

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	APPROVAL OF THE NORTH SOLENT SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	25 OCTOBER 2010		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT		
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
Not applicable.			

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to adopt the policies emerging from the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (Appendix 1). The North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a non-statutory document that aims to balance the management of coastal flooding and erosion risks, with natural processes, and the consequences of climate change and to determine technically, economically and environmentally sustainable policies for management of the shoreline over 3 time periods: present day (0-20 years); medium-term (20-50 years); and long-term (50-100 years). Development of the SMP was led by New Forest District Council, in partnership with the relevant operating authorities (outlined in paragraph 6).

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To adopt the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan
- (ii) To endorse the action plan that will need to be taken forward over the duration of the plan period.
- (iii) To delegate powers to the Head of Planning and Sustainability to approve, subject to the Financial Procedure Rules, any changes to the action plan affecting Southampton arising out of consultation and decisions of the Shoreline Management Plan Client Steering Group.

**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 strategic policies within this approach. The policies relating to the Southampton frontage will enable continued management of coastal flooding and erosion risks associated with its coastal location.
2. The series of SMPs being developed throughout England and Wales contribute to determining national funding requirements for the management of coastal flood and erosion risks to existing settlements. Adoption of the final plans by contributing local authorities is necessary to enable future applications for national funding towards management of coastal flood and erosion risks to be made. Therefore adoption of the North Solent SMP is essential to enable Southampton City Council to qualify to bid for this national funding in the future.

## CONSULTATION

3. Throughout its preparation, the North Solent SMP has been subjected to consultation, both internal and external. Involvement from both Officer and Elected Member representatives from all contributing local authorities has been an ongoing process throughout development of the plan. In addition workshops with Planners and Development Control, Archaeologists and Heritage Officers, Key Stakeholders, Landowners, Environmental and Ecological Officers were held to discuss and raise various issues and concerns which were then considered in the various assessments. A formal period of public consultation was held between 1<sup>st</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010. Elected Members and 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 by Officers and Elected Members.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. The alternative would be to not adopt the North Solent SMP. This option was rejected on the basis that it would restrict Southampton City Council from future bidding for national funding to manage coastal flood and erosion risks.

## DETAIL

5. The North Solent SMP is the first revision to the Western Solent and Southampton Water SMP and the East Solent and Harbours SMP, completed in 1998 and 1997, respectively. The coastline covered by this Plan extends from Selsey Bill, in the east, to Hurst Spit, in the west, and includes Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester Harbours.
6. The North Solent SMP was developed with a partnership of local, regional and national authorities and agencies that have various responsibilities and powers for managing the coast. The Client Steering Group comprised officers from each of these organisations, which included:

New Forest District Council (Lead Authority)	Environment Agency (Southern Region; Solent & South Downs Area)
Test Valley Borough Council	Hampshire County Council
Southampton City Council	West Sussex County Council
Eastleigh Borough Council	New Forest National Park Authority
Winchester City Council	Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Fareham Borough Council	Natural England
Gosport Borough Council	Neighbouring SMP Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isle of Wight SMP;</li> <li>• Hurst Spit to Durlston Head SMP;</li> <li>• Beachy Head to Selsey Bill SMP</li> </ul>
Portsmouth City Council	
Havant Borough Council	
Chichester District Council	

7. SMPs 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 to people, the developed and natural environments and require economic, environmental and technical assessments to demonstrate the viability of any proposed policy. SMPs must take account of existing planning initiatives and legislative

requirements, make use of the best available data and science, and inform, and be supported by the statutory planning process.

8. Discrete lengths of coastline have been defined based on natural sediment movements and coastal processes, and the assets and features potentially at risk of flooding and/or erosion within the coastal zone, rather than administrative boundaries (Appendix 1); these are termed Policy Units. A single policy has been applied to three time epochs (short term 0-20 years; medium term 20-50 years; and long term 50-100 years) per Policy Unit.
9. The range of potential SMP 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	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)	Not to invest in providing or maintaining defences

10. Policy options were 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 were then scrutinised by economic and environmental assessments to determine the most sustainable approach to the future management of the policy unit.
11. The North Solent SMP policies in relation to the Southampton City Council frontage are outlined below, with further detail available in Appendix 1.

<b>Policy Unit</b>			<b>Epoch 1 0-20yrs</b>	<b>Epoch 2 20-50yrs</b>	<b>Epoch 3 50-100 yrs</b>
5C10*	Netley Castle	Weston Point	HTL	HTL	HTL
5C11*	Weston Point	Woodmill Lane	HTL	HTL	NAI
5C12	Woodmill Lane	Redbridge	HTL	HTL	HTL

**\*5C10 & 5C11 policies recommended through the River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy which is currently out for public consultation.**

12. A policy of hold the line can necessitate a requirement for compensatory habitats to be created to offset losses or damage to designated sites over the plan period. Compensatory habitat is required when European Designated Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA), and Ramsar Sites) are damaged or experience loss due to flood risk management works or coastal squeeze. (Coastal squeeze is the term for when coastal habitats are prevented from migrating landwards under rising sea levels by fixed defences, i.e. these habitats are being squeezed and eroded).
13. The North Solent shoreline is atypical of much of the UK in that:
- Approx. 80% is defended or has active beach management
  - Approx. 60% of the shoreline is privately owned
  - Approx. 80% is covered by one or more International and/or European nature conservation designations.
14. **Regional Habitat Creation Programme:** The North Solent Shoreline Management Plan has been a key contributor to the development and continued evolution of the Environment Agency Regional Habitat Creation Programme (RHCP). Habitat Creation programmes are Government's (Defra) recommended vehicle for delivering strategic habitat compensation and are funded, through national funding streams, in advance of engineering works that cause damage. The Habitat Creation Programme compiles the compensatory habitat creation needs for the Region from the Appropriate Assessments carried out for the different Shoreline Management Plans in the Region. Habitat needs are therefore based on the estimated impacts of approved policies for all frontages, including Local Authority and third party frontages. It is not necessary for the anticipated compensatory habitats to be in place at the time that the Shoreline Management Plan is approved, but only when the damage is likely to occur. The Programme therefore aims to secure sites and develop habitat in a timely manner in advance of damage occurring. The RHCP will be identified within the Appropriate Assessment as the proposed delivery vehicle for compensating for habitat losses, so parties agreeing to the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan are also agreeing to the method for compensating for its impacts.
15. **Action Plan:** The implications, delivery and monitoring of the actions identified in the North Solent SMP Action Plan is of key importance for Officers and Elected Members due to:-
- the linkages with current and future national funding submissions;
  - the requirements to identify future resource implications for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategies, other studies and management of defences and sites;
  - the importance of working in partnership(s) to deliver the necessary actions;
  - the need to continue and improve relationships with landowners and stakeholders for effective and sustainable management of all flood and coastal defences; and
  - the significance of many of the actions within emerging or draft Coastal Defence Strategy study management approaches.

The Action Plan for the North Solent SMP is intended to be a living document

to be updated by the SMP Client Steering Group members and through the Southern Coastal Group. The draft Action Plan (Appendix 2) is currently being reviewed by the Client Steering Group. The main action arising for Southampton City Council is to develop the Southampton (Redbridge to Woodmill Lane) Coastal Flood & Erosion Risk Management Strategy which is currently underway.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

16. The North Solent SMP is a non-statutory policy document which does not commit the Council to any capital expenditure.

### **Revenue**

17. The North Solent SMP will not incur any additional revenue expenditure. Current approved revenue expenditure of £512, 976 was secured through national funding from the Environment Agency to develop the Southampton (Redbridge to Woodmill Lane) Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy which enables Southampton City Council to fulfil the relevant action relating to this within the SMP action plan.

### **Property**

18. There are no immediate property implications arising from the North Solent SMP. Should property implications be identified as implementation of the SMP develops, these will be brought to members after consultation with relevant interested parties.

### **Other**

19. There are no additional identified resource implications.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

20. 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:**

21. In preparing the North Solent SMP, regard has been made to the provisions within the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Habitat Regulations 1994.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

22. The policies within the North Solent SMP 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 the coastal frontage of Southampton.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

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

**Appendices**

1.	North Solent Shoreline Management Plan Policy Statements
2.	Draft Action Plan

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	North Solent Shoreline Management Plan Summary Report
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**Background Documents**

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

1.	None
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**KEY DECISION?**                      Yes

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	REDBRIDGE, MILLBROOK, FREEMANTLE, BARGATE, BEVOIS, PORTSWOOD, SWAYTHLING, BITTERNE PARK, PEARTREE, WOOLSTON
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