

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Leader Decision

Decision By: Cllr Wilson, Leader, Havant Borough Council

WEST BEACH HAYLING ISLAND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Report by: Natalie Meagher

Key Decision: Yes

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the coastal policy at West Beach, recent coastal change and the likely future changes in response to natural processes.

2.0 Decision

- 2.1 That the Leader approves:
- 2.2 To note the removal of failed sea defence structures in 2020 as required in line with current policy. The policy to remove the structure, when it ceased to be serviceable, was approved by the Council in 2008, and this is also in accordance with the Council approved Shoreline Management Plan for the frontage 2010. The failed sea defences create an imminent threat to health and safety and therefore require urgent action. Funding to be met from existing budget framework and the implementation decision is delegated to the Leader in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer.
- 2.3 To note this complies with the existing Coastal Policy at West Beach, to remove the timber revetment and groynes at West Beach following structural failure and not to repair or reconstruct them.

3.0 Issue

- 3.1 Hayling Island coastline consists of a dynamic shingle beach, stretching from Eastoke to Gunner Point. Over the course of time, due to both natural processes and human intervention, the shape of the beach has changed. Specifically, at West Beach, the area is very exposed, and the landscape can alter significantly as a result of poor weather conditions. Increased frequency of powerful storms year on year has taken its' toll on the area. The rapid change experienced last winter has been dramatic.
- 3.2 In the last year, the coastline has retreated sixteen metres northwards towards West Beach car park, and since January, a further four to five metres of the beach has been lost.

- 3.3 Recent inspections of the remaining sea defences have identified that part of the structure is failing and plans for its' removal are in hand. Removal of part of the sea defence is likely to increase the rate of erosion in this area, which in turn increases the threat to the safety of 'B' site beach huts.
- 3.4 Flooding and over-topping from the beach has also impacted the western end of West Beach car park, which was closed due to safety concerns in November 2019. The area remains cordoned off, and, is currently undergoing inspections to determine what the parking offer will look like in this area.
- 3.5 This report addresses the immediate issues relating to the failed sea defences. Other matters detailed are the subject of a separate Cabinet Report.

4.0 Implications

- 4.1 **Finance:** As the landowner, HBC is responsible for removal of the failed sea defences, which pose a health and safety risk. A budget of up to £85,000 has been identified within the budgetary framework for 2020/21; £65,000 for the works and £20,000 contingency. These costs will be met from unused funds from the Planning Policy budget due to specific works not being undertaken this financial year.

These defences do not qualify for Environment Agency Grant in Aid, unlike Eastoke. We are exploring the potential for Emergency Works funding from the Environmental Agency for defence removal.

- 4.2 **Legal:** We have received advice from Counsel to comprehensively understand the responsibility of the Council, as landowner, to its neighbours. In accordance with this advice, the Director of Regeneration and Place has now subsequently formally written to the relevant neighbours to inform them of the Council's intent to remove the failing structure.
- 4.3 **Strategy:** The need to remove the failed sea defences is essential given the related health and safety issues that the current situation presents. This is in accordance with the existing Coastal Policy.
- 4.4 **Risks:** The current health and safety risks are being managed through fencing to secure the area, signage and regular monitoring of the condition of the structure. If no action is taken the structure could be at risk of collapse as the beach continues to be drawn down through the voids in the sea defence structure, ultimately requiring an emergency response.

5.0 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 – 'confidential' or Exempt' Information Indicator:

- 5.1 This delegated decision contains neither confidential nor exempt information

6.0 Is this an Urgent Decision?

Yes

7.0 Consultation with Chairman of the Operations & Place Shaping Scrutiny Board

Chair of Operations & Place Shaping Board: Cllr Dianne Lloyd

Date: 25 June 2020

Agreed. Councillor Wilson, Leader of the Council

Date 25 June 2020

As an urgent decision, the date of implementation will be the same as the date that this decision record was published, 26 June 2020.

Appendices: Appendix A - West Beach Shoreline Position 2020
Appendix B – 100 year Coastal Adaptation Zones

Background Papers: None

Agreed and signed off by:

Relevant Executive Director: 25 June 2020

Cabinet Lead: 25 June 2020

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