

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member - Environmental Cabinet

**DATE:** 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010  
5<sup>th</sup> August 2010

**SUBJECT:** Shoreline Management Plan Adoption

**WARDS AFFECTED:** Meols, Cambridge, Dukes, Ainsdale, Harrington, Manor, Blundellsands, Church, Linacre

**REPORT OF:** Peter Moore  
Environmental Protection Director

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Graham Lymbery – Project Leader - Coastal defence  
0151 934 2959

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

Report detailing the strategic coastal defence policies for Sefton for the next 100 years as presented in the North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan review (SMP2).

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

Sefton Council will need to formally adopt the North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan review (SMP2), which sets the management policy for the Sefton Coastline for the next 100 years.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

It is recommended that the Council adopt the policies set out in the North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan for the Sefton Coastline.

**KEY DECISION:** Yes

**FORWARD PLAN:** Yes

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:** This is the mechanism that Government have set out for the management of coastal erosion and flood risk, failure to follow this route would preclude the Authority from being able to apply for grant aid for this purpose.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:**

**Financial: None arising directly from this report**

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2006/ 2007 £</b>	<b>2007/ 2008 £</b>	<b>2008/ 2009 £</b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
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:** Sets out a strategic approach for flood and coastal erosion risk management.

**Asset Management:** Sets out the future management of coastal defence assets at a strategic level.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

The SMP2 for North West England and North Wales underwent full public consultation between October 2009 and February 2010. The public were invited to make comments either in writing, via e-mail, or in person at one many consultation events that were held along the coast. A report detailing the consultation in the Sefton area is available online at [www.mycoastline.org](http://www.mycoastline.org). Responses were received from the Planning Department that supported the SMP and the continued liaison between the departments on such matters.

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

<b>Corporate Objective</b>		<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>Neutral Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>
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**

Previous committee reports on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2 Main Document and Policy Statements covering the Sefton Coastline (Appendix 1) and Relevant parts of the SMP2 Consultation Report (available at [www.mycoastline.org](http://www.mycoastline.org))

## Background

1. Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) are part of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management planning framework. The SMP sets the long term policy for the management of the coast and is taken forward through shoreline strategies and schemes.
2. This is the first review of the SMP that was undertaken over 10 years ago and the review (SMP2) was started in 2008. Sefton is part of Coastal Cell 11, which runs from Great Orme's Head in Llandudno to the Scottish Border in the Solway Firth, and in this review there is one SMP2 for the whole length, including the many large estuaries.
3. As part of the North West England and North Wales Coastal Group, Blackpool Council took the lead on procuring a consultant to undertake the SMP2 and managing the SMP2 process on behalf of all the Coastal Authorities and the Environment Agency. Blackpool Council gained funding from Defra (now administered through the Environment Agency) to undertake the SMP for the English coastline and Conwy County Borough Council gained funding from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) for the Welsh coastline. Following an OJEU procedure Blackpool Council contracted with Halcrow Group consultants to assist with production of the SMP2.
4. The SMP2 has been undertaken in stages in accordance with the Defra 2006 guidance, which is supported by WAG. The guidance gives four possible policy options:
  - a. Hold the Line- maintain the existing coastline position
  - b. Advance the Line- move the coastline seaward
  - c. Managed Realignment- manage the movement of the coastline either landward or seaward
  - d. No Active Intervention- No significant public money put into management of the coastline.
5. The guidance states that a policy needs to be assigned to lengths of coastline over 100 years in each of three time epochs:
  - a. Short term- 0-20years
  - b. Medium term- 20-50years
  - c. Long term- 50-100years
6. The draft SMP2 was published for public consultation from October 2009 to February 2010 with comments in some areas being allowed until the end of March 2010. The draft SMP2 was available at various council buildings along the coastline and press releases were issued from each council to advertise the public consultation. In addition all of the documents were available on the Coastal Group website at [www.mycoastline.org](http://www.mycoastline.org) . There were also public meetings and more local meetings to discuss the draft plan with stakeholders and the public.

7. All the comments that were received were reviewed by the project team to assess whether changes needed to be made to the draft plan. The consultant has amended the documentation as the result of changes and has written a consultation report. The consultation report which gives responses to the comments received, has been published on the Coastal Group website, [www.mycoastline.org](http://www.mycoastline.org), for Stakeholders to see.
8. The SMP2 has had to undergo a Habitats Regulations assessment to assess the impacts on European designate habitats. If there is likely to be an adverse impact on a European site then the SMP will need to go to the Secretary of State to be approved. This will have no impact on the policies for the Sefton Coastline.

### Implications for Sefton

9. The draft policies for the Sefton coastline are detailed in the table below. Appendix 1 is the main SMP2 document along with the Policy Statements and Action Plan which cover the Sefton Frontage. There are also a number of appendices to the SMP2 containing supporting information which have not been included with this report but can be viewed on the Coastal Group website [www.mycoastline.org](http://www.mycoastline.org).

Location	Short Term Policy	Medium Term Policy	Long Term Policy
Seaforth to MEPAS pumping Station	Hold the line	Hold the line	Hold the line
MEPAS pumping station to Hightown	Managed re-alignment	Managed re-alignment	Managed re-alignment
Hightown to the mouth of the River Alt (east bank)	Hold the line	Hold the line	Hold the line
River Alt mouth to (east and west banks) to the Alt pumping Station	Hold the line	Hold the line	Hold the line
Mouth of the River Alt (west bank) to Weld Road, Southport (Formby Dune system)	Managed re-alignment	Managed re-alignment	Managed re-alignment
Weld Road to Fairways (Southport)	Hold the line	Hold the line	Hold the line
Fairways to Crossens pumping Station	Hold the line	Hold the line	Hold the line

### **Changes following the consultation period**

10. There were no changes to the draft policies following the consultation period.
11. An additional action was added to the action plan to record ephemeral features of historical interest as and when they appear on the foreshore.
12. There were three minor changes to the wording of the action plan to clarify the action.

### **Changes from the currently approved Shoreline Management Plan**

13. There have been a number of minor boundary changes of the policy units to simplify and rationalise the policies based on the coastal processes. The most significant being the recognition of the Formby Dune System as a single unit from the mouth of the River Alt (west bank) to Weld Road, Southport.
14. There has been a change of Policy from Do-nothing or Natural Dune Management to Managed re-alignment for the Formby Dune System (reported to this Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009). The future management will be informed by the Study being undertaken on the dunes at Lifeboat Road considering the effectiveness of sand dune management works in the context of coastal defence (reported to this Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009).
15. Part of the SMP documentation is the Action Plan which sets out actions that need to be undertaken to achieve the policy. Delivery of the SMP Action Plan forms part of the NI189 score for Sefton Council. The inclusion of this action plan is a change from the original format of the SMP.