

	REPORT TO CABINET TO BE HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2016
	Key Decision No Forward Plan Ref No
Corporate Priority: Developing safer and stronger communities	Cabinet Portfolio Holder Cllr M. Cockerill

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – 16/50

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL COASTAL WARDS

SUBJECT: NORTH EAST STRATEGIC REGIONAL COASTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME 2016-21

RECOMMENDATION (S):

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i. Accept £2,902,600 FCDGiA (Flood and Coastal Defence Grant in Aid) which is financed 100% from the Environment Agency for the purpose of undertaking strategic coastal monitoring between Flamborough Head and the Scottish Borders. Note that no financial contribution is required from the Council.
- ii. Advise the Cabinet of the intention to procure the services of the specialist monitoring contractors from an EU compliant framework, nationally procured and pre-qualified by New Forest District Council on behalf of all regions via the 'South East Business Porthole' to allow mini competition tendering activities to be undertaken by the regions.
- iii. Approve entering into multiple contracts with the contractors offering the most economically advantageous tender following a mini tendering competition up to the amount of grant offered via the framework.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To continue to collect valuable coastal monitoring data for the north east of England to compliment monitoring data due to be collected by five other strategic regions. The North East monitoring programme is part of a wider £23 million pound National Coastal Monitoring programme covering the whole of England.

To authorise officers to appoint contractors to undertake the required monitoring in a timely fashion to prevent data gaps. Coastal monitoring activities have been undertaken in a structured nationally holistic manner since 2008 through regional partnerships.

HIGHLIGHTED RISKS:

As shown in Appendix A.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet's approval for a 5-year region-wide programme of monitoring of the physical changes in the coastline between St Abb's Head and Flamborough Head. This programme is a continuation of the 2008-2011 & 2011-16 Strategic Monitoring Programmes.
- 1.2 The coastline is commonly referred to as 'Cell 1 north east region' and is over 300 km in length. It contains many urban, rural and industrial areas, important assets and environmentally sensitive areas and is subject to a range of uses and risks.
- 1.3 Coastal monitoring data derived from this programme has and will include beach topographic surveys, nearshore sea bed bathymetric surveys, aerial photography/LiDAR, cliff surveys, structural inspections and habitat mapping. Analysis, interpretation and reporting of the resulting datasets will assist eight maritime Operating Authorities including Scarborough Borough Council (acting as lead Authority), the Environment Agency and other key organisations (e.g. Natural England, The National Trust, MMO, MCA with their activities and interests along this length of coast, particularly in relation to coastal erosion and tidal (sea) flood risk management. The data will also be of considerable value in monitoring the impacts of climate change on the coast and valued by academic intuitions.
- 1.4 The approved Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) within the north east coastline have highlighted the need for coastal monitoring to inform and promote sustainable management and decisions making activities within the region. The promotion and continuation of the regional monitoring programme allows us to meet the recommendation of the two SMP2's within the north east region and to provide data to aid the national understanding of coastal evolution throughout the English Coastline.

- 1.5 Coasts can be highly dynamic environments. In order to assess and manage the risks appropriately from coastal erosion and sea flooding, maritime local Authorities and the Environment Agency, together with other organisations with related responsibilities, have recognised the need for regional coastal monitoring programmes to improve the long-term and wide-scale understanding of coastal processes and shoreline change across coastal cells.
- 1.6 The aim of the region-wide monitoring programme is to build upon this and to continually update and improve understanding of coastal processes and geomorphological behaviour across the cell. This will assist in the definition and pro-active management of coastal erosion and tidal flooding risk. Robust coastal management decisions can be identified with confidence when a long-term region-wide understanding of processes and shoreline change is available, through a purpose-designed monitoring programme. A strategic approach to regional coastal monitoring provides the basis for capturing the data required to make reliable assessments of processes and to predict future changes. Long-term data sets, ideally covering the previous 20-50 years duration, are required to provide the evidence base for optimal decision-making. The accuracy of predictions improves dramatically with extended length of record.

2. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES AND THE COMMUNITY PLAN

- 2.1 The project will support a number of the Council's Corporate Plan aims:
- Aim 1: Developing a Safer Community
 - Aim 2: Building a Prosperous Community
 - Aim 3: Creating a Quality Environment

3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 3.1 Coastal monitoring provides the basis for sound decision making at a strategic level, for the purposes of the development of coastal strategies and schemes. Coastal monitoring is identified as a high priority within the Defra national flood and coastal defence programme administered by the Environment Agency.
- 3.2 The current north east coastal monitoring programme is due to be completed in April 2016. The new programme seeking agreement via this report is aiming to produce a seamless continuation of monitoring activities following the completion of the 2008-16 programme to avoid the loss of vital data.
- 3.3 New Forest District Council, acting as lead authority on behalf of the south east region, and national lead on behalf of all regions including the north east region, has undertaken an EU compliant procurement exercise to appoint a framework of suppliers which all regions can use to call off contractors via mini competition tendering exercises. The framework via the South East Business Porthole has made the following lots available to call off from:

- **Lot 1** - Hydrodynamic Services
- **Lot 2** - Swath Bathymetry Surveys
- **Lot 3** - Single Beam Bathymetry Survey
- **Lot 4** - Topographic Surveys – marine and water related
- **Lot 5** - Aerial Photography and Photogrammetry
- **Lot 6** - Terrestrial Ecological Mapping
- **Lot 7** - Analytical Services
- **Lot 8** - Data Management

3.4 All north east regional coastal monitoring programme data and reports can be freely downloaded from www.northeastcoastalobservatory.org.uk/ National data and reports for all regions can be viewed and downloaded from the following website www.channelcoast.org/

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The proposed monitoring programme and outputs influence the recommendation set out in various coastal defence strategy studies which are subject to extensive public consultation. It is, therefore, not considered necessary to undertake any further public consultation as part of the coastal monitoring programme.
- 4.2 Ongoing engagement, particularly with key stakeholders such as Natural England and coastal authority within the north east will be extremely important to ensure the smooth implementation of the proposed monitoring programme.

5. ASSESSMENT

5.1 The proposed 2016/21 north east 'Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme' consists of the following elements:

- 2 Aerial surveys
- 2 LiDAR surveys
- 2 Coastal defence asset inspection surveys
- Topographical surveys of beaches
- Data Management/Analysis/Reporting/Website Hosting
- Wave and tidal data collection at Scarborough, Whitby and Newbiggin
- Bathymetric surveys
- Sea bed sediment surveys
- Coastal habitat mapping

5.2 This approach will promote consistency across the north east frontage; it is has been deemed more cost effective by the Environment Agency than localised monitoring programme and works towards national objectives of data collection.

6. IMPLICATIONS

(a) Policy

- 6.1 The proposals accord with the Council's SMP2, which was adopted in May 2007.

(b) Financial

- 6.2 It is pleasing to note that £2,902,660 of Environment Agency 'Flood and Coastal Grant in Aid' has been made available for the North East Monitoring Programme secured by the Coastal Projects Team. This sum forms part of a national funding allocation of £23 million that has been made available to fund all 6 regional coastal monitoring programmes across England.
- 6.3 It is not proposed that any Borough Council funding will be expended on this programme. SBC officer time, contractor and survey costs are all included within the allocated sum. Should additional staffing be needed it will be funded from the projects resources.
- 6.4 The grant is awarded in accordance with the Environment Agency's Memorandum relating to Scheme Approval and Grant under the Flood Water Management Act 2010. Under the terms of the grant, the Council is required to complete the scheme/programme in line with the agreed Project Appraisal Report.

(c) Risk

- 6.5 The risks, which may arise from the undertaking of programme, are as set out in Appendix A.

(d) Legal

- 6.6 The proposed north east strategic coastal monitoring programme will be carried out using the Council's permissive powers under the Flood Water Management Act 2010.
- 6.7 There is a requirement to follow the Council's financial and contract procedure rules. This report is part of that process.
- 6.8 All procurement documents and contracts will be approved by the Council's legal service.

(e) Environmental and Sustainable Development

- 6.9 There are no anticipated negative effects on the environment as a result of monitoring activities. Mitigation measures developed alongside Natural England have enabled surveys to be planned and undertaken at times that will not affect over wintering birds on certain beaches. The monitoring programme has been undertaken for a number of years and is adding to our

understanding of the natural coastal environment and the development and effects of climate change.

(f) Others

- 6.14 I have considered whether the following implications arise from this report and am satisfied that there is no identified adverse implications that will arise from this decision to proceed with the north east strategic coastal monitoring programme.

Equalities and Diversity
Staffing
Planning
Crime and Disorder
Health and Safety

7. ACTION PLAN

- 7.1 The current programme is given below:

Cabinet receives report	February 2016
Prepare Tender Documents & Tender	February 2016
Appoint Contractors	March 2016
Complete Contracts	April 2021



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Background Papers: N/A

Appendix A

Risk Matrix

Risk Ref	Date	Risk	Consequences	Mitigation	Current Risk Score	Target Score	Service Unit Manager/ Responsible Officer	Action Plan
1	28.01.16	Budgeted Programme cost exceeded.	Unable to undertake all monitoring activities.	Seek fixed prices from consultants and contractors. Project Board to monitor project progress. Seek financial contributions from other regions or the Environment Agency.	B4	B2	Chris Bourne/ Robin Siddle	Do not proceed to appoint contractors if tendered costs are over budget. Report to cabinet should funding become at risk.
2	28.01.16	Failure to obtain permission from the MMO for wave buoy deployment	Relocate the buoys to more suitable sites	Early and continued consultation with the MMO	B4	A2	Chris Bourne/ Robin Siddle	Submit a quality application to the MMO
3	28.01.16	Lack of Agreement from Natural England	Unable to undertake topographic surveys on key beaches	Ongoing dialogue with Natural England to ensure that their environmental requirements are met, and that the monitoring includes any necessary mitigation measures.	B4	A2	Chris Bourne/ Robin Siddle	Continue communication with NE
4	28.01.16	Monitoring in a hostile marine environment.	Possible delay and costs	H&S plans to be followed and developed.	E2	A2	Chris Bourne/ Robin Siddle	Place H&S requirements in tender and contact documents.
5	28.01.16	Failure to procure contractors in a timely fashion	Loss of data, increased costs	Procure in line with the national programme	B4	B2	Chris Bourne/ Robin Siddle	Develop tender documents as a priority
6	28.01.16	Permission not given to monitor in other	Loss of data for the national programme.	Seek permissions at the coastal Group	B4	A2	Chris Bourne/ Robin Siddle	Gain permissions via the North

Risk Ref	Date	Risk	Consequences	Mitigation	Current Risk Score	Target Score	Service Unit Manager/ Responsible Officer	Action Plan
		authority areas.						East Coastal Group.

Glossary of Terms

Risk	An event which may prevent the Council achieving its objectives
Consequences	The outcome if the risk materialised
Mitigation	The processes and procedures that are in place to reduce the risk
Current Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score with the current mitigation measures in place
Corporate Objectives	An assessment of the Corporate Objectives that are affected by the risk identified.
Target Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score that the Council is aiming to achieve
Service Unit Manager	The Service Unit or Officer responsible for managing the risk
Action Plan	The proposed actions to be implemented in order to reduce the risk to the target score

Risk Scoring

Impact	5					
	4					
	3					
	2					
	1					
		A	B	C	D	E
	Likelihood					

Likelihood:

A = Very Low
 B = Not Likely
 C = Likely
 D = Very Likely
 E = Almost Certain

Impact

1 = Low
 2 = Minor
 3 = Medium
 4 = Major
 5 = Disaster