

Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Summary: To inform the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party of the draft Coastal Adaptation SPD in preparation for its formal public consultation.

Recommendations: **Members of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party recommend to Cabinet that the draft Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document be published for formal consultation; and**

Delegated authority is given to the Planning Policy Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor modifications and presentational or typographical amendments to the draft Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document that arise from other relevant Local Planning Authority sign-off committees prior to it being published for formal consultation.

Cabinet Member(s)	Ward(s) affected
All Members	All Wards
Contact Officer, telephone number and email:	
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1. Background

- 1.1 North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) in partnership with East Suffolk Council (ESC), Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC), the Broads Authority, and the shared Coastal Partnership East team (CPE) has prepared a draft Coastal Adaptation SPD.
- 1.2 The purpose of the draft SPD is to provide guidance on the implementation of the aligned policy approaches along the coast and to take a holistic (whole coast) approach, which follows from the Statement of Common Ground on Coastal Zone Planning agreed between the partnership authorities in September 2018. In doing so, the SPD will ensure planning guidance is up to date, aid the interpretation and delivery of planning policies, and provide case study examples of coastal adaptation best practice.
- 1.3 Throughout the preparation of the draft SPD a steering group comprised of officers from the partnership authorities and the shared Coastal Partnership

East team has met regularly to consider the consultation responses and draft the SPD. An initial consultation regarding the proposed subjects and structure was undertaken in the Autumn of 2020. This work has now progressed and culminates in the draft SPD, ahead of final consultation.

- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's authority to consult on the draft SPD. At this stage, it is not anticipated that any further substantive changes will be necessary prior to consultation. However, delegated authority is sought should any minor amendments and clarifications be required; noting that such amendments will also have to be agreed through the steering group.

2. Draft Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

- 2.1 The draft SPD, attached at Appendix 1, supports the implementation of planning policies relating to coastal adaptation in the following local planning authorities:

- ESC (Suffolk Coastal Local Plan [2020] and Waveney Local Plan [2019])
- GYBC (Local Plan Part 1 [2015] and Local Plan Part 2 [2021])
- NNDC (Core Strategy [2008]) and emerging Local Plan
- Broads Authority (The Broads Local Plan [2019])

- 2.2 Guidance provided in the draft SPD focusses on the potential opportunities for coastal adaptation as set out in the relevant policies of the above adopted and emerging Local Plans, including development in the Coastal Change Management Area (CCMA), rollback and relocation of buildings and infrastructure at risk to coastal change now and in the future, and enabling development to support coastal adaptation projects.

- 2.3 The fundamental principle of risk management and planning policy in coastal areas is that of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), which is a process that requires the adoption of a joined-up and participative approach towards the planning and management of the many different elements in coastal areas (land and marine). The partnership authorities have and continue to implement an ICZM approach, as evidenced by the Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal Authorities Statement of Common Ground for Coastal Zone Planning, and as signatories to the Coastal Concordat for England. The draft SPD is a further example of the partnership authorities taking a proactive approach to ICZM to ensure individuals and organisations at risk from coastal change are aware of the risks and can take action to adapt to the risks.

- 2.4 An SPD cannot create new or amend existing or emerging planning policies, nor can it prescribe that particular areas of land be developed for particular uses; this is the role of the wider development plans of each local planning authority (LPA). The purpose of the SPD, therefore, is to provide guidance on the accurate interpretation of planning policy and aid the implementation of relevant policies. When adopted, the SPD will be a material consideration in determining planning applications.

- 2.5 The draft SPD aims to provide useful guidance for a range of scenarios, but it will not be possible to address the complexity of issues for every possible

scenario. As with all coastal related development projects, early engagement with the LPA and CPE will always be beneficial to manage risks to life and property in a timely manner.

2.6 The scale of the draft SPD, in covering the coast from Holkham in North Norfolk to Felixstowe in East Suffolk, requires consideration of the draft SPD by a number of members and through a number of committees, as follows:

- ESC: Local Plan Working Group
- Broads Authority: Planning Committee and Broads Authority
- GYBC: Local Plan Working Party, Executive Leadership Team and Policy & Resources Committee
- NNDC Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party and NNDC Cabinet

The aim is for the consultation to commence in January 2023 following this sign-off procedure.

3. Supporting Documents to the draft Coastal Adaptation SPD

3.1 The draft SPD is supported by a Consultation Statement, which sets out the representations submitted to the initial consultation (4 September 2020 - 16 October 2020), the main issues raised, the partnership response to each representation, and identifies changes made to the initial draft SPD as a result of representations. This initial consultation, to which 288 comments were received, has been invaluable in shaping the draft SPD.

3.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion has been undertaken and concluded that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment is not necessary. A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion has also been undertaken and concluded that the draft SPD will not lead to likely significant effects on protected Habitat sites. These conclusions have been considered and agreed with the statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England).

3.3 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening Opinion has been undertaken and concluded that the draft SPD would have no differential negative impacts on those with protected characteristics.

3.4 The draft SPD has been produced in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

3.5 The consultation on the draft SPD will be carried out in accordance with the Statements of Community Involvement of the respective local authorities.

3.6 The formal consultation will include all of the above supporting documents.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party recommend to Cabinet that the draft Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document be published for formal consultation; and

Delegated authority is given to the Planning Policy Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor modifications and presentational or typographical amendments to the draft Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document that arise from other relevant Local Planning Authority sign-off committees prior to it being published for formal consultation.

5. Legal Implications and Risks

- 5.1 The Council must produce planning documents, which comply with various regulatory and legal requirements and in determining its policy approaches, must be justified and underpinned by up to date and proportionate evidence,. This includes the application of a consistent methodology which takes account of public feedback and national policy and guidance.
- 5.2 The Coastal SPD, has been prepared under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and regulation 11-16 of the Town and Country Planning ((Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The statutory process requires records of consultation feedback and a demonstration of how this has informed plan making.

6. Financial Implications and Risks

- 6.1 Failure to undertake plan preparation in accordance with the regulations is likely to render challenge and result in less weight being given to the evidence documents and would result in further officer resources and associated costs.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document