

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 14 September 2018

Present:

Bridget Betts, Dorset County Council
Lyll Cairns, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Dr Samantha Cope, New Forest District Council
Andrew Crates, Environment Agency - Kent, South London and East Sussex
Peter Ferguson, New Forest District Council
Dominic Henly, Chichester District Council
Matt Hosey, Borough of Poole Council
Jenny Jakeways, Isle of Wight Council
Stuart McVey, Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme
Matthew Penny, Dorset Council Partnership
David Picksley, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Mark Stratton, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Neil Watson, Environment Agency

30 Election of Office Bearers (Paper A)

The Group were asked to consider nominations for the roles of Chairman of the Group, Vice-Chairman of the Group (x 2) and Chairman of the Research Sub-Group.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) Lyll Cairns be appointed as Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group;
- b) Neil Watson and Matt Hosey be appointed as Vice-Chairmen of the Southern Coastal Group; and
- c) Dr Samantha Cope be appointed as Chairman of the Research Sub-Group.

The Chairman welcomed Andrew Crates to the meeting, who was in attendance representing the Environment Agency in Kent, South London and East Sussex.

31 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Uwe Dornbusch, Nick Gray, Gordon Wilkinson, Peter Marsden, Nick Hardiman, Solent Forum, Stevyn Ricketts, Neil Pettefer, Vincent May, Bryan Curtis, Angela Marlow and Samantha Box.

32 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 15 June 2018 (Paper B)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 15 June 2018 be set as a correct record.

33 SCG Action Plan Review (Mark Stratton - Paper C)

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to provide the Group with an update on the SCG Action Plan Review, detailing the progress of actions against the priorities identified within the Plan.

Mark informed the Group that a short brochure showcasing a brief summary of the benefits, challenges and achievements of the Group was being compiled and would be circulated to officers for comment prior to publication. This was viewed as key to the Group's ambition to further raise its profile.

Officers also discussed the Regional Habitat Creation Programme, and it was suggested that a presentation be held at the next Group meeting to discuss comparisons between the programmes at Solent South Downs and Wessex and Poole Harbour, with the aim of sharing best practice.

It was AGREED that;

- a) The draft brochure be circulated to the Group for comment; and
- b) An item be held at the next Group meeting for discussion of the Solent South Downs / Wessex and Poole Harbour Regional Habitat Creation Programmes.

34 Coastal Monitoring Report (Stuart McVey - Paper D)

The Chairman invited Stuart McVey to introduce the report on the progress of the Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme and update the Group on any further developments.

The Group also received a tabled interim report, detailing the data collected by the Programme to date and information from differing monitoring programmes in the UK.

Officers discussed the scope and programme of structure laser scan surveys, as these would be useful visual tools for the Group.

Officers also discussed the use of drones for scanning, commenting that this would be a good item to be presented at SCOPAC in early 2019. There may also be opportunities to share resource and best practice for the use of drones across the Group.

It was AGREED that;

- a) The following details be circulated to the Group:

- I. The survey programme of structure laser scan surveys
- II. The package for access to the results of the surveys
- III. A summary of the locations in scope for the programme

- b) An item be added to the SCOPAC Agenda for early 2019 on the use of drones for coastal scanning.

35 Coastal Landfill Update (Neil Watson - Presentation)

The Chairman invited Neil Watson to introduce the item and provide a presentation to the Group on the Coastal Landfill Sites issue.

The presentation updated the Group on the issue, including the latest developments on the funding difficulties for tackling the issue, associated legal concerns and further efforts to raise the national profile of the matter.

During the debate on this item, officers requested further information on the number of sites at risk of erosion within the SCOPAC region.

It was AGREED that an item on the outcomes of the Coastal Landfill Sites Report be added to the SCOPAC agenda for early 2019, and that Tim Kermode and Matt Wadey be invited to present at this meeting.

36 Research Update (Sam Cope - Paper E)

The Chairman invited Dr Samantha Cope to give an overview on the progress of the Research Programme. The update included details of on-going research projects and those that had reached completion.

The Programme had been updated to reflect the reallocation of funds from the Co-ordination of the tracer studies across the SCOPAC region. The Low Height Seawalls project was likely to be removed from the Programme due to financial pressures with the Ebb Deltas projects moved back to 2020/2021. This would be subject to discussion at the Research Sub-Group, prior to a recommendation to the Group.

The following studies were discussed:

- Beach response in front of structures in open coast – The results of the study were being finalised and would be presented to SCOPAC in October.
- Langstone Harbour Entrance Coastal Process Study – Pebble preparation for the project was underway, for deployment by early Spring 2019.
- Digitising Poole Harbour tide gauge record – Student support had been sourced for the study. The comprehensive dataset would form the longest sea-level record for the SCOPAC region, and this could in turn be used to inform projects and produce public-facing infographics.

- Scanning of historical aerial photography – Alex Hillawi would provide support to the project and would be contacting individual authorities, requesting photos to be brought to the SCOPAC meeting in October.
- Dismantling of Timber Groynes – The reports from the study would shortly be published on the SCOPAC website.
- CIRIA Groynes in Coastal Management Manual – The draft manual had been circulated and incorporated work produced by Andy Bradbury. Peter Ferguson would circulate an email to the Group, requesting details on case studies that could be included within the manual.
- SCOPAC Contaminated Land Study – A draft report had been produced and case studies were being finalised. A presentation would be delivered to SCOPAC in early 2019, while the item would also be raised at LGA Coastal SIG.
- Vegetated Shingle Study – A draft report had been sent to Natural England and the updated version would include their comments. An item would be added to the SCOPAC meeting in early 2019.
- SCOPAC Storm Analysis Study – The study would look into recent storm events, and use wave and tide data to produce easily accessible data on these storms. The study would initially run pilot schemes in the East Solent and Dorset area. Following approval from the Research sub-group, the analysis will be rolled out across the SCOPAC region.
- Preston Tracer Study – The study would look to provide better understanding of complex coastal processes around Preston Beach in Weymouth. The work would commence in early November to avoid beach management works. Officers requested details on the tracer study method be circulated to the Group.
- Bradbury's Bursary – The bursary had not been awarded for the current financial year as the nominated projects did not meet the qualifying criteria. The bursary could be opened to a wider University student pool in future years if there is a future risk of the same thing happening again.

37 National FCERM Strategy (Presentation)

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to provide an update to the Group on the National FCERM Strategy.

The update provided the latest progress of the strategy following recent workshops, including the core questions of the update, the guiding principles for all workstreams and the key steps to take forward.

Officers considered this to be a high priority and commented on the need for a co-ordinated response from the Group. It was considered that the Group will respond as a body to any consultation on the issue, with additional comments from individual authorities welcome.

It was AGREED that:

- a) An item on the National FCERM Strategy would be presented at the SCOPAC meeting in October; and
- b) Mark Stratton co-ordinate the Group's response to consultation on the Strategy.

38 Programme Management Tool

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to introduce the item and provide an update on the SCG Programme Management Tool.

Officers highlighted that it was crucial for the Tool to receive a full dataset to be effective, and requested that outstanding information was returned at the earliest opportunity.

The Group were of the same opinion on the high importance of the Tool, as it had many key uses such as demonstrating opportunities for efficiencies and providing an accessible way to view projects in progress. It would also be important to archive data to allow for comparison with previous years.

It was AGREED that:

- a) Mark Stratton would circulate the presentation slides; and
- b) All outstanding returns would be submitted by the end of October 2018.

39 Finance Update and Coastal Group Funding Discussion (Lyll Cairns - Paper F)

The Chairman introduced the updated Finance Report to the Group.

The report detailed the current financial position for the Group and SCOPAC, and the predicted financial position for 2019/20. The paper also highlighted the need for tight monitoring in future years to maintain a positive position, while specifying the associated risks.

The Group discussed future funding, and it was considered that officers should explore further opportunities for external funding, e.g. Local levy fund bids. These could result in funding that would allow Group monies to be used to fund core activities.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) The SCOPAC and SCG accounts for 2018/19 be noted by the Group; and
- b) The SCOPAC and SCG budget for 2019/20 be recommended to SCOPAC for approval.

40 AOB

The Chairman invited officers to raise any other business to the Group.

Neil Watson informed the Group that the EA was working with Network Rail on potential partnership funding opportunities for schemes with mutual benefits. It was AGREED that further details would be circulated to the Group.

Matt Hosey provided the Group with an update on the Local Government Review process in Dorset. An appeal by Christchurch Borough Council had been dismissed and the relevant Councils were due to merge in April 2019.

Andrew Crates thanked the Group for allowing him to attend the Group meeting and commented that it had been a useful and informative exercise.

Dave Picksley informed the Group that the EA had recently updated Coastal Flood Boundary Data. It was AGREED that a link would be circulated to the Group.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 12.53 pm