

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 20 Sept 2017

Councillor David Guest: Cabinet Lead for Economy and Planning

Development Services

We are seeing an increase in the numbers of smaller applications and some of the larger applications that we had expected have not yet been submitted. This is an indication of the wider economic situation.

Planning Policy and Urban Design

The local Plan continues to make progress with the latest Call for sites highlighting more potential sites and these are being considered alongside the detailed behind the scenes evidence work. The key infrastructure evidence around the transport modelling is delayed. Nevertheless, the local plan is moving forward for Cabinet consideration on the 18 December with the proposal for a public consultation on the draft version of the plan in January/February 2018 .

The Civil Engineering team are doing significant work looking at junction design for the Strategic site and potential mitigation ideas for sustainable travel on Hayling Island.

Development Management Committee,

The organisation of the DMC meetings continues to evolve with a revised room layout and further Councillor training.

There is a DCF booked for the Barratt site at Sinah Lane Hayling Island on 11 October, the scheduled DCF for the Forty Acres site (26 October) has now been cancelled and a later date is being considered.

Coastal Management & Climate Change

Beach Management Activities (2017-2022)

The first recycling campaign of the 2017-2022 Beach Management Activities is due to begin in September 2017. During this campaign we will be extracting material from Gunner Point, and the Open Beach and transporting this to Eastoke. The material available will enable us to build the beach out to the full width required before the winter period. We will also be transporting a small amount of material around to Ferry Road car park to assist with erosion problems at this site.

Beach Management Plan (2017-22)

The Outline Business Case for £3.3M of Environment Agency funding to continue beach management along south Hayling Island was submitted in January 2017 and approved in April 2017. Planning Permission was granted in perpetuity in July 2017 and the Marine Licence was granted during August 2017, lasting for 10 years. Following agreement from Hayling Golf Club, the first beach management campaign of the new BMP is programmed to start in September 2017 (as detailed above); including extraction from Gunner Point.

Coastal Defence Damage- Langstone Harbour

Royal Oak Footpath – the proposals involve re- pointing of the existing defence and carrying out further condition surveys of the structure. As the landowner is unknown here, the Coastal team is discussing the best approach with other teams within the Council.

Defences east of Warblington – The ESCP has prepared a design and contract documents for this repair. Prices for these works have been received as part of our new Minor Works Framework. Once a preferred supplier has been identified a meeting will be set up with the landowner to discuss funding these works. These works cannot be carried out over the winter due to environmental conditions within the harbour, and are therefore currently planned to take place at the end of September in to mid- October 2017.

ESCP will continue to monitor each of these structures on a regular basis for any changes in condition.

Broadmarsh Coastal Park

During June 2017 we replaced the section of damaged concrete revetment with rock revetment (as used successfully by the ESCP at North Portsea Island) which will allow better flow through the structure and be more resilient to damage.

We are currently beginning to undertake an appraisal study to identify the longer term preferred option for replacement of the defences in light of the recent decision to cease repairing the revetment on a like-for-like basis.

Langstone Spit / Sailing Club

Officers from the ESCP met with Cllr Pike and members of the sailing club to understand their concerns regarding erosion of the spit and deterioration of the coastal defences. The ESCP will be tabling with Cllr Pike and the Sailing Club an analysis of the historic shoreline position and potential options for the future at this location, which are likely to feed into the Langstone FCERM project.

Minor Works Framework

The proposed replacement minor works framework tender documents and framework agreement were issued in May 2017 and tender returns were received from 21 suppliers experienced in coastal works. Lot 2- General Civils

and Lot 3 Beach Management are now live. Lot 1 Minor Works will be presented to the Portsmouth City Council Procurement Gateway 11th September 2017 for approval. The framework agreements will then be prepared, for a period of 4 years.

The Southern Coastal Group has agreed to pay ESCP costs to setup the framework and hence be available to all authorities within the group. These Authorities will also have the option to seek specific procurement advice, at an agreed charge out rate from the ESCP, if needed to support their own tenders.

Regional Habitat Creation Programme

The ESCP have made good progress to provide a strategic update of the Regional Habitat Creation Programme (RHCP), using flood defence Grant in Aid funding from the Environment Agency (up to £91k).

The RHCP is legally required to identify opportunities for habitat creation across the region, to replace habitats lost through Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM). With many opportunities for habitat creation within the Havant Borough (and wider ESCP area), it is critical that we inform and progress this programme. Future FCERM schemes to protect people and property rely on the successful provision of compensatory habitat.

The RHCP is administered by the EA, however limited progress has been made since 2011 other than the delivery of the Medmerry Managed Realignment scheme between Selsey and Bracklesham, West Sussex. Without this strategic update, future FCERM decisions will be delayed.

We have reviewed historic data and studies to confirm habitat balances across the Solent and South Downs region and listed all potential opportunities for habitat creation. We have liaised with regulators and stakeholders to ensure they understand the current status of the RHCP, and to agree key principles. We have attended key meetings with the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in Newcastle as part of this.

We are currently producing the final report for this strategic update, and will be consulting the key regulators (Environment Agency, MMO and Natural England) to ensure their official support for the proactive approach. We have received additional flood defence grant in aid funding (up to £84k) to undertake further tactical work this financial year, which will enable us to prioritise sites for habitat creation and assess their feasibility, setting out a plan for delivery.

Solent Bird Studies

A combined report for the two sister projects is nearing completion. Analysis of the over 40,000 records including 17,000 individual site based records, submitted via the project's smart phone app and website by our existing

volunteer network and data from a series of bird movement surveys is now complete. A robust analysis framework has been established that will enable any future data analysis to be undertaken with ease. The data and analysis has been undertaken in collaboration with an update to the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy to add value to both projects.

The project has continued to positively engage with Natural England (NE) to ensure clarity on the data requirements to enable decisions on the ground; this guidance will be a key output of the study and will help guide future projects in the area. A workshop introducing the early findings was positively received by NE, and NE will shortly be consulted on the draft report for a formal response.

It is anticipated that a final version of the report will be available and results can be disseminated in early October.

Southmoor Habitat Creation Scheme

The Environment Agency are making good progress on the outline design phase of this project.

In summary

- They have met with the private landowner of the site to set out their strategic plan. They are currently negotiating the purchase of the site.
- They have received funding approval to develop options for the outline design phase of a habitat creation scheme
- They engaged with the public at a drop in exhibition in May.
- They have undertaken detailed ground investigation surveys
- The ESCP have undertaken habitat surveys and reptile surveys to inform the project
- The EA plan held another public engagement event on the 24th July.
- Their Asset team continues to monitor the sea defence and path and are liaising with the rights of way team over any Health and Safety Issues
- They will prepare their funding bid for design and construction at the end of the year and, if successful, look to construct the scheme early in 2018.
- They are continuing to liaise with HBC planners over licencing and consenting

The ESCP will continue to liaise closely with the Environment Agency on their plans and make sure we keep abreast of any developments.

Hayling Island Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

The ESCP are currently preparing a project mandate and business case to bid for grant to undertake a strategy study for Hayling island. This study would address the strategic coastal management issues on Hayling holistically and

set out a route map for the delivery of the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (SMP); which recommended a strategy be developed.

The development of a strategy is the next step in the FCERM process and looks in more detail than the SMP and can lead to subsequent funding for schemes. The ESCP have recently delivered a Strategy for Gosport and Fareham Borough Council.

There remains some uncertainty as to how successful the funding bid will be in light of the fact previous attempts by the Environment Agency to secure funding for a study have been unsuccessful. The business case is due to be submitted to the EA in October 2017, with a funding decision towards the end of the financial year. Any study would carefully consider the objectives of HBC along side FCERM objectives, for instance planning, regeneration, tourism, and so forth.

At present we are not actively publicising this project until we have funding certainty, particularly in light of the sensitivities surrounding the HBC local plan.

Langstone FCERM Scheme – Outline design

The ESCP are currently preparing a project mandate and business case to bid for grant to undertake the outline design stage of this project. This scheme was recommended by the Portchester to Emsworth FCERM Strategy which has been adopted by HBC. The scheme is linked with the Southmoor managed realignment project being led by the EA because there is one continuous flood cell and one strategic management unit set out in the strategy.

HBC have allocated £75k of funding towards this stage of the project. A further CIL funding bid has been submitted to address the requirement for significant funding towards the detailed design and construction phases of the project in future years without which no scheme can progress.

Similarly, without a successful EA grant funding bid the project will be unable to progress. The ESCP has obtained a letter of support from the Chief Executive of HBC for the project and an intent to seek further contributions, to support our business case for grant funding.

The business case is due to be submitted to the EA in October 2017, with a funding decision towards the end of the financial year.

At present we are not actively publicising this project until we have funding certainty, particularly in light of the sensitivities surrounding the HBC local plan.