Flood and Coastal Committee (SRFCC). Option appraisal and outline design looking at stopping coastal landfill from entering harbours which are environmentally designated.

Gosport

FCERM Scheme: Alverstoke and Forton – £1.2M scheme. Contractor appointed and planning permission in place. Alverstoke works planned to start Autumn 2021 and Forton early 2022. Funding secured from the EA to improve environment.

Seafield – At Enhanced Outline Design stage which will help deliver a business case to take the project forward.

Stokes Bay – Seawall replacement. £300K funding secured from Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to undertake survey work. A design consultant has been appointed and planning permission is in preparation. A further £410k secured from the RFCC, GBC and HCC to look at a longer-term solution for the area.

Havant

Langstone FCERM Scheme – Full appraisal completed and funded by RFCC levy. Community infrastructure levy funds now secured. Outline business case approved by the EA. Seeking other Government Dept. funding to take forward in the region of £6M of which £3M already secured. Plenty of stakeholder engagement required in the community. Environmental studies completed.

Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy – Part grant-in-aid funding/part community infrastructure levy funding.

Broadmarsh Erosion Risk Feasibility Study – Fronts coastal landfill. RFCC funding secured and now have a preferred option but struggling to secure Government funding.

South Hayling Beach Management & West Beach – Plan extended until 2024 with this year's operation completed September 2021. Looking at developing complex linked initiatives at West Beach that link with Havant Borough Council's regeneration proposals in addition to general maintenance.

Portsmouth

Southsea Coastal Scheme – £100M+ scheme. Business case approved by EA, Defra and signed off by the Treasury. Work on the first frontage has begun at Long Curtain Moat which is in the top 5% of Historic England's critical assets to be protected. Finding an engineering solution that respects that heritage has been challenging with no additional funding given by HE.

Detailed design completed for Frontage 4. LC emphasised that in terms of place-shaping and transformation this will be an incredible space for the next 100 years. All planning permissions are in place and work will commence early 2022.

North Portsea Island (Phase 4) – Every opportunity to improve the environment is being built into the flood defences. The eco formliner, believed to be the first in the country, is already creating a richer habitat having been constructed in 2021. Glass seawalls have also been introduced.

Isle of Wight FCERM Programme (Jenny Jakeways)

IOW Council have now moved from strategies and studies into a phase of significant scheme development, working alongside the EA.

Flood alleviation scheme completed protecting property at Monktonmead in Ryde – creating new flood storage area and outfall of the river.

EA are currently working on a scheme in East Cowes to be followed by a scheme in West Cowes looking at a temporary flood barrier.

IOW Council have partnered with the EA to progress 4 schemes on the south and east coast totalling over £50M and protecting 4,000 homes:

- Refurbishment of seawalls in Sandown Bay.
- Refurbishment of seawalls at Shanklin Esplanade (conservation area).
- North of Sandown Bay – Repairs to embankment at the back of Bembridge Harbour ensuring the 300 hectares of freshwater habitat is maintained as well as properties.
- Ventnor – Developing a £30M scheme looking at coastal protection and central deep drainage to reduce future risks to the town and surrounding areas.

First stage outline business cases have been put together and all 4 have been approved.

New Forest District Council (Peter Ferguson)

Westover, Milford-on-Sea, Urgent Works 2020:

- Rapid loss of beach, seawall failure and threat to 38 properties (with some land ownership issues) required emergency works to construct a rock revetment.
- Barge delivered 12,000 tonnes of Norwegian Larvik rock to site to protect the seawall. The wall was anchored and the coastal path re-established.
- Value of works was £2M, initially funded 100% at risk by NFDC due to urgency but a business case is now in the final stage of the approvals process to retrospectively claim approx. £800K FDGiA and a local levy of £600K with NFDC funding the remaining £700K.
- Works completed in January 2021 with a 270m revetment constructed. Phase II will consider long term options for the Westover/Milford-on-Sea area which is being assessed in the Christchurch Bay & Harbour FCERM strategy with a study currently in progress.

Chichester District Council (Dominic Henly)

Easthead (entrance to Chichester Harbour) – Planning permission now received to recycle 3,000 tonnes of shingle and construct a landward bund. Working with Natural England, the EA and landowners to adapt to coastal changes. As defences are failing CDC are building a shingle beach landward to enable a naturally defended frontage to protect the spit. Work can now commence to avoid impact on over wintering birds.

Selsey – Ageing defences including privately built with limited information. £170K RFCC levy approved alongside £30K from CDC to begin a Benefits and Implementation Plan with a view to replace and enhance existing defences in approx. 5 years' time.

BCP Council (Matt Hosey)

Poole Bay Beach Management Scheme – £36M funding approval received for the next 7 years. First nourishment campaign delivered with 355K cubic mtrs of sand placed on the Bournemouth and Poole frontages. Timber groyne replacement programme underway. Hengistbury Head long rock groyne built in 1939 – about to begin engaging with contractors on the EA's marine and coastal framework to look at a design and build solution for 2023 construction at approx. £10M. Of the £36M total funding a contribution of around £3M is being funded by BCP Council with works completed by 2027. Another nourishment campaign scheduled for 2025 and a total of 26 timber groynes will be replaced in that period. Video available at <https://twobays.net/beach-renourishment-winter-2020-21-project-video/>.

Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme – 2½-3 years ago the aim was for the developers of the frontage to build flood defences as part of the planning constraints on their own developments but the reality was that it was very difficult for them to do this themselves as there would still be a flood risk. BCP Council took the lead to bid for a single flood defence scheme across the frontage which benefited the whole of the town centre and, with contributions from landowners, secured a fully funded scheme. Local levy funding of £20K secured for the business case approved in January 2021 for a £12.5M scheme. Aspirations from the council regarding regeneration and place shaping for the whole of Poole town centre which will incorporate the scheme.

Christchurch Bay and Harbour Strategy – £450K funding secured from flood defence grant-in-aid, working with NFDC as the area borders both authorities.

FCERM Centre of Excellence – In September cabinet approved forming a 'centre of excellence' – a larger team capable of delivering across a broader area to take advantage of the permissive powers of local authorities to optimise the amount of studies, bids and projects being delivered.

Dorset Council (Matt Penny)

Weymouth Harbour Wall Repairs – in 2020 replaced 76 mtrs of wall with further works starting January 2022. Research being undertaken within the harbour regarding the effectiveness of cathodic protection.

Weymouth FCERM Strategy and SOC – Strategy approved by Dorset Council in 2020 and the strategic outline case was approved in 2021 by both cabinet and the EA Large Project Review Group helping develop a larger FCERM scheme around Weymouth. Acknowledged that they don't have all the answers to the 100 year strategy period and the need for decision gateways to make informed decisions (see slide no. 13) e.g. whether wall raising will be required or construction of a tidal barrier dependant on climate change and sea level rise as well as political and social implications.

Swanage Coastal Defence Scheme – Developing a business case for submission in late winter/early spring to both cabinet and the EA to protect the town from inundation from storms and tidal surge.

Lyme Regis and West Bay Harbours & Coastal Defences – Beach management and dredging in both harbours. West Bay final phase of the coastal improvement scheme completed to the satisfaction of the landowners. Lyme Regis environmental improvement scheme phase 5 business case being developed centring on the strengthening and protection of the Grade 1 listed Cobb and improvement of the infrastructure. Business case will be submitted spring 2022 with a view to construction 2023/24.

Questions and Comments

KN – Although Keith's modelling and forecasting team in the EA are working on many of the projects they would be interested to hear about any projects with modelling elements they are currently not involved with. He reported that the New Forest coastline model has just been finalised. KN asked the group to contact the team if flood forecasting or a warning service was required following any of the works.

Action: Officers to contact Keith Nursey's team with ideas of how they could add value to projects.

MH – Requested for Coastal Partners officers to talk around the habitat creation side at Hook Lake as they are undertaking similar work in Holes Bay. He would also be in setting up a visit to see the eco formliner at North Portsea Island.

LC – Welcomed both ideas and stressed that it was the purpose of the group to share best practice.

Cllr Penfold thanked all the presenters for their contributions.

3. **Call to Arms Themes** [*attachment – Item 3 Call to Arms*]

Background

Mark Stratton introduced the national Call to Arms initiative launched winter 2020 led by the Southern Coastal Group on behalf of the National Coastal Group Network. This was in response to key issues experienced by Local Authorities over the last 5 years that weren't being addressed at a national level by Government policy. The idea was to form collaborative partnerships within the Coastal Group Network, SCOPAC, other Coastal Partnerships and LAs around the country together with the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group to bring momentum, share learning and effect change.

Current workstreams are Coastal Landfill, Coastal Adaptation, Place Shaping & Funding and Asset Management. There is also an emerging workstream regarding environmental improvements on our schemes.

Coastal Landfill (Mark Stratton)

In 2010/2011 'hold the line' policies were put in place for areas in front of coastal landfill as part of the FCERM process. Strategies confirm that defences are definitely required to prevent them from leaching or eroding out into significantly environmentally designated harbours. However, funding can't currently be secured for design studies as Defra doesn't specifically recognise coastal landfill in national partnership funding and instead focuses funding towards protecting life and property.

In 2017/18, through SCOPAC funding, Sam Cope and Matt Wadey led research into the scale of the problem across the SCOPAC region and located 158 sites with a total shoreline of 72 km of high, medium and low risk sites at risk of eroding onto environmentally protected foreshores. The national picture ranges between 1,200-1,700 coastal sites. Although seen as an LA problem it's a collective issue when considering the impacts on the natural environment.

Call to Arms aims – To raise the profile of what is a 'ticking time bomb' where assets in front of coastal landfill are failing.

A National Regional Flooding Coastal Committee Workshop was held recently including senior Defra, EA, Coastal Group Network, LGA Special Interest Group (SIG) representatives and academics which highlighted the topic at a national level, following which Defra have been in touch to gather facts.

Coastal Adaptation (Sam Box)

Our coasts have always been evolving and will continue to do so, but the growth of human development in these areas brings conflict with natural processes; conflicts that will continue to occur and accelerate in the future due to the impacts of climate change. Climate change is happening, it's a global issue and its impacts are getting worse year on year. Climate induced coastal change potentially threatens coastal communities, damaging infrastructure and heritage and in some cases causing a loss of life, homes and land. Coastal habitats and wildlife are also vulnerable, especially where they are constrained by development.

In the face of longer-term sea level rise and climate change there is a need to challenge the status quo of our approach to FCERM. There are two main ways to tackle climate change, one through mitigation to try and limit climate change impacts and two, through adaptation.

Call to Arms aims – To work to move forward the thinking on Coastal Adaptation and how the nation responds to the challenges posed to our coastal areas from climate change and rising sea levels in terms of increasing risks of flooding and coastal erosion. Our overall aim is to create a collaborative partnership between the members of the Group to understand the challenge presented by the Coastal Adaptation theme, share best practice and take action focusing on 4 key areas:

- Funding – for LAs for adaptation planning, for relocating properties at risk and for insurance
- Engagement – with those impacted by coastal change, to develop skilled LA staff, new engagement tools and how to communicate risk to communities
- Planning – how do we integrate adaptation with land-use planning
- Technical solutions – what adaptation approaches there are, what is best practice
- Policy and framework – policy and funding for adaptation, clearer guidance and national policy

The group has joined efforts with the Coastal SIG Adaptation group so we are not duplicating effort. Our shared primary function is to share knowledge and to collaborate with the end goal of lobbying for and attracting financial, organisational and political support to effect change on how coastal adaptation is funded and how the current FCERM process deals with adaptation delivery. The hope is to ultimately influence a positive change in the national policy on how the current system deals with coastal adaptation.

Place Shaping and Funding (Mark Stratton)

SCG & SCOPAC have been lobbying hard over the last 5 years for changes on how coastal schemes have been treated in terms of funding and how LAs view the whole place rather than flood risk in isolation. This has fed into the National Environment Agency led national strategy for all risk management authorities in the UK. There have been changes to partnership funding with increased payment rates in line with inflation and the group have been trying to improve how coastal schemes attract funding. This needs to go further as LAs are still struggling to deliver place-based approaches.

Call to Arms aims – To continue to lobby for changes to the national funding approach with a view to attracting more funding to coastal schemes and to recognise the delivery of broader outcomes such as improving the natural environment, protecting landfill, human health impacts and heritage, to name a few.

A recent workshop was held with the EA looking at how to secure partnership funding and improve the skills and knowledge of LA officers. Also working alongside the LGA Special Interest Group (SIG).

Asset Management (Andy Pearce)

Asset management is the stage after new schemes have been constructed. Beyond, we need to be maintaining, operating and ultimately decommissioning over the next 50-100 years to maximise our assets to secure their whole life benefit at optimal cost. There are many different assets along our coastlines in varying conditions and varying exposure to sea levels and waves which are subject to climate change.

Looking at LA assets (flooding or erosion) and also 3rd party assets and performer functions e.g. walls and raised footpaths where the owner may have moved away or the land is unregistered. Also maintenance of historic structures which require special materials and consents, incurring additional expense.

The challenge for LAs is (unlike the EA) we are unable to draw on Central Government grant aid. There is an aspect in the Revenue Support Grant regarding maintenance but it's not clear and doesn't represent the complexities of the coastline. In addition, the funds are not ring-fenced and can be drawn to other important work.

Call to Arms aims – To raise the profile. We will be supporting the Regional Monitoring Programme to establish a 'state of the nation' of our coastal assets to document how many assets there are, their condition and where the demand is in terms of funding and maintenance. A plan will then be made of how to make the change – where the funding is needed and how might it be met e.g. EA or other Government authorities such as DCLHG or other grants. We then need to lobby hard.

The workstream links in well with the EA's Strategy and Action Plan. Progress is beginning to be made but this will be a long and complex journey.

AP expressed this thanks to the SCG and SCOPAC Groups for their support. MS added thanks for the funding through the RFCC.

Cllr Penfold reported that she had been appointed to the Special Interest Group for Coastal and is on the Harbours Committee at Dorset Council. LC added that there were a few people on the LGA Coastal SIG and was glad to hear that Cllr Penfold was involved.

Questions and Comments

PC – Place Shaping & Funding. Peter asked if this was relevant to the Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme. If FCERM variations are requested to the existing business case regarding environmental features, would they be accepted? MS replied that this could be complicated in terms of planning and some environmental aspects are currently outside of the traditional funding route.

Action: Mark Stratton to meet with Peter Christie and Matt Wadey to share approaches on Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme

LC – Noted that this was a good example of sharing best practice. If SCG & SCOPAC can find other mutually beneficial ways of delivering e.g. stacking benefits and blended funding it will enhance the look and attractiveness of the schemes.

Cllr Mason – Climate adaptation. With the number of different views on the likely speed of sea level rise, Cllr Mason asked whether we were all working to the same projection.

SB – Confirmed that we should all be working to the same guidance for sea level rise projections which the Government shares with us. There are currently no tools to put forward the projections around the country and ways of communicating this in a consistent way will be investigated. MS added that through the LGA SIG there is access to the All Party Parliamentary Working Group and Assets, Landfill and Adaptation are workstreams we will be trying to take to them. LC was hopeful that communicating nationally would come out of the National Strategy Action Plan for a better prepared society.

Cllr Mason – Asset Management. Cllr Mason asked how we were developing a strategy to deal with the people who can make a change i.e. Members of Parliament.

AP – Agreed that we need to be lobbying at the highest level but evidence needs to be gathered. There is also a need to establish what we need to request in addition to funding. From this a strategy will develop.

Ben Meredith forwarded useful links below:

Guidance for all flood risk assessments to follow:

[Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances)

For Scheme design and detailed local flood risk modelling complementary guidance is at:

[Flood and coastal risk projects, schemes and strategies: climate change allowances - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/flood-and-coastal-risk-projects-schemes-and-strategies-climate-change-allowances)

Cllr Bateman – Enquired what communication and engagement might be employed e.g. social media/press as he expected the public to be primarily concerned with Coastal Landfill and Coastal Adaptation. Cllr Bateman also enquired about plans to engage with MPs with Councillors help.

LC – Indicated that there are different levels involved:

National – FCERM Strategy led by the EA where actions are being developed including a better prepared society to help the public understand flood risk, coastal erosion and where adaptations need to be made. This, together with shoreline management plans and ‘NCERM’, will be put on a national platform.

Regional – Through the SCG & SCOPAC website and the SCOPAC meetings.
Local and operational – social media, websites, noticeboards, drop-in centres with all our projects, sharing best practice with officers across all our LAs. Once we have clarity we need to use our networks including SCOPAC and the LGA Coastal SIG to push the message politically and also through the officer direction through the EA and Defra.

MS added that there is growing media interest in Coastal Landfill and could circulate a list of the items they have collated but they need to tread sensitively as it’s a big issue for LAs who haven’t had the funding. A balance needs to be found so it’s important to be ready.

MH – Reflected thanks for the support of the RFCC. Cllr Anderson and Cllr Roberts have both highlighted the lack of maintenance funding. David Jenkins, the Chair of the RFCC, has also been lobbying on our behalf. Finances are discussed at each RFCC meeting and there are maintenance funds available for Agency assets but none for LAs. Budgets have doubled from £2.6bn to £5.2bn so there is pressure to spend.

4. **Shoreline Management Plan Refresh – Sam Box (SCG Lead for North Solent Shoreline Management Plan) [attachment – Item 4 SMP Refresh]**

The 5 SMPs in the SCOPAC region were adopted 10+ yrs ago. 3 of these are full and 2 shared with adjacent coastal groups.

What is an SMP? (slide nos. 2 and 3) – An SMP sits at the top of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management framework alongside coastal strategies and schemes. The SMP provides the long-term vision for coastal defence management, considering the interactions and implications across the whole SMP area where the policies are the means to achieving the plan at a local level over discrete timescales.

Strategies are at the next level in the framework where schemes are identified to put SMP policy into practice and the final level is the scheme which identifies the type of work that puts the scheme into practice.

History of SMP development over the past 30 years (slide no. 4) – 39 first generation SMPs were developed covering England and Wales between 1995-2000 based on sediment cells. Policies were set for a 50 yr planning horizon at either 1 policy for 50 yrs or 2 policies, one for the short term between 0-5 to 10 yrs and one for the long term between 5 and 10 to year 50 although it is acknowledged in the Eastern Solent they had already taken an approach where policies were set for short term up to 20 years, medium term 20 to 50 years and long term more than 50 years. 4 policies were available:

- Do nothing
- Hold the existing defence line
- Advance the existing defence line
- Retreat the existing defence line

In 2000 a review was held on the strengths and weaknesses of the first round of SMPs which led to a revised issue of SMP guidance to improve links between SMPs and the planning system and gave more consideration to environment impact and longer term coastal policies.

In 2006 Defra issued the SMP2 procedure including stakeholder engagement. An EA led National Review Group reviewed all SMP2s in an attempt to drive consistency. Following on from this 22 SMPs were developed covering England and Wales and one of the key changes was that policy was set over a 100 yr planning horizon: 0-20 yrs, 20-50 yrs and 50-100 yrs. Policies were renamed:

- No active intervention
- Hold the line
- Advance the line
- Managed realignment

These also included action plans for the coastal groups to take forward.

Why are we undertaking a refresh now? (slide no. 6):

- SMP policies are not applied consistently around the country
- Deliverability of policy in some areas is questionable
- Epoch boundaries are perceived to be rigid “points of change” whereas in reality they are “fuzzy” boundaries
- There has been a lack of progress on adaptation planning or implementation to prepare for SMP policy transitions

Changes since 2011:

- New guidance (e.g. climate change)
- New legislation & environmental designations
- Changes in coastal evolution/management
- More comprehensive monitoring data
- New coastal strategies and schemes

What is the SMP refresh? (slide no. 7) – This is not an SMP3. The refresh process will not change policies, won’t shortcut the policy change process and won’t remove local ownership or decision making on SMPs.

How are we refreshing the SMPs? (slide no. 8) – Phase 1 was undertaken by the National EA's SMP Team with consultant support. This is now complete. The SMP leads around the country were involved in strategic focus group discussions to look at key areas of changes in policy and practice and reflect on how the action plans, planning epochs, headline policies etc. are working. The output of the discussions was the issue of a new supplementary guidance document for the ongoing maintenance and deliveries of SMPs. Alongside this the coastal groups were involved at a local level for each SMP on whether the SMP was working overall, interacting with local planning and being updated and managed. From the workshops individual health check documents were drafted and issued for each SMP outlining the key strategic and local actions moving forward. Other outputs included a new action template and status tracker.

Phase 2 moves to the local SMP level involving embedding the outputs of Phase 1, digesting the content, considering what needs to be done within a national project framework with project funding available to facilitate cross cutting actions identified from Phase 1. This work involves setting up SMP management groups alongside 3 key work packages which is now underway:

Work Package 6:

Management Policy descriptors (sub-categories) and statements, to clarify intent.

Work Package 7:

Improving the interface between SMPs and the local planning system.

Work Package 8:

SMP actions with regarding to planning, evaluating, prioritising, resourcing and progressing where possible.

Phase 2 also involves scoping, development and delivery of an SMP Explorer Online Platform being set up by the National EA SMP team providing access to SMP information around the country – aims to go live in 2023 at the end of the SMP refresh project.

How are we doing in the SCG Area? (slide no. 9) – We have re-established and re-invigorated management groups for our SMPs and are holding regular meetings to discuss and progress actions. SB meets regularly with Jenny Jakeways and Alan Frampton, who are leading the other 2 SMPs, for co-ordination meetings. £104,328 grant-in-aid has been secured via the SCG for taking Phase 2 actions forward.

Work Package 6 now completed for all 3 of our SMPs and we are progressing populating the new action plan templates.

National Context (slide no. 10) – Work at the SMP level will be directly contributing to achieving actions set out in the 2020 National FCERM strategy and informed planned work by Defra to review national policy in this area in the coming years. Within the Defra FCERM policy statement, Defra have committed to review the national policy for SMPs. The SMP refresh does not constitute the review but its results will help inform the review. Within the National FCERM Strategy for England there are 3 measures directly relating to SMPs:

Measure 1.2.1 – complete as part of Phase 1
Measure 1.2.4 and 1.2.3 – both in progress

Shoreline Management Planning – An ongoing process. All work presented today together with the many other schemes and projects already completed have all been able to progress as a result of the round 2 SMPs that were adopted over 10 yrs ago.

Questions & Comments

MH – Congratulated Sam Box, Alan Frampton and Jenny Jakeways on the work they have done and noted that our region is more advanced on the refresh process than nationally.

Cllr Penfold added that this was information Councillors could communicate to people that they meet and represent.

LC also thanked Sam, Alan and Jenny for their collaborative work; Keith Nursey, who had previously co-ordinated the Shoreline Management Plan Refresh, also gave his thanks. LC asked the Councillors to recognise the importance of these documents together with the link with local plans and encouraged participation with their Planning Officers.

5. **National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (NCERM) – Ben Meredith (EA FCERM Directorate Technical Lead for National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (NCERM))** *[attachment – Item 5 NCERM2 Introduction and Update]*

NCERM provides:

- 10 yrs evidence of erosion for SMPs by using the policy decisions outlined by SB in item 4 over the epochs
- Information about risk to historic landfill sites and provides estimates for the timeframes to consider in planning
- Critical evidence alongside flood risk to inform adaptation plans for communities and businesses by enabling assessment to the erosion risk and looking at how the receptors to that erosion risk may be impacted on the timescales including properties, industry and infrastructure

Erosion prediction can help to inform business cases for resilience programmes and defence installation and maintenance.

There is now a good opportunity to provide an updated product with new science and data alongside the SMP Refresh Project. The SMP Explorer will be a good vehicle to help achieve this. Although funded by the EA, it is a partnership project and expertise and local knowledge from LAs and coastal groups will help create a better coastal risk erosion map.

NCERM2 Aims:

- Provide technically reliable information - update RACE model enhanced by new R&D and coastal data
- Ensure NCERM data is more accessible and well-understood by improving online representation and usability of raw data
- Improve governance and maintenance of NCERM alongside SMP information, including improvements to auditability and exploring future maintenance options
- Actively involve partners in the development of NCERM2 – re-establish its profile, improve links with planning and encourage shared ownership
- Increase our understanding of erosion risk to a range of receptors

Goals cannot be accomplished without the expertise and experience of the LAs but the resource pressure is understood by the EA.

The project ensures 'lessons learned' from previous NCERM work and the need to develop smart methods for data capture and for sharing and validating the new erosion projections. The EA will work with all the partners to streamline and monitor the activities.

The final business case is due to be submitted to the EA's Large Project Review Group in December 2021.

Procurement strategy completed and now out to tender, hoping to commission in Q4.

Working with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with representatives from EA colleagues and LAs around the country for advice e.g. whether to publish NCERM2 on SMP Explorer.

Next steps:

- Tender evaluation and business case submission
- February 2022 – EA will be engaging more closely through the TAG and Coastal Groups as the science methods are revised and updated
- EA start engagement with officers around the country to provide the context to the work and more accurate timescales for data supply requirements, validation and sign-off activities

How the SCOPAC & SCG Group can help:

- Promote the work the EA are undertaking with the LAs and share the EA's policy and visions
- Engage with our colleagues to identify and manage the resources needed
- Provide feedback from previous experiences of the NCERM product and how it was conducted or how it was received and used; how the EA project team are conducting themselves; colleague and public feedback; how the EA can aid officers in day-to-day use for planning and coastal management and public interaction with the product

Questions and Comments

LC – Once the work is complete and erosion maps are on SMP Explorer nationally, this can be raised politically as they will show what the true risk is to society. However, a ‘hold the line’ policy does not mean there are funds to hold that line and this has the potential to become politically sensitive.

BM – Confirmed that the information is now in the public domain but doubted whether members of the public have checked the Government websites. It is more probable that they have come across the information in other ways e.g. insurers. A better platform to share is required and hopefully, alongside the SMPs, they can increase exposure. Within the project they also hope to provide LAs and EA colleagues with easily accessible guidance to support them.

Cllr Bateman – agreed with LC regarding the acceleration of climate change politically and believed that Coastal areas will be very engaged.

6. **Procurement Frameworks – Andy Pearce, Coastal Partners Engineering Team Manager [attachment – Item 6 Procurement]**

The frameworks provide an efficient route to the market for maintenance work or services such as studies. The shortlist of suppliers are quality checked and hopefully provide better value for money. Examples include the 2013-14 storms requiring urgent asset repair, also some of the Coastal Partners’ capital schemes have relied on our framework consultants.

There are 2 frameworks – Services Framework and Works Framework allowing a range of options. They can also be mixed and matched through different procurement routes for LAs, fitting within their own local procurement rules. The options are handed over to procurement officers, engineers and scientists to apply.

The frameworks are now in their 3rd generation, building on several years of experience.

Professional Services Framework – To be awarded January 2022 offering design services across a full suite of projects and areas across the SCOPAC & SCG area and the Southern Coast of England.

Minor Works Framework – For repairing assets and where larger sections of defences need to be replaced (smaller, non-complex works). Currently out for tender for evaluation over the next few months, due to be launched April 2022.

All frameworks have efficient awarding of contracts providing a consistent approach which helps suppliers with planning. We can then engage with LAs and provide them with the support they need to deliver through the frameworks.

Questions & Comments

MH – the consistency of suppliers gives the SCG the ability to check the performance of our suppliers and keeps them in mind that they are working for the

whole group rather than a single entity. Also, if maintenance funding is forthcoming, the Minor Works Framework will be able to be used even more.

LC asked AP what the financial savings were as a result of using the frameworks. AP gave the example of 77 call offs through the last Minor Works Framework totalling £16M, estimated time saving would be 100s of hours.

Action: AP to establish savings achieved from both Services Framework and Works Framework

LC stressed how responsive the suppliers were in an emergency situation on the Minor Works Framework and that the MWF and PSF suppliers are the best in the country.

7. Research Update – Sam Cope, SCOPAC & SCG Research Chair [*attachment – Item 7 Research Update*]

The 2015-2020 programme has now been completed and all work has been delivered or is in the process of being uploaded to the website. Please see <https://southerncoastalgroup-scopac.org.uk/> SCOPAC Research/Completed Research for details including:

- Coastal Landfills Study
- Maintenance of Coastal Structures – Phase 1: Timber Groynes
- SCOPAC Storm Analysis Study including a link to the conference <https://southerncoastalgroup-scopac.org.uk/conferences/storm-analysis-conference-january-2021/> (SC can provide password sam.cope@havant.gov.uk.) This study links in with the Climate Change agenda item 9).
- Digitising the Poole Harbour Tide Gauge <https://southerncoastalgroup-scopac.org.uk/scopac-research/digitising-the-poole-harbour-tide-gauge/>
- Tracer Pebble Study at Preston Beach <https://southerncoastalgroup-scopac.org.uk/scopac-research/preston-tracer-study/>

SC is now in the process of uploading progress on the Healthy Estuaries Project 2020 and the Langstone Harbour Entrance Coastal Process Study.

Utilisation of Data Award information – Please see details at <https://southerncoastalgroup-scopac.org.uk/scopac-research/utilising-rcmp-data/>.

Bradbury's Bursary: <https://southerncoastalgroup-scopac.org.uk/bradburys-bursary/>. Won by Jake Carley in 2020 for Modelling Gravel Beach Profile Evolution Using Parametric and Process-Based Models.

Webinars: 18th June 2021 – Utilisation of Regional Monitoring Data Research
14th January 2022 – Latest SCOPAC Research Updates and Medmerry Presentation
May/June 2022 – Tracer Studies
Date tbc – Aggregate Dredging Brochure Launch Presentation by Crown Estate, BMAPA and Tarmac

Current Programme (slide no. 8)

Now in year 2 with £20K annual budget through to 2024-2025. COVID restrictions have caused some carry-over which are now being delivered.

Highlights:

Ebb Delta Study – To better understand feedback mechanisms from ebb deltas from estuary mouths back onto the beaches. The findings from the study will feed into the next update for the SCOPAC Sediment Transport Study. Currently looking into whether we use traditional sediment budget analysis or BCP's numerical model.

Cathodic Protection Study (£4K SCOPAC funding) – Looking into extending the life of sheet pile walls applicable to a lot of the SCOPAC region using Weymouth Harbour as a case study.

Acoustic Tags Pilot Study (£4K SCOPAC funding) – Looking to roll out during 2022-23 financial year.

Remote Sensing (£1K SCOPAC funding) – Research into whether we can use satellite imagery to compliment the Regional Monitoring Programme data collection on the ground.

West Bay Sediment Transport (£4K SCOPAC funding plus £71,459 local levy) – Dorset Council and BCP were successful in securing local funding to undertake a tracer study to better understand sediment transport pathways. Pebble preparation is underway with a view to deploying the pebbles spring 2022 for a 1-year survey.

Bibliographic Database Scanning (£10K SCOPAC funding) – Documents at the University of Portsmouth that underpin the bibliographic database and the SCOPAC Sediment Transport Study are in danger of being disposed of (as with historic photography). The idea is to save as many as possible, involving the original authors (Dave Carter and Dr Malcolm Bray) to identify the documents that need to be scanned. Work will commence in the next couple of months.

Protecting Vulnerable Heritage Assets (£4K SCOPAC funding, levy bid) – Martin Hurst, Chair of Southern RFCC, put forward this idea. There are approx. 50 known coastal heritage assets in the SCOPAC region at risk of flood and coastal erosion which will worsen with climate change and sea level rise. LAs are seen as responsible but there is no clear funding stream. There are often increased costs as a result of extra work involved with licences and consents, special materials and sensitive construction techniques. The aim is to raise the profile of the apparent lack of funding and a strategy to deal with the problem. A joint levy bid has been put together to Southern and Wessex RFCCs totalling £90K. This has been reviewed by BCP with a view to submission in January 2022.

Questions and Comments

MH – Thanked Sam for her hard work. The model used for Poole and Christchurch bays should be used more broadly as there are efficiencies to be made.

Cllr Mason – Enquired who the 14th January webinar and Medmerry presentation would be open to.

SC – Confirmed that SCOPAC and SCG group members should have now received invitations. SC asked the group to forward the invitation to anyone they feel would have an interest in attending including Councillors in the Selsey area.

Cllr Mason – Asked how the Cathodic Protection Study would be publicised as it will have a wide interest.

SC – Once completed there would be a bitesize research webinar that SCOPAC and SCG will be invited to.

LC – Encouraged Councillors and their colleagues to attend both the January and spring/summer webinars. These will also be recorded for people unable to attend on the day.

Cllr Penfold – Asked if there would be a presentation on the Bradbury's Bursary.

SC – Confirmed that Jake Carley will make a presentation, possibly bolted onto one of the webinars.

8. Regional Monitoring – Stuart McVey (Channel Coastal Observatory - CCO) *[attachment – Item 8 Regional Monitoring Presentation]*

Over the last 12 months+ the National Network of Monitoring Programmes has received the next tranche of funding for Phase 3 which started April 2021 (see slide 2 for data collected).

SE Region:

Topographic surveys – Including on-the-ground walked beach cross sections, along with the mapped beach coverage using ATVs which can incorporate laser scanners and GPS equipment. Laser scanners can also be used on tripods as well as ATVs. The move towards UAVs (drones) for data collection has begun, mainly photogrammetry but also more affordable Lidar systems are coming onto the market. Data output includes beach cross sections and surface models which can produce volume calculations. CCO are also undertaking a programme of coastal asset survey data collection.

Hydrographic surveys – This year MMO have covered single beam Hayling Island ebb deltas and Milford on Sea multibeam dataset. The multibeam system achieves 100% coverage whereas single beam surveys follow lines of 50 mtr spacing.

Hydrodynamic network – Deal Pier has undergone repair work which has enabled the refurbishment and reinstallation of the WaveRadar. Rye Bay buoy was deployed February 2021 and a shore station has been installed in the Harbour office.

Aerial photography – Captured 2019/20. Coastal zone to mean low water springs. 2022 contract has been awarded.

Habitat mapping – This has identified priority habitats from aerial photography to compare with previous mapping undertaken in 2013. Completion of work due December 2021.

Website downloads and data use –

- Quarterly averages total approx. £3.3M for downloads with approx. 6M hits per quarter. The last phase equated to £277M worth of downloads (288,301 individual downloads)
- Phase 3 (2021-27) –In line with EA medium term plan schedule. Also looking to incorporate an asset register and database

Questions and Comments

MS – Emphasised how important the programme of work is and that £277M was an incredible amount of money that has essentially been saved. This data is used frequently for outline and detailed design and research.

9. **Climate Change – Steve Fitzmaurice (Coastal Partners) [attachment – Item 9 Climate Change]**

Coastal Partners are proposing to hold a workshop to bring together good practice and common understanding using shared knowledge and information.

Stage 1 Discovery Phase – Currently in progress. The aim is to ascertain an understanding of what should be covered and identify stakeholders who would have meaningful contributions to the workshop through existing networks, industry, suppliers, partners etc.

Stage 2 Workshop – Working title of Achieving Net Zero: Collaborative Workshop planned for spring 2022. Following the workshop the aim is to evaluate and disseminate information.

Concept Venn Diagram (slide No. 4) – Overlapping spheres of sustainability, reducing carbon and ‘climate proofing’ strategies and plans show that this is complex with many different parts, the heart of which is service delivery: projects and people, the Climate Change Act 2008 and sustainable development goals. Workshop discussions will build on news/development, industry updates, SCG/SCOPAC work and projects.

Emerging thinking – As a result of discoveries to date the whole life cycle of projects from planning through to operations and maintenance should be covered. As time moves on the ability to influence the amount of carbon diminishes. The EA are currently working on measuring carbon and how to establish a baseline. They have also undertaken a lot of good work with trials and studies of materials which we need to access to see what we can use or build upon.

EA Quote “construction contributes to 54% of total EA emissions and the vast majority of that is embodied carbon in materials”.

At Coastal Partner’s North Portsea Island Scheme biodiesel is used together with Ground Granulated Blast-furnace Slag (GGBS), a by-product which reduces the amount of Portland cement required, thereby reducing carbon produced.

Pressures on budgets need to be considered with increased cost of materials.

Environment and habitat – Nature and habitat also have an important part to play in the net zero balance. Examples used in CP’s schemes include the formliner at the NPI Scheme, bee posts, saltmarsh planting and rockpools.

Questions and Comments

LC – Highlighted the large scale of the topic and as a group the aim is to establish our current thinking and what we can do to improve and share best practice. He felt the Venn diagram was powerful and showed the breadth of the topic. LC also stressed that climate change needs to be embedded in how we deliver day-to-day, similar to health and safety considerations in the 1980s and 90s.

Cllr Penfold – Agreed with LC. She also enquired further about bee posts. SF explained that it can be a wood or concrete structure with holes drilled in for the bees to nest in. This encourages biodiversity in areas where bees might not be established.

Cllr Bateman – Commented that climate change is at the top of debate with LAs with coastal areas also having the issue of rising sea levels. Most LAs now have a strategy in place which will be refreshed and revised in the light of the last few years of increased knowledge and technology and the workshop is timely. Every entity that SCOPAC will be dealing with now has its own strategy and is giving careful consideration to planning with strategies keeping climate change in mind.

MH – Agreed with LC’s comparison with health and safety in the past and if due consideration with climate change hasn’t been taken our business cases could be returned and would need to be re-written.

NW – An agenda item should be included at next meeting including the Coastal Compensation Project, lean mix concrete cut offs, blue carbon, carbon capture and other examples.

Action: LC to include a Climate Change item in the next SCG & SCOPAC meeting agenda.

10. Any Other Business

No further business was raised.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Southern Coastal Group meeting to be held on MS Teams Friday 4th March 10.00am-1.00pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Agenda Item	Action Owner	Action	Status
2	All	Modelling and Forecasting: Officers to contact Keith Nursey's team at the EA with ideas of how they might help add value to projects	Ongoing
3	MS/PC/MW	Mark Stratton to meet with Peter Christie and Matt Wadey to share approaches on Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme	Completed
6	AP	Andy Pearce to establish savings achieved from both Services Framework and Works Framework Post Meeting Action: <i>An assessment of savings from both frameworks was investigated but found to be challenging as there is not a reliable benchmark from which to compare to. A key benefit of the framework is the ability to issue short minibid documents (using a common template) rather than full and bespoke tenders. These points alone provide savings in officer time of say 2x days to prepare documents and a further 2x days when evaluating and awarding. There were 77 call-offs for the minor works framework, at a cost of £50/hour officer time, this equates to a saving of officer time of over £100,000 over 4 years. There are likely to be significant savings for the professional services contracts and savings on the supplier side, as their bidding costs will be lower, and they will perhaps build in less risk if bidding via a well-established framework.</i>	Completed
9	LC	Include a Climate Change item in the next SCG & SCOPAC meeting agenda.	Completed 4/3/22