

# Chichester District Council

CABINET

2 March 2021

## Beach Management Plan 2021-2026

### 1. Contacts

**Report Author:**

Dominic Henly, Principal Engineer

Tel: 01243 534689 E-mail: [dhenly@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:dhenly@chichester.gov.uk)

**Cabinet Member:**

Penny Plant – Cabinet Member for the Environment and Chichester Contract Services

Tel: 01243 575031 Email: [pplant@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:pplant@chichester.gov.uk)

### 2. Recommendations to Council:

- 2.1. That Council gives authority to the Director of Planning and Environment to apply to the Environment Agency to draw down £250k per year of Flood Defence Grant in Aid for the Beach Management Plan (BMP).
- 2.2. That Council approves the funding referred to in paragraph 2.1 above to be spent in line with the Beach Management Plan 2021-26 Schedule of Works shown at Table 1.
- 2.3. That should the Beach Management Plan Schedule of Works, set out in Table 1, require amendment during this period, that authority to amend the schedule is delegated to the Director of Planning and Environment following consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Chichester Contract Services.
- 2.4. That the Director of Planning and Environment be authorised to procure and award contracts for work in accordance with the BMP 2021-26 and Financial Standing Orders.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. Works on the Phase 2 Beach Management Plan (BMP) 2016 to 2021, covering the beach frontage from Park Lane, Selsey to approximately 1 mile west of Shore Road, West Wittering will be completed by 31 March 2021. The works involve enhancing timber groynes on all CDC controlled frontages and recharging over 35,000t of new shingle at Selsey to enhance and protect the existing coast defence assets.

- 3.2. Phase 3 of the BMP 2021-26 for the CDC frontages is in the Environment Agency (EA) medium term plan. The business case has been submitted and officers have been advised that it has passed the Environment Agency's technical and financial assurance assessment.
- 3.3. A report was presented to Environment Panel on 23 November 2020 where it was resolved that the Environment Panel recommends to Cabinet approval of the Beach Management Plan 2021- 26 subject to funding from the Environment Agency.

#### **4. Outcomes to be achieved**

- 4.1. The 5 year BMP aims to provide a substantial improvement to the standard of protection offered to coastal communities. The Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy of 2008 clearly identifies the frontage policy as "Hold the Line" for the next 100 years, as does the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan of 2010. In order to achieve this aim investment in defences will be required throughout that period.

#### **5. Proposal**

- 5.1. Following successful submission of a business case to the Environment Agency to extend the Council's beach management works for at least a further five years, authority is requested to draw £250,000 of Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGIA) annually to undertake the works proposed in the BMP Works Schedule in Table 1 below. Works will be delivered during the autumn/winter of each financial year.
- 5.2. The Works Schedule over the five year period is likely to evolve in response to unforeseen natural processes on the beach such as storm damage but in principle will involve the same type of engineering works which have been carried out over the last ten years. Agreement is also sought that will enable any decisions to amend the Work Schedule to meet such unforeseen eventualities be delegated to the Director of Planning and Environment, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment.
- 5.3. The coastal engineering contracts for the BMP will be procured through competitive tender or a mini competition under a framework approved by the Council. The award of contracts for the works will be undertaken by the Director of Planning and Environment subject to following Council's Financial Standing Orders.

**TABLE 1 – Construction costs**

<b>Selsey &amp; Wittering Beach Management Plan Coastal Engineering Works 2021-2026</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Est. Cost £k</b>	<b>Completion</b>
1	Hillfield Road / Oval Road	7000 tonnes of shingle imported and placed	175	March 2022
2	Danefield Road, Selsey	7000 tonnes of shingle imported and distributed over 4 Groyne bays.	175	March 2023
3	East Bracklesham Drive, East Wittering	7000 tonnes of shingle imported and placed	175	February 2024
4	Hillfield Road / Oval Road	7000 tonnes of shingle imported and placed	175	March 2025
5	Danefield Road, Selsey	7000 tonnes of shingle imported and distributed over 4 Groyne bays.	175	March 2026
6	Whole frontage	Groyne improvements as required (£50k/year)	250	2021-2026

## **6. Resource and legal implications**

- 6.1. Grant from the EA of £250,000 p.a. up to 31 March 2026 will be committed to the delivery of the BMP over the 5 year period. Over the 5 year term, the total grant is £1.25m; £1.125m is forecast to be available for construction costs, with £85,000 for consultant and staff costs and a further £40,000 as a project contingency, to be retained by the EA. Delivery of the scheme will be within existing staff resources.
- 6.2. The project will maintain Council assets by reducing erosion and flooding risk.

## **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 In preparing the BMP, officers have liaised closely with the EA and Natural England. Officers have also consulted internally with Legal Services and the procurement team.

## **8. Community impact and corporate risks**

- 8.1. Delivery of the scheme over the long term will sustain the standard of defence on CDC controlled open coast frontages that are seen as being most at risk. The improved defences will give greater security to coastal communities and enable them to face the future with greater confidence.
- 8.2. The risk that the proposal will not deliver the desired outcomes as set out in paragraph 4.1 is significant given the unpredictable forces of nature.

There can be no guarantee of prevention but this approach offers the best opportunity to improve coastal defences within the current financial restrictions.

## 9. Other Implications

	Yes	No
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder:</b>		X
<b>Climate Change:</b> The proposed works will provide improved protection from the anticipated increases in sea level predicted from climate change.	X	
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact:</b>		X
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>		X

## 10. Background Papers

10.1. Selsey Wittering BMP 2021-26 Business Case September 2020