
Subject: OLDSTAIRS BAY TO SANDWICH BAY BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Meeting and Date: Cabinet – 12 June 2017

Report of: Roger Walton, Director of Environment and Corporate Assets

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Nicholas Kenton, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Planning

Decision Type: Key Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report:

- To seek Cabinet approval to undertake coastal protection works in the location of Oldstairs Bay to Sandwich Bay over a 5-year period. The Environment Agency has approved funding for the period 2016/17 to 2020/21.

Recommendation: That Cabinet accepts the funding from the Environment Agency and approves the following actions outlined in the 5-year beach management and shoreline management plans:

1. Regular monitoring and annual recycling works from Oldstairs Bay to Sandwich Bay.
 2. Continued beach levels/surveys from Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.
 3. Research and development of new sea defences at Wellington Parade and North Deal to reduce the migration of shingle.
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1. Summary

1.1 A Beach Management Plan (BMP) has recently been prepared by Canterbury City Council on behalf of Dover District Council and the Environment Agency. The BMP sets out the implementation approaches for intervention and monitoring to maintain the beach where it provides an integral part of the sea defences between Oldstairs Bay and the River Stour at Sandwich Bay. The aim of the BMP is to inform, guide and assist responsible authorities and organisations in managing the beach, and to ensure that the beach management continues to manage the risk of coastal flooding and erosion.

1.2 Beach Management Plans provide an accountable and transparent methodology for managing beaches as coastal defence assets based on risk information that derives from scheme design, monitoring and scientific/research input with the aim of managing the frontage in a sustainable way that enhances vegetated shingle habitats.

1.3 The BMP proposes the following activities:

- Regular monitoring and annual recycling works at Wellington Parade;

- Annual recycling from the Sandwich Bay estate to north Deal to mitigate losses in north Deal and to prevent shingle ingress into the sand dune habitat to the north of Sandwich;
- Continued monitoring of beach levels via the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 A delegated decision (DD3015) was taken by the Director of Finance, Housing and Community on 28th January 2016 to instruct Canterbury City Council through the East Kent Engineering Partnership to conduct a study on the coastal frontage from Old Stairs Bay to Sandwich Bay. This was funded by a £50k grant from the Environment Agency.

2.2 The standard of protection at Wellington Parade in Kingsdown is currently at a 1:45 year level, putting several properties at risk of overtopping damages in the case of an extreme wave and water level event. Within the Deal town frontage, longshore drift removes shingle from the unit at an average rate of 13,000m³ a year, leaving the north of Deal exposed and requiring regular emergency works. At present there is no retaining structure to prevent these losses. Furthermore, the dominant longshore drift direction takes shingle sediment north towards the Sandwich Bay SSSI, putting the sand dune habitat at risk of damage from shingle ingress. The construction of a retaining structure will keep shingle within this unit, reducing the need for future replenishment and protecting the important SSSI habitat to the north. Retaining structures at Wellington Parade will increase the size of the beach and hence the standard of protection, and will reduce the quantity of future recycling required by increasing the retention of sediment in the area.

2.3 The key objectives from this study are outlined below.

- Restore the indicative standard of protection across the frontage.
- Prevent excessive shingle migration north out of the unit, preventing shingle damage to the sand dune habitat within the Sandwich Bay SSSI.
- Reduce the need (and hence cost) for regular replenishment operations in north Deal by providing a source of shingle for local recycling.
- Eliminate the scour problem at Wellington parade using retaining structures to maintain a larger beach in front of the properties.
- Provide an opportunity for important research and development and ensure efficient use of funds by constructing temporary groynes and monitoring their performance before constructing permanent structures at Wellington Parade.

2.4 This resulted in taking a business case to the Environment Agency for approval of a 5yr beach management plan to meet the above objectives in 2.3. In January 2017, the EA approved a total of £1.75m grant aid funding to be claimed over 5 years (2016/17 - 2020/21).

3. Identification of Options

3.1 Option 1 – Do nothing.

3.2 Option 2 – Do the minimum.

3.3 Option 3 – To accept the funding from the Environment Agency and manage the coastline in accordance with the Deal and shoreline management plans.

4. **Evaluation of Options**

- 4.1 Option 1 – Not to undertake any beach management, leaving the frontage from Old Stairs Bay to Sandwich Bay in its current state. This is not the preferred option, due to the certain risk of erosion causing coastal flooding and damage to the sea defences at Kingsdown and Deal.
- 4.2 Option 2 – Has been considered within the business case and would look to only recycling when beaches reach critical condition, breaches repaired before total seawall failure occurs. This is not the preferred option due to the similar outcomes of Option 1; Loss of amenity, value of beach, danger to public from damaged structures and loss of houses to erosion and regular flooding. Furthermore damage to Sandwich Bay SSSI from shingle ingress.
- 4.3 Option 3 – Looks to accept the funding from the Environment Agency and deliver the objectives outlined in the Deal beach management plan. **This is the officer recommendation**, which will look towards maintaining and improving the frontage where necessary for the next 5 years. The works will likely involve the following; annual recycling works to be informed by monitoring, construction of two rock groynes at Wellington Parade, a structural survey at Oldstairs Bay with remedial works to the rock armour as required, and the construction of a rock groyne at Sandown Castle to increase the retention of shingle sediment.

5. **Resource Implications**

- 5.1 The funding for the beach management plan is to be fully financed by the Environment Agency over a period of 5 years from 2016/17 to 2020/21. The total sum of the approved grant aid funding equates to £1.75m, which will be claimed over 5 consecutive years £350k was claimed in 2016/17 (March 2017) and will be used to fund works during 2017/18. It is anticipated that £350k will be claimed for a further 4 years starting in 2017/18.
- 5.2 The funding requirement may vary year to year depending on winter storms, the works programme, and relevant license approvals from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Natural England and Planning Consent. During 2017/18 and 2018/19 the grant claims may be increased to aid the construction of the new rock groynes, subject to planning and MMO consent.

6. **Corporate Implications**

- 6.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Accountancy has been consulted and has no further comment to add. (KW)
- 6.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Head of Legal Services has been consulted during the preparation of this report and has no further comment to make.
- 6.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equalities implications, however in discharging their responsibilities members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>
- 6.4 Other Officers (as appropriate):

7. **Appendices**

None.

8. **Background Papers**

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