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| DECISION-MAKER: | HEAD OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY |
| SUBJECT: | RIVER ITCHEN, WESTON SHORE, NETLEY AND HAMBLE COASTAL DEFENCE STRATEGY |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 17 TH FEBRUARY 2011 |
| REPORT OF: | SUSTAINABILITY POLICY MANAGER |
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | |
| Not applicable. | |

BRIEF SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to adopt the policies emerging from the River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley and Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy (CDS). The CDS is a non-statutory document that provides a sustainable strategy for coastal defence which is compatible with natural processes, environmentally acceptable, economically and technically viable and which is compatible with preferred management strategies in neighbouring areas and with the higher level North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). The CDS outlines sustainable policies for management of the shoreline and feasible implementation options over 3 time periods: present day (0-20 years); medium-term (20-50 years); and long-term (50-100 years). Development of the CDS was led by Southampton City Council in partnership with Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council & Hampshire County Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To adopt the River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy
- (ii) To endorse the action plan that will need to be taken forward over the duration of the plan period.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable sustainable and strategic management of the coastline over the next 100 years through a hierarchical approach where the SMP forms the top tier policy, directly supported by the CDS.
2. Endorsement of the action plan will provide a mechanism for management through a series of monitoring and communication activities.
3. Adoption of the CDS by contributing local authorities will facilitate future applications for national funding towards management of coastal flood and erosion risks.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. The alternative would be to not adopt the River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy. This option was rejected on the basis that it would not encourage management of the frontage and prevent gaining Environment Agency sign off, thus hindering Southampton City Council in future bidding for national funding to manage coastal flood and erosion risks.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

5. A CDS is developed to reflect the framework outlined in the area's SMP and uses additional information to make a more comprehensive assessment. In general the recommendations are consistent with the SMP unless detailed investigations, including geomorphological, economic and environmental, suggest that these should be revised. The Itchen to Hamble CDS was originally based on the Western Solent and Southampton Water SMP 1998; however this has recently been superseded by with the revised North Solent SMP (2010). Hence, it was necessary to co-ordinate the policies of the CDS and the North Solent SMP to ensure consistency between the two documents.
6. The River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble CDS was developed through a local partnership between Southampton City Council (lead authority), Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council & Hampshire County Council (observers).
7. The study area for the River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble CDS covers the eastern bank of the River Itchen extending northwards to Woodmill Lane, the Southampton Water frontage and both the eastern and western banks of the River Hamble as far as the Bursledon Railway Bridge.
8. The CDS study area is divided according to the original 'Policy Units' and 'Management Units' outlined in the Western Solent and Southampton Water SMP. Each policy unit represents a section of coastline that demonstrates similar coastal process characteristics which are sufficiently independent of adjacent stretches of shoreline. Each policy unit is subdivided into smaller management units which enable identification of different defence options and consideration of their impact on features within that management unit. The management units for the Itchen to Hamble CDS study area are outlined below (see Appendix 1 for illustration), along with the corresponding policy unit in the North Solent SMP:

| Management Unit | Unit Boundaries | Corresponding North Solent SMP Policy Unit |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Policy Unit: ITCH</i> | Itchen West bank – Southampton Port to Woodmill Lane Bridge Itchen East bank - Woodmill Lane Bridge to Weston Point. | |
| *ITCH 3 | Woodmill Lane Bridge to Cobden Bridge | 5C11 |
| *ITCH 4 | Cobden Bridge to Weston Point | |
| <i>Policy Unit: NET</i> | Weston Point to Hamble Point: runs along Southampton Water between rivers Itchen & Hamble. | |
| *NET 1 | Weston Point to Netley Castle | 5C10 |
| NET 2 | Netley Castle to Netley Hard | 5C09 |
| NET 3 | Netley Hard to Cliff House, Hamble | |
| NET 4 | Cliff House to Mitchell Point Industrial Park | 5C08 |

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| NET 5 | Ensign Industrial Park & Hamble Oil Terminal | 5C07 |
| NET 6 | Hamble Oil Terminal to Hamble Common | 5C06 |
| <i>Policy Unit: HAM</i> | Hamble Common Point to Bursledon on west bank & to Hook Park on east bank | |
| HAM 1 | Hamble Common Point to Satchell Marshes | 5C05 |
| HAM 2 | Satchell Marshes to Badnam Creek | 5C04 |
| HAM 3 | Badnam Creek to Lands End Lane | |
| HAM 4 | Lands End Lane to Swanwick Shore Rd | 5C04/5C03 |
| HAM 5 | Swanwick Shore Rd to Universal Marina | 5C02 |
| HAM 6 | Universal Marina & associated boatyard | |
| HAM 7 | Universal Marina to Warsash North | |
| HAM 8 | Warsash North to Hook Park | 5C01 |

* Management units of direct relevance to Southampton City Council

9. The policy alternatives which were considered whilst developing the draft CDS are:

| Policy | Comment |
|---|---|
| <i>No Active Intervention (NAI)</i> | Make no changes to the existing defence (except to comply with health and safety legislation) and allow natural processes to take place. |
| <i>Active Intervention Maintain (AIM)</i> | Actively maintain the existing defence which can include improvement works to extent its life and increase its potential for future defence. |
| <i>Active Intervention Sustain (AIS)</i> | Actively sustain the existing defence to ensure it delivers the same benefits as present. Any works to increase the effectiveness of the defence will not be permitted. |
| <i>Managed Realignment (MR)</i> | Actively retreat the line of defence landward to a predefined distance. |

10. Policy options are derived from analysis of a number of policy drivers and their susceptibility to tidal flooding and coastal erosion hazards at present and in the future in light of predictions of climate change and sea level rise. The policies are then scrutinised by economic and environmental assessments to determine the most sustainable approach to the future management of the policy unit. The CDS will outline possible implementation options in order to achieve the outlined policies for intervention, although these are not limited to capital works (i.e. construction of defences) but can include any programme of management or action, for example flood warning strategy, flood forecasting or adaptive measures.
11. Throughout its preparation, River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble CDS has been subjected to consultation, both internal and external. Involvement from Officer representatives from all contributing local authorities has been an ongoing process throughout development of the plan. An initial round of written consultation was completed in May 2006. The primary purpose of this stage was

to obtain available information on issues relevant to the study area prior to developing the options within the CDS. A formal period of public consultation was held between 16th August and 5th November 2010. Officers were involved in the review of the comments received and subsequent responses, which had the potential for significant revisions or changes to the plan and/or policy options. Through this approach the final policy options and revisions arising from the consultation process were agreed.

12. The final CDS policies for the management units relevant to Southampton City Council are outlined below:

| Policy Unit | | Epoch 1 0-20yrs | Epoch 2 20-50yrs | Epoch 3 50-100 yrs |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ITCH 3 | Woodmill Lane Bridge to Cobden Bridge | AIM | AIM | NAI |
| ITCH 4 | Cobden Bridge to Weston Point | AIM | AIM | NAI |
| NET 1 | Weston Point to Netley Castle | AIM | AIM | AIM |

The NAI policy in the third epoch for ITCH 3 and 4 does not prevent private landowners from maintaining their existing defences but it will preclude the expenditure of national funding on this frontage. Coastal Defence Strategies are usually reviewed every 5-7 years (funding dependent) to update the policies in light of new data and knowledge that becomes available in the interim.

13. **Action Plan:** The identified actions outlined in the Action Plan (Appendix 2) are necessary to enable the River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble CDS policy options to be implemented.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

14. The River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble CDS is a non-statutory policy document which does not commit the Council to any capital expenditure.
15. Delivery of the activities of relevance to Southampton within the action plan, in order to implement the policy options within the CDS, are likely to require revenue expenditure to an estimated value of £450,000 over the next 20 years. However, a number of the passive activities (such as monitoring & informing) are likely to be absorbed in normal staff costs and delivered through work elements by existing staff. Resources for project activities (such as ground investigations) have not presently been identified in future budgets. It is the intention that the annual revenue costs will be met from the existing E&T revenue estimates.

Property/Other

16. There are no immediate property implications arising from the River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley and Hamble CDS. Should property implications be identified as implementation of the CDS develops, these will be brought to members after consultation with relevant interested parties.

17. There are no additional identified resource implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

18. The statutory power to undertake proposals to manage coastal flood and erosion risks are held by Southampton City Council under the Coast Protection Act 1949 and the Land Drainage Act 1991, although these are permissive powers only.

Other Legal Implications:

19. There are no additional identified legal implications.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

20. The policies within the River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley and Hamble CDS are consistent with and will inform the flood risk management elements/policies within the series of documents comprising the Local Development Framework and they will be a material consideration in determining relevant planning applications along this section of coastal frontage in Southampton.

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KEY DECISION? Yes

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| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | BITTERNE PARK, PEARTREE, WOOLSTON |
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

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| 1. | River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble CDS Study Area & Management Units |
| 2. | River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble CDS Action Plan |

Documents In Members' Rooms

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| 1. | None |
| 2. | |

Integrated Impact Assessment

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out. | No |
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Other Background Documents

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

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| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |