

## CITY OF PLYMOUTH

**Subject:** Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2)  
Durlston Head to Rame Head

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 19 October 2010

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Fry and Councillor Wiggins

**CMT Member:** Director for Development and Regeneration

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**Part:** I

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### **Executive Summary:**

Plymouth City Council owns, and is responsible for, 5km of shoreline around the City Boundary.

The Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP 2), is a non-statutory policy document that looks at coastal and flood risk management issues relating to the coastline around England and Wales over the next 100 years. Prepared by Halcrow for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), SMP2 updates the original SMP of 1998. The part of the Plan relating to Plymouth's foreshore has been prepared in consultation with the South Devon & Dorset Coastal Group, of which PCC are a member.

Within the South West region, each section of the coastline has been divided into individual policy units and these tend to cover areas with similar erosion characteristics. The policy for Plymouth is primarily to "Hold the existing defence line". For each area, actions are identified to be completed ahead of the next SMP review in 2015. Adopting SMP2 will commit the Council to preparing a Shoreline Asset Management Plan and seeking co-funding opportunities for coastal defence works.

SMP2 will be used in allocating Defra Annual Budget of £600 million to maintain and improve coastal defences. The Council has applied for £3.5 million from this budget to implement coastal defence schemes in 2011/2012; these are listed in Appendix 3. Members are recommended to

- Approve the adoption of the SMP2 as it relates to Plymouth
- Agree to the production of an associated Shoreline Asset Management Plan (SAMP)
- Support investigation of opportunities for co-funding of defence works
- Support submission of funding application to EA to fund coastal defence works

The cost of implementing the above recommendations is estimated to be £80k which is being sought from the Defra annual budget.

Adopting the SMP2 ensures Plymouth is compliant with Environment Agency policy and, therefore, puts the City in a stronger position when bidding for part of the £600 million national budget for coastal defences.

## Corporate Plan 2010 - 2013:

SAMP is a fundamental driver for improvements which support growth in the city (CIP12) and provides a framework for achieving the aspiration to be one of Europe's finest waterfront cities.

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### Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

The SMP2 identifies the level of intervention needed along the coastline. The SAMP will identify the more specific works and costs associated with them.

An application for £80,000 of funding to produce a Shoreline Asset Management Plan for PCC was included in the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2011/12 application to the EA. A preliminary indication on the success of the application is expected in November 2010.

However, failure to secure this funding will require other funding to be found to provide this statutory document.

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### Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

None

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### Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that members:

1. Approve the adoption of the Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2), as it relates to Plymouth;
2. Agree to produce a Shoreline Asset Management Plan;
3. Support investigation of opportunities for co-funding of defence works;
4. Support submission of funding application to EA to fund coastal defence works.

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### Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

Not adopt the SMP2: whilst not a statutory document, failure to adopt the SMP may prevent PCC from accessing Defra funding for future flood defence works and may create uncertainty for the Environment Agency that future development proposals within the City will be adequately defended against future flooding.

Not produce a Shoreline Asset Management Plan: Failure to produce this document would run contrary to the requirements of SMP2, and would not enable the Authority to adequately prioritise works along the coastline.

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### Background papers:

1. 1998 Shoreline Management Plan
2. 2010 Shoreline Management Plan Review
3. Funding requests to EA for shoreline works

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### Sign off:

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Originating SMT Member: Clive Perkin

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1. The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) forms an important part of the Defra strategy for flood and coastal defence of Britain and has been developed in accordance with their guidelines. The SMP is a non-statutory document that provides a policy framework from which more detailed strategies and studies are developed to identify the best way of implementing policy to address the risks associated with coastal erosion in a sustainable manner.

1.2. The new document “Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP 2) Durlston Head to Rame Head” that Members are being asked to adopt is the first revision of, and will supersede the earlier “Portland Bill to Rame Head SMP”, which was adopted by Plymouth City Council (PCC) in 1998.

1.3. The coastline of Britain is divided into 8 regions each having a coastal group whose members include the local authority and Environment Agency (EA) with associate members consisting of other interested groups and organisations. Each area has its own SMP, which all together form the national SMP.

1.4. The SMP is a high level document that aims to identify sustainable options which take account of the influences and needs of both the natural environment, and the human and the built environment. It identifies four different policies:

<b>Hold the existing defence line</b>	Maintain or change the level of protection provided by defences in their present location.
<b>Advance the existing defence line</b>	Build new defences on the seaward side of the existing defence line to reclaim land.
<b>Managed realignment</b>	Allowing the shoreline position to move backwards (or forwards) with management to control or limit movement.
<b>No active intervention</b>	A decision not to invest in providing or maintaining defences.

These are considered over three different timescales (also referred to as ‘epochs’).

<b>Present day</b>	0 to 20 years
<b>Medium term</b>	20 to 50 years
<b>Long term</b>	50 to 100 years

It should be noted that the policy can change over time.

The full version of the document for the South Devon and Dorset coastal area, of which Plymouth forms a part, may be found at [South Devon and Dorset Coastal Authorities Group \(SDADCAG\)](#) A summary of the draft Final SMP may be found at Appendix 1.

## **2.0 Consultation Process for SMP2**

- 2.1 There has been extensive consultation with all stakeholders during the preparation of SMP2, using a variety of means including three rounds of Key Stakeholder Meetings. These have been held at a number of locations along the coastline covered by the report (including Plymouth).
- 2.2 Three main groups were involved in the development of the SMP2
  - Client Steering Group (CSG)
  - Elected Members Forum (EMF)
  - Key Stakeholders Forum (KSF)

## **3.0 General overview of SMP2 recommendations for Plymouth's coastline**

- 3.1 The coastline has been divided into individual policy units for the purposes of the SMP2 report. These tend to cover areas with similar erosion characteristics. The policy units that fall within PCC's administrative boundary are 6c27 to 6c31. An extract from the SMP2 detailing the preferred policy for the City's coastline may be found in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 PCC also has an operational interest in the coastline of the Mt Edgcumbe Country Park through its membership of the Mt Edgcumbe Joint Committee, so the same information for policy units 6c40 to 6c43 has also been included in Appendix 1 of this cabinet report.
- 3.3 The policy for Plymouth's shoreline is to "Hold the line". Only the area from Wembury point to Mountbatten Breakwater differs from this with a policy of "No active intervention". Generally this may be summarised as existing defences are to be maintained and undefended areas are to be allowed to erode naturally.
- 3.4 There are also a range of actions which are applicable to the whole of the SMP area. These actions aim to ensure that the actions required to implement the SMP are taken prior to the next SMP review in 2015.
- 3.5 The SMP2 Table 4.18 "Actions for the policy scenario area between Wembury Point and Rame Head" is included in Appendix 2 of this cabinet report. Plymouth is tasked with producing/developing a Shoreline Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and identifying possible sources of co-funding for any work which may be required.

## **4.0 Plymouth Breakwater**

- 4.1 Plymouth Sound Breakwater does not have a specific policy unit; however it is listed as an asset management action within table 4.18 in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 The EA has applied to Defra for funding in 2011/12 to undertake a study of the breakwater to establish its effectiveness and necessity. An indication of the success of the application is due in November 2010.

## **5.0 Funding for Coastal & Flood defence schemes**

- 5.1 Plymouth has over 5km of coastline. PCC is responsible for the sea defences and assets situated on the coastline in their ownership and, as such, has a duty to maintain them. Currently, PCC assets are divided between Parks, Parking and Asset Management. Other landowners, such as the MOD, are responsible for the maintenance of the sea defences and assets in their ownership.
- 5.2 Maintaining the waterfront assets directly supports the City's aspiration to become one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities thus enabling growth. The waterfront assets will require direct investment in the future, not only to maintain them but also to accommodate climate change.
- 5.3 Defra provides grant funding, via the EA, for coastal protection, which is dependent upon the schemes conforming to the policies and conditions set out by the EA. Potential schemes are submitted to the EA via the Medium Term Plan (MTP).
- 5.4 Currently the EA has £600M annually to award to schemes though it is anticipated that this budget may be reduced by up to 40% in the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review due in October 2010. Applications are submitted annually for coastal defence works.
- 5.5 There are a number of proposed schemes for the Plymouth area which have been put forward for funding, from the £600M budget, in 2011/12 and an indication of the success of these applications is due in November 2010. Details of the 2011/12 application may be found in Appendix 3.
- 5.6 It should be noted that an application for £80,000 was included in the MTP for the production of a Shoreline Asset Management Plan. If this application is unsuccessful, then PCC would need to provide the funding to enable them to be compliant with the SMP policy by producing the SAMP.
- 5.7 Inclusion of schemes in the MTP is not an automatic guarantee of funding.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 Members are recommended to -
  - Approve the adoption of the SMP2 as it relates to Plymouth;
  - Agree to the production of an associated Shoreline Asset Management Plan (SAMP);
  - Investigation of opportunities for co-funding of defence works;
  - Support submission of funding application to EA to fund coastal defence works.