

---

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>DEAL BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023/24-2025/26</b>
<b>Meeting and Date:</b>	<b>Cabinet - 8 April</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>David Parish, Head of Property Assets</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>Councillor Charlotte Zosseder, Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>

---

- Purpose of the report:**
- Seek Cabinet approval to accept Environment Agency capital grant funding to the sum of £449,000 for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26.
  - Seek Cabinet approval to undertake coastal protection works on the sea defences between Oldstairs Bay and North Deal (Sandown Castle).
- 

- Recommendation:** Cabinet approves the following actions:
1. Acceptance of a Flood and Coastal Risk Management Capital Grant from the Environment Agency, and management of the coastline in accordance with the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan.
  2. Procurement of the coastal protection works under the select tender framework of the East Kent Engineering Partnership.
- 

## 1. Summary

A Business Case has recently been prepared by the East Kent Engineering Partnership in consultation with Dover District Council and the Environment Agency. The business case outlines indicative standards of beach protection against the risk of coastal flooding. This proposes a 2-year beach management plan to address the recent beach erosion along the Walmer and Deal frontages. Necessary beach recycling works have been identified along the following stretches of beach: Kingsdown (Wellington Parade) and Deal (Deal Pier to Sandown Castle). The beach monitoring team have evidenced accreted areas that can be recycled from whilst maintaining a consistent level of flood protection. This will benefit over 3000 residential properties and 200 non-residential properties within the Deal flood plain.

## 2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 A Cabinet report (CAB 45) was approved on 6 November 2023 to instruct the East Kent Engineering Partnership to conduct a study and business case on the coastal frontage from Old Stairs Bay to Sandown Castle (North Deal). After consultation with the Environment Agency an application was made for a 2-year Flood and Coastal Risk Management Capital Grant. In addition to this Dover District Council will then synchronise with the Environment Agency's 5-year capital investment programme.

This will result in a fresh Assets and Adaptation Plan being undertaken in 2024/25 to inform future management of the frontage.

2.2 The Environment Agency 2-year capital grant will support Dover District Council in its beach monitoring and maintenance programme in meeting the policies of the Shoreline Management Plan (Isle of Grain to South Foreland). For this given frontage the policy identifies the primary defences with “hold the line”, otherwise known to be maintaining or changing the standard of flood protection. This is conducted by firstly reshaping the beaches and or recycling beach from accreted areas to replenish areas of beach that have fallen below the expected level of protection.

2.3 Following recent beach monitoring, areas of beach have been identified to recycle from with necessary machinery to then replenish vulnerable sea defences that have fallen below the expected levels of flood protection or which are required to protect the primary sea defence (seawalls and beach groynes). The initial key areas of focus following winter storms will be Kingsdown timber groyne field, Wellington Parade beach and Deal beach (Deal Pier to Sandown Castle). As part of these works Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation will be consulted or notified of any future scheduled works.

### 3. Identification of Options

3.1 Option 1 – Do nothing.

3.2 Option 2 – To accept the funding from the Environment Agency and manage the coastline in accordance with the Isle of Grain to South Foreland shoreline management plan.

### 4. Evaluation of Options

4.1 Option 1 – Not to undertake any beach management, leaving the frontage from Old Stairs Bay to North Deal in its current state. This is not the preferred option due to the certain risk of further erosion causing coastal flooding and damage to the sea defences at Kingsdown and Deal.

4.2 Option 2 – Looks to accept the funding from the Environment Agency and deliver the objectives outlined in the 2-year beach management plan. **This is the officer recommendation**, allowing the Council to maintain its sea defences and reduce the risks of coastal flooding.

### 5. Resource Implications

The funding for the beach management plan is to be fully financed by the Environment Agency over a period of 2 years from 2023/24 to 2025/26. The total sum of the approved grant aid funding equates to £449k to be claimed over the 2 financial years.

### 6. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

6.1 The proposed works still look to recycle beach from existing frontages as opposed to dredging beach material from offshore sources. Whilst beach dredging is considered the most detrimental method this often requires further machinery and large-scale sieving processes to obtain the correct design of beach. Consequently, beach recycling locally is still considered as having the least effect on the environment.

## 7. **Corporate Implications**

- 7.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Accountancy has been consulted on the report and have no further comments to add.
- 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 seeking approval to accept the funding from the Environment Agency and manage the coastline in accordance with the Isle of Grain to South Foreland shoreline management plan does not specifically highlight any equality implications. 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>.
- 7.4 Comment from Climate Change Officer: The possible Scope 3 emissions from these essential works will be reviewed once data allows and if required added to future council GHG reporting.

## 8. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Environment Agency Award Letter

## 9. **Background Papers**

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP 2010

Contact Officer: Keith Watson - Ext 2399; [Keith.Watson@dover.gov.uk](mailto:Keith.Watson@dover.gov.uk)