

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Replacement of Groyne Aids to Navigation

1. Contacts

Report Author:

Alison Stevens – Divisional Manager, Environment and Health Protection
Telephone: 01243 534550 E-mail: astevens@chichester.gov.uk

Andy Pearce – Coastal Partners, Engineering Service Manager
Telephone: 07974 078769 E-mail: andrew.pearce@havant.gov.uk

Cabinet Member:

Jonathan Brown - Cabinet Member for Environmental Strategy
Telephone: 07890 595450 E-mail: jbrown@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Cabinet recommends to Council that £125,000 be allocated from General Fund reserves for the repair and replacement of 5 groyne markers.**
- 2.2 That Cabinet approve an annual budget of £24,200 for Asset Replacement of 37 marker beacons from 2024/25.**
- 2.3 That the Director of Planning and Environment be authorised to procure and award contracts for work in accordance with recommendation 2.1 and the Council's Financial Standing Orders.**

3. Background

- 3.1 When new coastal defence structures are constructed these structures must not cause a risk to navigation. Groynes pose a risk to various sea users because they are periodically submerged each day. This results in a potential liability to the council if the ends of the groyne are not sufficiently marked.
- 3.2 To manage the risk to navigation, the longer groynes are marked with a coloured beacon to provide a line of sight for safe navigation. The council has 37 marker beacons along the open coast. These are routinely inspected by Trinity House (General Lighthouse Authority) to ensure compliance with the maritime regulations.
- 3.3 Five beacons in Selsey are either missing or are beyond repair and therefore require replacement. The last Trinity House inspection (June 2023) identified the disrepair. Two are located on East Beach and three on West Beach. The estimated cost of the repair of these beacons is £20,000-£25,000 per beacon. The high cost is in part a result of the restricted access due to the tides. The work will require specialist marine equipment to undertake the work from the sea and potentially a construction dive team.

3.4 There is no allocated budget for these repairs. These works are not eligible for grant aid from the Environment Agency.

3.5 None of the 37 beacons are currently in the Asset Replacement Programme and to add them requires additional budget of £605,000 over the 25-year programme (annual budget of £24,200).

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

4.1 Reinstatement of sufficient markers to the end of the Council's coastal assets to maintain navigational safety.

5. Proposal

5.1 Allocate £125,000 from reserves for the repair and replacement of 5 groyne markers in disrepair.

5.2 Subject to approval of funding and necessary consents, a contractor to be appointed via competitive tender to deliver the required works.

5.3 To allocate from 2024/25 an annual budget of £24,200 to the asset replacement programme to ensure the 37 marker beacons on the Councils defence assets can be repaired/replaced.

6. Alternatives Considered

6.1 Do not replace / repair – this is not a viable option due to the corporate risk and hazard the unmarked groynes pose.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

7.1 The groynes were constructed by the council under permissive powers. The need for beacons to aid navigation was identified via risk assessment when the groynes were constructed. Now in situ, the risk of the structure is for the asset owner (the Council) to ensure it is suitably marked for navigation.

7.2 Failure to adequately mark the hazard could expose the Council to a claim should a collision with our assets occur or injury/death.

8. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 There is a risk of liability and civil claims against the Council for failing to properly mark council structures as well as a risk of reputational damage.

9.2 To not replace the groyne markers may also put us in contention with the Crown Foreshore Lease, where we are the leaseholder.

9.3 The Navigation Directorate at Trinity House inspect the navigation markers under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 and at the last inspection, 23 June 23, marker beacons were noted as either missing or leaning and the Council was asked to rectify these issues as soon as possible.

9. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation – the beacons will be designed to consider rising sea levels over their design life.	X	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing - replacement will improve the safety of both water borne and beach users.	X	
Other (please specify)		X

10. Appendix

None

11. Background Papers

None