

Joint Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Initial Consultation Document

- Summary: To inform the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party of the Initial Consultation Document with regards to the production of a Joint Coastal Adaptation SPD
- Conclusions: This report sets out the background to and content of the Initial Consultation Document with the eventual objective of producing a Joint Coastal Adaptation SPD.
- Recommendations: This report is for information purposes.

Cabinet Member(s)	Ward(s) affected
All Members	All Wards
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1. Background

- 1.1 Coastal Partnership East (CPE) is a working partnership of the shared coastal management teams of North Norfolk District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and East Suffolk Council. The Partnership was set up in 2016 to manage the coast between Holkham and Landguard Point, in Felixstowe. The key responsibilities include:
- (a) Working strategically to develop a full understanding of how and why the Norfolk and Suffolk coast changes, enabling better decisions to be made about its future and delivering more co-ordinated coastal management outcomes for our communities and environment;
 - (b) To provide the most up to date knowledge and information to support and work with others including partnership agencies, local communities, planners and economic regeneration professional; with their work on our coast, maximising opportunities and minimising risk.
- 1.2 In 2018 the CPE authorities, along with the addition of the Broads Authority and Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, signed up to a 'Statement of Common Ground' on Coastal Zone Planning - see Appendix 2. The statement sought to establish a set of principles to inform local planning policies to ensure a consistent and aligned approach to planning for coastal management. The agreements helped the signatories discharge their responsibilities under the 'Duty-to-Cooperate' in plan-making as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Agreements within the statement include sharing best practice and alignment of approaches with regard to planning policies.

- 1.3 As a result, all the local authorities have prepared or are preparing Local Plans with similar policies on managing the coast. These policies cover what developments are appropriate within areas at risk of coastal change, how we will determine applications for coastal defences and how we will facilitate roll-back and relocation of development at risk of coastal change.
- 1.4 Given the agreements in the Statement of Common Ground and the partnership approach through CPE, it is considered valuable to now prepare a joint SPD for the CPE area. As such, a working group made up of planners from the relevant authorities, the Broads Authority (who cover a small area of coast near Horsey), together with officers from CPE, has been set up. This joint approach allows for a pooling of resources, sharing of best practice and an aligned approach to correspond with the partnership area. The end result will be an SPD which can provide valuable guidance to officers, developers, communities and other stakeholders on how local planning policies for coastal management should be implemented. SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the Development Plan.

2. Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document

- 2.1 The purpose of the initial consultation is to inform the content and scope of the draft Coastal Adaptation SPD. The SPD will seek to give guidance on the aligned policy approaches in the respective Local Plans. It is envisaged that it will include best practice, case-studies and guidance on how the policies can be interpreted and implemented. However, the document will not seek to create or amend existing planning policies or replace the role of the Shoreline Management Plans.
- 2.2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 require two stages of consultation during the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document. Firstly, consultation is required during the initial preparation of the document to inform a draft Supplementary Planning Document. Once a draft Supplementary Planning Document has been prepared this must then be subject to further consultation prior to adoption. This report informs Members of the first stage of consultation on the SPD.
- 2.3 The draft consultation document attached at Appendix 1 to this report for reference. Minor changes in content and format are delegated to Coastal East Partnership in order to finalise the consultation document. In essence the consultation document seeks to establish views of what the content and scope of the SPD should be. It also asks questions to inspire responses on the specific topic areas of the SPD to help inform the future draft of the document and understand if the outlined topic areas are sufficient and what guidance would be most useful to include in the SPD.
- 2.4 The production of the SPD is being led by Coastal Partnership East and the consultation is expected to commence from late August 2020 and will last for a period of 6 weeks. East Suffolk Council has agreed to run the consultation on behalf of all the authorities involved.
- 2.5 The consultation document will be sent to statutory and general consultees and to consultees on each of the authority's consultation databases. Coastal groups will also be invited to participate in the consultation.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 **This report is for information purposes.**

4. Legal Implications and Risks

- 4.1 The risks in producing the SPD are limited. The document will be produced jointly between the authorities, but adopted individually by the authorities. The powers to prepare an SPD are outlined within the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. Consultation is a necessity in the preparation of any SPD and if it is carried out incorrectly, could lead to scope for challenge.

5. Financial Implications and Risks

- 5.1 Failure to undertake plan preparation in accordance with the regulations is likely to render the SPD to challenge and additional costs.