

## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 17 May 2019

Present:

Lyall Cairns, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Dr Samantha Cope, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Peter Ferguson, New Forest District Council  
Dominic Henly, Chichester District Council  
Mr Matt Hosey, Borough of Poole Council  
Jenny Jakeways, Isle of Wight Council  
Stuart McVey, Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme  
Keith Nursey, Environment Agency  
Andrew Pearce, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Matthew Penny, Dorset Council Partnership  
Mark Stratton, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Mr Neil Watson, Environment Agency

### 41 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Nick Gray, Gordon Wilkinson, Stevyn Ricketts, Peter Marsden, Charlie Thompson, Tim Adams, Solent Forum, Bridget Betts, Angela Marlow, Neil Pettefer, Martin Hurst and Nick Hardiman.

### 42 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Paper A)

It was AGREED that;

- a) A presentation on tracer studies undertaken by the Group be provided at a future SCOPAC meeting;
- b) The Group would provide MTP Refresh numbers for an update to the Programme Management Tool; and
- c) Keith Nursey and Neil Watson would circulate the latest update on Coastal Flood Boundary Data.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Southern Coastal Group held on 14 September 2019 be agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

1. Dr Samantha Cope be listed as an officer of the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership.

### 43 Chairman's Update - Lyall Cairns

The Chairman provided an update to the Group on activities and meetings since the last meeting.

The following points were discussed:

- Attendance at meetings – The Chairman had attended several meetings since September, including Southern RFCC, FCERM Stakeholder meetings and National Coastal Chair meetings. In addition, the Vice-Chairman had attended Wessex RFCC meetings. The feedback from these meetings was positive, with a focus more on ‘place shaping’ (with considerations for businesses, infrastructure and health in addition to housing). Coastal issues were climbing the national agenda but RMAs would have to work within resources given.
- RFCC Bids – Officers had been successful in securing funding from both Wessex and Southern RFCC’s to support delivery of the Group’s main ambitions. The Chairman passed on his thanks to Mark Stratton, Jenny Jakeways, Matt Hosey and Nick Gray for their work in securing these funds.
- FCERM Strategy – The revised Strategy was out for consultation, with revisions focusing on enabling a climate resilient and better prepared society.
- SMP Refresh – The refresh was underway, with the aim to ‘refresh’ SMPs as opposed to a full review.

The Vice-Chairman informed the Group of a new director at the Environment Agency, Catherine Wright. She had been fully receptive and engaged with coastal issues, and this provided a good opportunity to highlight these on a national scale and projects may benefit if they offer solutions to these issues.

#### **44 Finances - Lyall Cairns (Paper B)**

The Chairman introduced the financial papers, which set out the year-end position for 2018/19 and the agreed budget position for 2019/20 for both SCOPAC and the Group.

The report detailed that there would be a predicted £6,000 surplus at the end of the current financial year, but this would need robust financial monitoring to be realised.

The Group acknowledged the tight financial situation and debated the Group’s finances moving forward. Officers discussed the successful RFCC bids for funding to support delivery, and although the Group aimed to be financially sustainable, there may be future similar bids if funds were needed. Officers also suggested offering sponsorship of literature to suppliers to reduce costs for producing brochures.

It was AGREED that the Group’s RFCC bids would be available to any other group who wished to view them.

#### **45 SCG Business Plan - Mark Stratton (Paper C)**

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to lead the discussion of the Business Plan and the leads for items listed.

The Chairman was keen to ensure each item had an allocated lead officer, and as these projects would be funded by the Local Levy, progress updates would need to be provided to the RFCCs. It was also highlighted that the lead officer could be changed if needed.

The Group debated the items on the list, considering priority and who may be best placed to lead.

The Lead Officers were assigned as follows:

- SMPs – Mark Stratton (to lead a sub-group including Neil Watson, Alan Frampton (from August), Samantha Box and Jenny Jakeways, with the use of Tim Kermod as support)
- Capital Investment Programme – Matt Wadey
- Maintenance Programme – Andrew Pearce / Steve Woolard
- Efficiencies – Nick Gray (with support from Samantha Box)
- Partnership Funding – Mark Stratton
- Procurement – Andrew Pearce (with support from Marc Bryan)
- Environment and RHCP
  - Item 1 – Nick Gray / Gavin Holder
  - Item 2 – Gavin Holder, with support from an officer based in Wessex to be confirmed
- Influencing Policies
  - Item 1 – Neil Watson
  - Item 2 – Various as required

It was AGREED that;

- a) A sub-group be set up to consider the priorities and budgets assigned to each task in the Business Plan as well as assessing deliverables, and feed back to the Group. The sub-group would consist of Mark Stratton, Matt Hosey and Neil Watson; and
- b) Stuart McVey would investigate costings for the Regional Monitoring Annual Partners meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11.13am and reconvened at 11.21am**

#### **46 Dorset Devolution Update on BCP and Dorset Council - Matt Hosey**

The Chairman invited Matt Hosey to provide an update on Dorset Devolution.

Following April, nine authorities in Dorset had been subsumed into two – BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council) and Dorset Council. Governance arrangements and officer structures at both authorities were still in the process of being resolved.

A memorandum of understanding had been signed between the two new authorities with a view to establishing a Dorset Coastal Partnership, which was welcomed by the Group.

The Chairman requested that officers inform the Group Secretary of any new elected representatives at the earliest opportunity.

**47 Review of membership arrangements and discussion of a future equitable fee structure - Matt Hosey**

The Chairman invited Matt Hosey to lead the discussion on future membership arrangements and fee structures.

Following the withdrawal of Hampshire County Council and the amalgamation of the Dorset authorities, there was a need to review these arrangements to ensure the Group remains inclusive, fair and attractive to members. The presentation detailed proposed options for future fee structures, including fees based on historic costs, geographical extent of coastline or size of authority, as well as potential consequences and implications.

The Group debated the proposals alongside their views on the current set-up, possible improvements and the value of SCOPAC going forward.

The following points were raised:

- One of the biggest challenges facing the Group was diminishing resource (both financial and personnel), while the issues facing the coastline would not be reducing. It was therefore crucial that the Group strive to work effectively to combat these factors.
- It was important to retain SCOPAC's strong focus on research, with the Group in place to support delivery across the SCOPAC region.
- The current SCOPAC model was outdated, and could be more efficient with better engagement with elected members.
- It was noted that the Environment Agency would undertake secretariat duties if the hosting authority were to withdraw these services.
- It was important to keep the Group and SCOPAC separate, as DEFRA requires an officer-led group to discuss coastal issues.
- There was an appetite to maintain the Group from the authorities present, and there was a feeling that it was valued by officers and elected members.
- The Group / SCOPAC was also viewed as good value, due to the opportunities for shared working and best practice.

It was AGREED that;

- a) Matt Hosey would circulate a questionnaire based on the questions raised in the presentation to all officers, asking for feedback and views on membership arrangements and fee structures; and
- b) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman would develop a proposed way forward to present to the Group and SCOPAC prior to budget setting in November.

#### **48 Research Programme, progress update and call for future research initiatives - Sam Cope (Paper D)**

The Chairman invited Dr Samantha Cope to provide the Group with an overview on the progress of the Research Programme.

The 5 Year Research Programme was in its final year, with £33,200 to be spent on projects in the current financial year. There was a forecasted £17,000 to be spent in the 2020/21 financial year, and a call for new projects would be circulated in due course.

The following updates were given:

- Research Sub-Group – The Sub-Group had met on 5 April to discuss the progress of current projects and the direction of future programmes.
- Grants and bursaries – The 2019/20 Bradbury Bursary had been awarded to a project that would investigate hydrodynamics in Poole Bay.
- CIRIA Groynes in Coastal Management Manual – A second draft had been issued for comment. Peter Ferguson would review on behalf of SCOPAC and would provide a presentation at a future meeting.
- Historical Aerial Photography Scanning – Scans would now be uploaded to the CCO website, while future projects would look to georectify scans to enable practical usage.
- SCOPAC Storm Analysis – The project would continue to be led by Matt Wadey, with support from Dr Ivan Haigh and the ESCP.
- Tracer Study Co-ordination – Details on ESCP tracer studies would be uploaded to the SCOPAC website, and link to the CCO website.
- Ebb Delta Survey – The project would commence in the next financial year (if still considered to be a priority).
- SURGEWATCH Contribution – Dr Haigh had provided a presentation to SCOPAC. The contribution was viewed as good value for the Group.
- EA Preston Tracer Study – There had been issues with smaller tags which would need to be re-deployed in the coming months. Good results had been received from larger pebbles.

- Poole Harbour Tide Gauge Digitising – Good progress had been made and results were being quality checked prior to presenting the findings to the Group.
- Langstone Harbour Tracer Study – The project was making good progress, with good returns received to date.
- Healthy Estuaries 2020 – This project would commence in this financial year (led by Natural England).
- Communications – The SCOPAC website had been updated and the SCG website updates were almost completed.

It was AGREED that future updates would be provided in the format presented at this meeting, with questions taken if needed and project presentations provided when research had been completed.

#### **49 SMP Update and FCERM Strategy - Neil Watson (Paper E)**

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton and Neil Watson to provide the Group with an update on SMPs and FCERM Strategy.

Mark Stratton informed the Group that work to update the SMPs continued, with project objectives agreed for the refresh process.

Neil Watson provided the Group with an update on the new FCERM Strategy. The Strategy featured a prominent focus on climate change and its impacts, with recognition of the need for resilient and adaptive coastal communities while also acknowledging the importance of infrastructure. The Strategy was scheduled to be considered by Parliament in October.

The Group commented on the need to provide a response to the FCERM Strategy consultation. Furthermore, it was highlighted that planning colleagues from individual authorities should also be invited to comment upon the Strategy.

It was AGREED that;

- a) Mark Stratton would canvass the Group for the response to the consultation, while also circulating a draft response for any additions; and
- b) An item be added to the next SCOPAC meeting to provide an update on the FCERM Strategy (to be presented by Mark Stratton and Neil Watson).

#### **50 Coastal Landfill Sites feedback from RFCC Chairs - Neil Watson**

The Chairman invited Neil Watson to provide feedback from RFCCs on Coastal Landfill Sites to the Group.

The presentation detailed concerns over the legal accountability of numerous sites, the scale of the issue and potential remediation options.

Officers commented on the work of SCOPAC in highlighting the issue, which had gained national coverage. The final report was nearing completion, with the inclusion of case study details.

It was AGREED that the report be circulated to Group contacts, Coastal Chairs and LGA SIG members.

#### **51 Coastal Resilience : Southampton University - Lyall Cairns**

The Chairman introduced the discussion of the Coastal Resilience Workshop led by the University of Southampton, which was proposed as a session following the SCOPAC meeting on 21 June.

The workshop was aimed at highlighting the missing link between SMPs and Local Plans, and it was hoped the event could attract interested elected members, Coastal Chairs, RFCC Chairs and Planning colleagues from SCOPAC-region authorities. Entry to the event would be free of charge, with lunch provided.

It was AGREED that;

- a) The flyer and event information be circulated to Group and SCOPAC members (and the SCOPAC event invitation for 21 June be updated accordingly); and
- b) Officers lobby elected members and planning colleagues to attend the event.

#### **52 Refreshing and Reshaping SCG and SCOPAC - Lyall Cairns**

The Chairman confirmed to the Group that, as per discussions undertaken at Item 47, he and the Vice-Chairmen would develop the proposed option for restructuring the Group and SCOPAC for consideration prior to budget setting in November.

It was again emphasised that this would look to refresh the Group and take it back to its original principles.

#### **53 SCOPAC Field Visit - Neil Watson and Matt Penny**

The Chairman invited the Group to discuss a proposed site visit to Weymouth, to be undertaken in the late summer / autumn.

Matt Penny and Neil Watson agreed that the site would be suitable for a visit, with the aim of providing a look at what infrastructure is needed at the site.

It was AGREED that the proposal of Weymouth as a site visit would form an agenda item at the SCOPAC meeting on 21 June.

**54 AOB**

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

Stuart McVey highlighted the Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme report, which provided an update on the latest work of the Channel Coastal Observatory. The CCO also requested any officers who use CCO data as part of projects to contact them to inform a business case.

Mark Stratton would circulate the findings of the DEFRA Partnership Funding Review.

Dr Samantha Cope informed the Group that the timber groynes project in Bournemouth had been completed and a presentation would be provided to SCOPAC.

The Chairman highlighted the possibility of the Group / SCOPAC running a conference. The event could be themed, suppliers could contribute to the discussion at the event and this could be used to generate income. The Group were supportive of the idea and any proposals would be considered at a future meeting.

The next meeting of SCOPAC was scheduled for 21 June 2019.

It was AGREED that suggested dates for future Group meetings be circulated for agreement.

**The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 1.21 pm**