
Subject:	DEAL BEACH MANAGEMENT STUDY AND BUSINESS CASE
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet – 6 November 2023
Report of:	David Parish, Head of Property Assets
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Charlotte Zosseder, Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property
Decision Type:	Non-Key
Classification:	Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To seek approval to produce a study and business case in support of a capital grant application to the Environment Agency for the next beach management plan.

- Recommendation:**
1. Approve a study and business case to be conducted on the Walmer to Deal coastal frontages.
 2. Approve the expenditure of the capital grant funding from the Environment Agency to the sum of £80,000.
 3. Instruct the East Kent Engineering Partnership to undertake a study in consultation with Dover District Council.
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1. Summary

- 1.1 Since 2017 Dover District Council has been awarded grant capital funding from the Environment Agency to maintain the coastal frontages from Oldstairs Bay to Sandown Castle (North Deal). This supported a 5-year beach management plan outlined in the business case approved by the Environment Agency. The capital grant was used to address future maintenance and enhancements to the existing sea defences over the following 5 years.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The last 5 years has allowed the Council to actively maintain the level of coast protection with frequent beach recycling to Walmer, Kingsdown and Deal beaches. With careful planning and budget monitoring this allowed the installation of 3 new rock groynes along Wellington Parade beach and a terminal groyne at Sandown Castle. These were installed in year 4 of the management plan to help reduce erosion rates and needs for frequent beach maintenance.
- 2.2 Now that the beach management plan has come to an end and exceeded by a year or so by careful budgeting its necessary to look at a new maintenance regime. This will require a fresh study to investigate the current coastal processes including the additional coastal enhancements over the past 5 years. Canterbury City Council monitor beach levels three times a year for this frontage and this data will prove valuable when conducting the review of the sea defences.
- 2.3 This process will help develop a new business case of how the sea defences will be maintained in future years in accordance with the Environment Agencies shoreline management plans. The business case will form the main application to the Environment Agency in securing future capital grant funding.

- 2.4 Dover District Council are part of the East Kent Engineering Partnership with a Memorandum of Understanding between the 5 local authorities in East Kent. This allows the 5 Councils to utilise expertise and so DDC will look to instruct Canterbury CC to deliver part of this work.
3. **Identification of Options**
- 3.1 Option 1: Do nothing.
- 3.2 Option 2: (Recommended) To carry out a study on the coastal frontages from Oldstairs Bay to Sandown Castle to form a new business case. This will support a new application to the Environment Agency in securing future capital grant funding for the next beach management plan.
4. **Evaluation of Options**
- 4.1 Option 1 is not recommended. This will not maintain the level of coast protection and increase the risk of coastal flooding.
- 4.2 Option 2 is the recommended option. This will continue to maintain the level of coast protection against coastal flooding recommended by the Environment Agencies shoreline management plans.
5. **Resource Implications**
- 5.1 To accept £80k grant capital funding from the Environment Agency. This will form part of the capital 2023/24 MTFP programme.
6. **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**
- 6.1 The study will look to review how the last beach management plan has performed and if any further efficiencies can be made in future coastal designs and working.
7. **Corporate Implications**
- 7.1 Comment from the Director of Finance (linked to the MTFP): Accountancy has been consulted and has no further comment to add. (KW)
- 7.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.
- 7.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report regarding the Deal beach management study and business case does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties 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/section/149>.
8. **Appendices**
- None.
9. **Background Papers** – Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan

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