

**SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS (SMPs)**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Portfolio Holder - Councillor Allan Holliday  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Acting Head of Leisure and Environmental Services -  
Cath Coombs  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Flood and Coastal Defence Engineer - David Bechelli

**Summary and Recommendation:**

This report is to advise Members of the review of the Shoreline Management Plan and the imminent public consultation stage.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that Members note the process to date and support the public consultation process outlined in section 1.5.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND**

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a high level strategic document for management of the coastline. Although it is non statutory, it is necessary to support the application for grant aid from the Environment Agency for coastal defence schemes. As a strategic planning document it ties in with the Local Development Framework with both documents taking account of each other.

The first generation of SMPs were developed in the late 1990's. These SMPs provide a large scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and present a long term policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the built, historic and natural environments in a sustainable manner. The SMPs are high level documents that form an important element for the strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management and for the development of coastal defence policies.

The Copeland coast is currently covered by two of the first generation SMPs, which are split based on coastal features rather than demographic boundaries. The first covers the coast from Walney Isle to St. Bees Head and the second St. Bees Head to the Scottish Border. These plans were formally adopted by Copeland Borough Council in 1998.

The current SMPs are being reviewed by consultants on behalf of the North West and North Wales Coastal Group, which is a partnership between the maritime local authorities in North West England and North Wales and the Environment Agency. All the SMPs in the North West are being reviewed concurrently.

### **1.2 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

The second generation Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2s) will set coastal defence policies for three time periods:

- 0 to 20 years            short term
- 20 to 50 years        medium term
- 50 to 100 years      long term

For each of these periods one of four policies will be selected for each length of the coast:

- advance the line
- hold the line
- no active intervention
- managed realignment

As part of the review the SMP2 boundaries have been amended from the first generation SMP. The revised boundaries aim to reflect natural coastal processes rather than coastal features. There are still 5 SMPs that cover the North West and North Wales coastline. This section of coast has been designated as Cell 11, with 5 Sub-Cells, split as follows:

<b>Sub-Cell</b>	<b>Extent of Coastline</b>
11a	Great Ormes Head to Southport
11b	Southport to Wyre Estuary
11c	Wyre Estuary to Hodbarrow Point
11d	Hodbarrow Point to St. Bees Head
11e	St. Bees Head to Scottish Border

Each Sub-Cell represents a different Shoreline Management Plan. With the changes made, there are now three different SMP2s that cover the Copeland coastline. It is likely that one SMP will be produced for the whole of Cell 11 covering all 5 Sub-Cells.

### **1.3 SMP2 PROCESS TO DATE**

The development of SMP2 has 6 main stages, with the approximate timescales indicated below:

<b>SMP Stage</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Stage 1	January 2008 – May 2008	Scope the SMP
Stage 2	June 2008 - December 2008	Assessments to Support Policy Document
Stage 3	January 2009 – September 2009	Policy Development
Stage 4	October 2009 – December 2009	Public Examination
Stage 5	January 2010 – May 2010	Finalise Plan
Stage 6	June 2010 Onwards	Plan Dissemination

Stage 1 was the information gathering stage, where existing documents and historical data on the coastline were collated.

Stage 2 was the assessment of this information in order to formulate the SMP policies.

Stage 3 involved testing the consequences of adopting a particular policy for a stretch of coast. Upon assessment of this testing a preferred policy was identified for each stretch of coast.

Following the combined Elected Members and Key Stakeholder Forums held in June 2009 these policies have been revised and the final draft policies will be completed before full public consultation.

#### **1.4 CONSULTATION TO DATE**

Throughout the process, there has been the opportunity for Local Authorities and other organisations with an interest in the coastline, as well as members of the general public to air their views.

Several methods have been used to allow contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, with both Elected Members and Key Stakeholder Forums being held in September 2008, December 2008 and June 2009.

Feedback from Members during these forums has been good with many comments made on the issues, objectives and draft policies presented. These have all been fed back and used in the SMP review.

In addition, during the consultation stage the North West and North Wales Coastal Group website was open to all parties to review the issues and objectives and to add their comments and concerns.

Engagement in the consultation process has helped to ensure that inappropriate policies have not been developed.

#### **1.5 ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

With the preferred policies and action plan about to be finalised, SMP2 goes out to full public consultation from October to December 2009. The preferred policies and action plans will be posted on the North West and North Wales Coastal Group website. In addition other information on SMPs can be found on the website which has the following website address:

[www.mycoastline.org](http://www.mycoastline.org)

Copies of the finalised draft SMP will be made available in the Members room, public libraries and Council offices.

Members are invited to read through the sections of the draft SMP that they may find of interest. Any questions that Members may have can be directed to the Flood and Coastal Defence Engineer.

## **1.6 SMP2 ADOPTION AND APPROVAL**

Under the strategic overview for the coast, the national SMP programme is managed by the Environment Agency. Each SMP will be reviewed by the SMP Quality Review Group to check quality and consistency. The review will ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive.

Before the SMP2s are formally signed off by the Environment Agency Regional Director, it needs to be approved and adopted by all participating Local Authorities and the Regional Flood Defence Committee.

A report for Executive approval will be submitted at the appropriate time recommending adoption of the finalised Second Generation Shoreline Management Plan

## **2. SUMMARY**

### **2.1 PROCESS TO DATE**

To date the SMP is almost at the end of the third of the six stages, with the gathering and assessment of background information complete and the completion of the final draft version due any time.

### **2.2 CONSULTATION**

The final draft SMP is about to go out to full public consultation between October and December 2009.

Members are invited to consult on the SMP

### **2.3 OUTSTANDING**

After consultation the SMP will be revised and submitted for final approval.

## **3. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

### **3.1 COST OF SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

The SMP review process is 100% capital grant funded from the Environment Agency. The budget for the SMP review project is just over £800,000 and the accounting body for this money is Blackpool Council.

The main cost of the project is the consultant's time in producing the new SMP, but also covers other cost, such as the consultation process.

The budget does not include the cost of any projects that may come out of the review process or officer time to Copeland Borough Council.

### **3.2 IMPLICATION COST OF SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The financial impact of the SMP on Copeland Borough Council is not known at the present time. This may be available during Stages 5 and 6.

### **3.3 HUMAN RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS OF SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Officer time during the development of the SMP2 has been taken up with regular Project Management Board (PMB) meetings, Elected Members and Key Stakeholder Forums as well as reviewing various sections of the draft SMP being produced by the consultant.

## **4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

This links in with The Corporate Plan, in that it aims to improve local environmental sustainability.

**List of Background Documents:**

St. Bees Head to Earnse Point, Isle of Walney Shoreline Management Plan – November 1998 – Bullen Consultants

**List of Consultees:**

Councillor Allan Holliday  
Keith Parker  
Cath Coombs  
Janice Carrol  
Jackie O'Reilly  
Pat Graham  
Chris Lloyd  
Julie Crellin  
Martin Jepson  
Julie Betteridge  
Chris Hoban

**CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES**

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	No
Impact on Sustainability	Yes
Impact on Rural Proofing	No
Health and Safety Implications	No
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	No
Children and Young Persons Implications	No
Human Rights Act Implications	No
Monitoring Officer comments	No Comment
S. 151 Officer comments	No financial implications at this stage as set out in Section 3. Any financial impact may emerge in later stages of the activity and will be reported as appropriate.

Is this a Key Decision?      No