REPORT TO:	Cabinet Member - Environmental
DATE:	6th May 2009
SUBJECT:	Shoreline Management Plans (SMP)
WARDS AFFECTED:	Meols, Cambridge, Dukes, Ainsdale, Harrington, Manor, Blundellsands, Church, Linacre
REPORT OF:	Mike McSorley, Assistant Director Technical Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Graham Lymbery – Coastal Officer Tel: 0151 934 2960
EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL:	No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To advise Members of the review of the shoreline management plans and of the process and timetable to achieve adoption by the Council including public consultation.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Early support and awareness of the policy review process for coastal defence will enable early identification and resolution of any barriers to the adoption of the SMP.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

i). Notes the report

ii). Supports the review and adoption process.

KEY DECISION:	No
FORWARD PLAN:	No
IMPLEMENTATION DATE:	Following expiry of the call-in period for the minutes of this meeting

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:
Failure to engage with the development of the shoreline management plan may lead to inappropriate policy options. Failure to adopt SMP policies will jeopardise future capital grant aid funding.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: Sets future coastal defence policy which leads to grant aid that supports actions arising to deliver these policies.

Financial: No financial implications arising from this report.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	**2006/ 2007 £**	**2007/ 2008 £**	**2008/ 2009 £**	**2009/ 2010 £**
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N		When?		
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: None

Risk Assessment: As detailed in the report

Asset Management: As detailed in the report

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS
There are no financial consequences and therefore the Finance Director has not been consulted.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		√	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The first generation of Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) were developed in the late 1990s. These SMPs provide a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and present a long term policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. An SMP is a high level document that forms an important element of the strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management. They also develop Coastal Defence policies for the coastline.

1.2 The Sefton Coast is covered by two SMPs. The Liverpool Bay SMP which runs from Great Orme's Head, Llandudno to Formby Point and the Ribble Estuary SMP that runs from Formby Point to River Wyre, these plans were formally adopted by Sefton Council in 2000 and 1999 respectively.

1.3 These SMPs are currently being reviewed (known as SMP2) by consultants Halcrow Group Ltd, on behalf of the North West and North Wales Coastal Group – a partnership between the maritime local authorities in NW England and N Wales and the Environment Agency. All of the SMPs in the North West are being reviewed concurrently. Blackpool Council is the lead authority responsible for managing the contract and Sefton chair the Project Management Board which is comprised of Local Authorities, Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage and Coastal Group Chairs.

1.4 The SMP2 process is 100% capital grant aided from the Environment Agency. Blackpool Council are managing the funding on behalf of the other maritime coastal authorities.

1.5 The SMP is a non statutory document but it is necessary to support the application for capital grant aid from the Environment Agency for coastal defence schemes.

2.0 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

2.1. Principles

SMP2 will set coastal defence policies for three time 'epochs':

- 0 to 20 years short term
- 20 to 50 years medium term
- 50 to 100 years long term

For each of these time-spans 1 of 4 policies will be chosen for each length of coast:

- Advance the line
- Hold the line
- No active intervention
- Managed re-alignment

2.2. SMP Study Area

Cell 11 covers the coastline from Gt. Ormes Head to the Solway Firth. To facilitate project management and encourage local participation, the cell is split into five sub-

cells (Table 1). The plans consider estuaries and generally extend to the normal limit of tidal influence.

Table 1.

Sub-cell	Coastline	Lead authority
11a	Gt. Ormes Head to Southport	Wirral MBC
11b	Southport to Wyre Estuary	Blackpool Council
11c	Wyre Estuary to Hodbarrow Pt.	Lancaster City Council
11d	Hodbarrow Pt. to St. Bees Head	Copeland District Council
11e	St. Bees Head to Solway Firth	Allerdale District Council

3.0. SMP2 PROGRESS

3.1. The development of SMP2 has 6 main stages:

1) Scope the SMP
2) Assessments to Support Policy Development
3) Policy Development
4) Public Examination
5) Finalise Plan
6) Plan Dissemination

3.2. The review of all five Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2s) in Cell 11 began in January 2008. Stage 2 was completed in December 2008 and Stage 3 is now underway. This stage will define key policy drivers and assess policy scenarios along the coast.

3.3. The policy development phase involves testing the consequences of adopting a particular policy for a stretch of coast. Upon assessment of this testing a preferred policy will be identified. This phase is due for completion by June 2009.

4.0. COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION

4.1. Several methods are being used to consult a wide range of stakeholders. Members will be aware of the Elected Members Forums which took place in September and December 2008. A further round of forums will take place in summer 2009. The Elected Members Forums are supported by Stakeholders Forums and opportunities for public involvement through written and web-based consultation.

4.2. Within Sefton to better facilitate the consultation a local stakeholder workshop was held in November 2008. This included Elected Members and key coastal managers.

4.3. Upon completion of the policy development by June 2009 the preferred policies will be brought to committee prior to the public examination phase which is due to run for twelve weeks from October 2009 to December 2009.

5.0. SMP2 ADOPTION AND APPROVAL

5.1. Under the strategic overview for the coast, the national SMP programme is managed by the Environment Agency. Each plan will be reviewed by the SMP Quality Review

Group to check quality and consistency. The review will ensure compliance with the Habitats Directives and the Water Framework Directive.

5.2. Before the SMP2 is formally signed-off by the Environment Agency Regional Director, it needs to be approved and adopted by all participating local authorities and the Regional Flood Defence Committee.

6.0. PROGRAMME

6.1 To facilitate the adoption of the plan a programme of communication and consultation will be undertaken, the key dates in this programme are:

- July 2009 Report to committee to advise of preferred policy options prior to public examination.

- October 2009-December 2009 Public Examination. A variety of communication methods will be undertaken to consult on the draft SMP2 document. These include:
  Sefton Council website www.sefton.gov.uk
  Coastal Group website www.mycoastline.org
  Report to Committee
  Reports to area committees
  Presentations to Parish Councils
  Press releases – Visitor group papers
  Libraries – documents available
  Local stakeholder workshop

- January 2010 Report to Committee to report consultation outcomes.

- Revision of draft policies to account for consultation responses.

- June 2010 Report to Committee/Cabinet to approve plan documents.