

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

22 June 2022

COUNCILLOR A FITCH-TILLET - CABINET MEMBER FOR COAST

For the period April to June 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Cromer Phase 2 and Mundesley Coast Protection Scheme – Progress Update

Scoping queries from the Marine Management Organisation for the draft Environmental Statements have been received and are being considered. Further assessments of scheme economic benefits have been completed to update the Partnership Funding calculators. This is to capture the increased benefits since the original applications for funding were submitted, in order to maximise Grant in Aid. This is necessary as construction costs have increased due to widespread cost increases across the sector, caused by a number of factors, and consequently costs estimates for the preferred design are higher. Both schemes still have positive cost benefit ratios. Initial discussions with the Environment Agency have been conducted as to how best to present this new information in order to seek to identify the additional funding required for delivery of the schemes. Note that this is a national issue for schemes.

Overstrand (east) Apron Maintenance

Work has been completed as far as can be completed until Marine Licence consent is granted for other works. We are also investigating improving the pedestrian access to the beach from the sea wall/apron with metal steps as the existing steps are subject to significant abrasion by the sea. To the west of Overstrand where a cliff slip limited access at high water, a small amount of work has been completed to regain accesses. It is not advisable to take a large cut in this location as this will only encourage more failures.

Happisburgh Beach Access Ramp and demolition

The beach access has been recut and has reopened. Final work will include simple fencing to restrict pedestrian width of the ramp to 5m.

The property close to the cliff edge is planned to be demolished but following advice work had to stop as Sand martins were nesting in the cliff below. Further assessment for nesting birds and bats will be undertaken as appropriate before demolition is completed following the Sand martin nesting season.

Coastal Transition Accelerator Fund

As part of the Government's £200 million flood and coast innovation programme, North Norfolk District Council, as one of two English councils selected, will receive part of a £36 million investment to explore innovative approaches of adapting to the impacts of coastal erosion.

Internal work is beginning to progress in considering this fund and visits have been made to two Parish Councils to initially share the opportunity.

Coastal Loss Innovative Funding and Finance

Phase 1 – option identification and assessment is nearing completion with a final steering group meeting being planned before publishing of the reports. The financial modelling and evaluation have identified that there could potentially be a selection of levy style options for either direct homeowner payments or towards a wider adaptation fund. This has already created interest via an internal EA information session and the Flood and Coast Conference. Following publishing there is planned to be a wider workshop with interested stakeholders to consider how CLIFF alongside the FCRIP and CTAP projects can work together to develop the innovative funding and finance work needed to deliver the EA strategy, Government policy ambition and the LGA SIG funding and finance workstream.

Coastal Processes Gap Analysis

Dr Sophie Day (seconded to CPE from the UEA) has almost completed this extensive piece of work which will help inform our knowledge and approach locally and potentially nationally moving forward. She interviewed a significant number of selected coastal professionals and academics to generate a detailed understanding of the coastal processes knowledge of our coastline.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Refresh

We have recruited into a SMP Co-ordinator role funded via the East Anglian Coastal Group and Environment Agency to assist with delivering the regional and local needs of the SMP Refresh. Work is progressing well with the Status Tracker which clarifies the policy intent of each policy unit near completion and a draft of the updated Action Plan progressed.

Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document

Through the Statement of Common Ground between ESC, GYBC, NNDC and the Broads Authority we have progressed with the drafting of a new Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document which will be presented for adoption across the four planning authorities once completed. Further work is required, and it will incorporate case studies of examples of coastal developments and good practice use of coastal planning policies. In the meantime, the team continue to respond to coastal planning application consultations and is developing a more consistent approach across NNDC and GYBC.

Sandscaping scheme

Monitoring of the Sandscaping scheme continues with positive results. Sediment grain size sampling has been completed and confirmed the average grading curve remains as per specification. The Anglian Coastal Monitoring Programme is now completing the monitoring and further discussion is needed with the Monitoring Committee as to future analysis, potentially via the developed 'digital twin'.

National Projects

National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping 2 – We are inputting into the National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (phase 2) through the national project board to help guide and support the development and delivery of the project. This has led to further CPE officers being included in the Technical Advisory Group. It is anticipated that the final outputs could be utilised to update SMP risk mapping.

DEFRA Historic Erosion Rates Research – Rob Goodliffe is inputting into this DEFRA project being completed by British Geological Survey, via the technical group. This project seeks to identify the best methodology and begin to calculate historic erosion rates around England. The outputs could be informative for both assisting with visualisation of the coast, explaining historic and future erosion and also assisting with future climate change projections around coastal change.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Development of the Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme and CLIFF initiative.

3 Meetings attended

- NCP Visitor Management Group
- NCP Chalk Rivers Project Launch
- CPE Update
- Cabinet x 2
- Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party
- LGA Coastal SIG Adaptation Working Party (As Chair)
- Overstrand Parish Council
- Cabinet Business Planning x 2
- NCP Resilient Coast Project Launch
- Overstrand Parish Council
- Northrepps Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting Event
- Overstrand Belfry School Mural Opening Event
- Overstrand Platinum Jubilee Street Party
- Flood and Coast Conference
- CPE Board Meeting
- BBC TV Interview
- NCP Core Management Group

Verbal update available or on request