

Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Review

Appendix B – Stakeholder Engagement

Contents Amendment Record

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Issue	Revision	Description	Date	Approved by
1	0	Consultation Draft	01.05.07	S McFarland
	1	Amendments following public consultation	11.03.08	N Pontee
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	3	Amendments following 2 nd QRG Review	26.02.10	T Edwards N Pontee

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Appendix B: Stakeholder Engagement

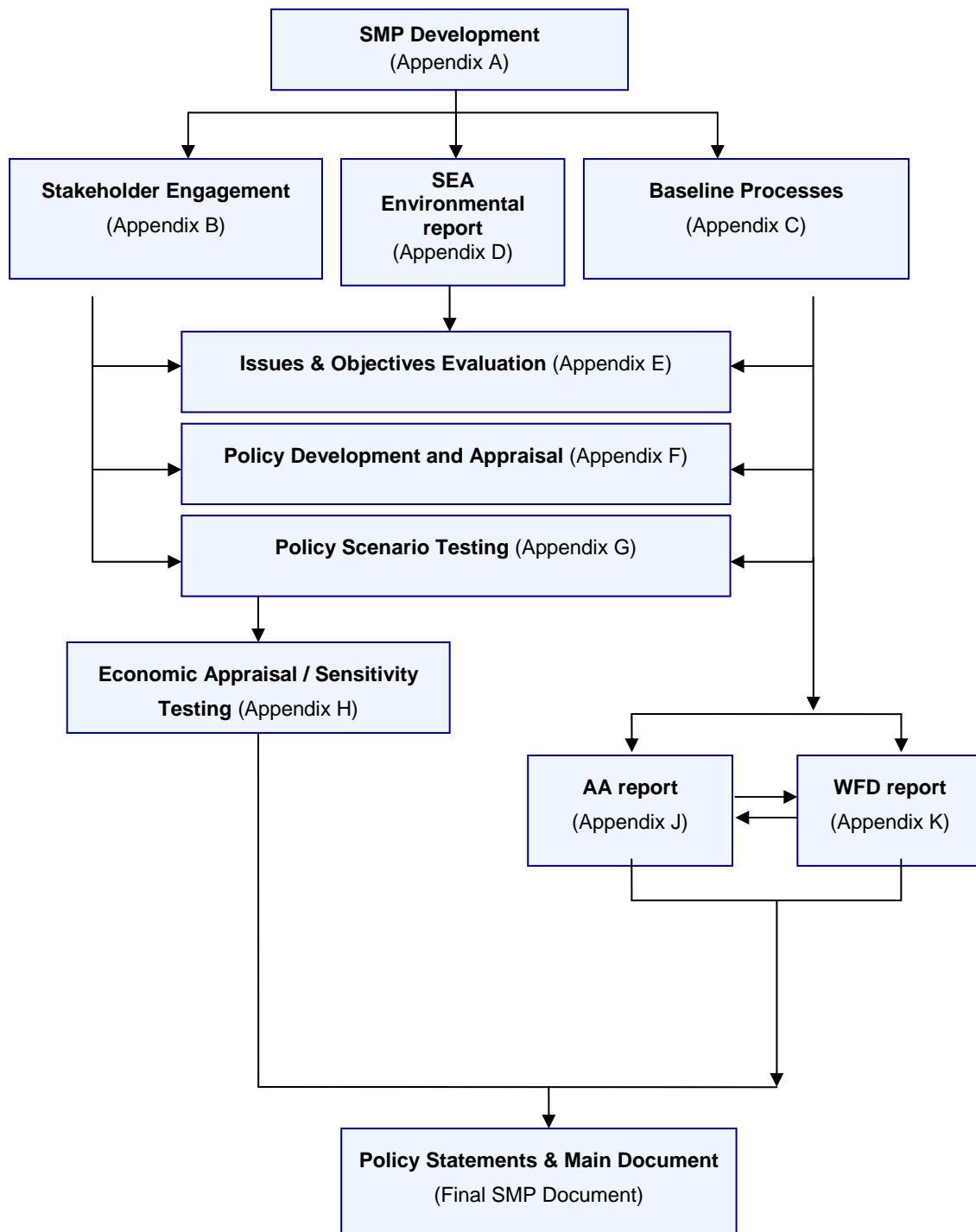
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The Supporting Appendices

This appendix and the accompanying documents provide all of the information required to support the Shoreline Management Plan. This is to ensure that there is clarity in the decision-making process and that the rationale behind the policies being promoted is both transparent and auditable. The appendices are:

A: SMP Development	This reports the history of development of the SMP, describing more fully the plan and policy decision-making process.
B: Stakeholder Engagement	All communications from the stakeholder process are provided here, together with information arising from the consultation process.
C: Baseline Process Understanding	Includes baseline process report, defence assessment, NAI and WPM assessments and summarises data used in assessments.
D: SEA Environmental Report (Theme Review)	This report identifies and evaluates the environmental features (natural environment, landscape character, historic environment, land use, infrastructure and material assets, and population and human health).
E: Issues & Objective Evaluation	Provides information on the issues and objectives identified as part of the Plan development, including appraisal of their importance.
F: Initial Policy Appraisal & Scenario Development	Presents the consideration of generic policy options for each frontage, identifying possible acceptable policies, and their combination into 'scenarios' for testing.
G: Scenario Testing	Presents the policy assessment and appraisal of objective achievement towards definition of the Preferred Plan (as presented in the Shoreline Management Plan document).
H: Economic Appraisal and Sensitivity Testing	Presents the economic analysis undertaken in support of the Preferred Plan.
I: Metadatabase and Bibliographic database	All supporting information used to develop the SMP is referenced for future examination and retrieval.
J: Appropriate Assessment	Presents an assessment of the effect the plan will have on European sites.
K: Retrospective WFD Assessment	Presents a retrospective Water Framework Directive Assessment.

Within each appendix cross-referencing highlights the documents where related appraisals are presented. The broad relationships between the appendices are as below.



B1 Introduction

Four main groups were involved in the SMP development:

1. The Client Steering Group (CSG);
2. An Elected Members Forum (EMF);
3. A Key Stakeholders Forum (KSF); and,
4. Other Stakeholders.

1. See [Appendix A](#) for details

2. The involvement of **Elected Members** in the process of proposal development reflects the "Cabinet" style approach to decision making operating in many local authorities. Politicians are involved from the beginning, thereby reducing the likelihood that the policies will not be approved by the planning authorities. They were involved through a Forum, building trust and understanding between Elected Members, the Client Steering Group and Key Stakeholders.

3. The **Key Stakeholder Forum** (KSF) acts as a focal point for discussion and consultation through development of the project. The membership of the group provides representation of the primary interests within the study area, ensuring consideration of all interests during review of issues. Inclusion of this group offers a more participatory process. This group was involved through workshops. The incorporation of this group provides direct feedback and information to the Consultant, and acts as a focal point for the consultation process. It is also possible to adopt more of a partnership approach to the KSF, by developing a collaborative decision-making forum. Under this approach certain responsibilities normally held by the Client Steering Group (CSG) may be shared by the KSF in order to increase the level of stakeholder ownership of the final decisions.

4. **Other Stakeholders:** There will always be large numbers of individuals and organisations who are likely to be affected by the decisions of the project. It is unlikely to ever be practical to involve all these stakeholders on one of the three groups outlined above, therefore there will remain a group of 'Other Stakeholders'. This group will be contacted directly by the project developers but will not be involved in its development, other than at the very start and as consultees on the draft decisions.

Both the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review and the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP were undertaken at the same time. Consequently, members of the CSG, EMF and KSF listed in this Appendix were involved in the stakeholder engagement for both SMPs and therefore some meetings / forums were jointly held for both SMPs.

Table B1.1 Summary of the Stakeholder Strategy

Stage of Plan Preparation	Activity	Dates	Purpose of stakeholder involvement	Stakeholders involved	Method of involvement
Stage 1: SMP Scope	Initial Stakeholder contact	December 2005 to February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform interested parties that an SMP is being prepared (on behalf of Defra and relevant local authorities) • Segregate the interested parties into three groups (Elected Members, Key Stakeholders and Stakeholders) • Request information from interested parties • Gather views on issues relating to the SMP coast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members • Key Stakeholders • Stakeholders 	Letter and Questionnaire (different letters sent to different groups) Follow-up telephone calls
	Initial Elected Members and Key Stakeholders Forum held	February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that all relevant issues have been included • Review the features identified • Check that the benefits identified are correct and that we have included all beneficiaries • Check that the objectives are a good representation of the requirements of the beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members • Key Stakeholders 	Power point presentation Round-table meeting
Stage 2: Assessments to support policy	Draft Issues Table	December 2005	EMF and KSF members asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that all relevant issues have been included • Review the features identified • Check that the benefits identified are correct and that we have included all beneficiaries • Check that the objectives are a good representation of the requirements of the beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members • Key Stakeholders 	Draft Issues Table and accompanying note sent via email and/or by post

	Draft Issues and Objectives Table	November 2005	EMF and KSF members asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check objectives set and ranking • Review information prior to meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members • Key Stakeholders 	Draft Issues and Objectives Table sent as part of briefing note by email and/or post
Stage of Plan Preparation	Activity	Dates	Purpose of stakeholder involvement	Stakeholders involved	Method of involvement
Stage 3: Policy Development	Second Key Stakeholders and Elected Members Forum	May 2006 and August 2006	The objectives of the forum were to establish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision(s) of the various stakeholders for the whole SMP shoreline over each epoch • Any 'overriding drivers' for directing future policy, and specific future policy options that the stakeholders wish to see tested • Agree the benefits • Areas of agreement and conflict i.e. main flood and erosion risks • Potential scope for compromise and acceptance of future change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members • Key Stakeholders 	<p>Briefing note sent out prior to meeting explaining role of meeting.</p> <p>Meeting involved a formal presentation followed by a number of round-table discussion sessions.</p> <p>Summary note sent out following meeting summarising key conclusions.</p>
	Third Key Stakeholders and Elected Members Forum	January 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMF and KSF members were presented with the policy options examined • Discussion on proposed policy appropriateness • EMF and KSF members were invited to take a role in steering policy decisions along the coast. • Areas of agreement and conflict i.e. main flood and erosion risks • Potential scope for compromise and acceptance of future change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members • Key Stakeholders 	<p>Briefing note sent out prior to meeting explaining work to date on developing policies and role of meeting.</p> <p>Meeting involved a formal presentation followed by a number of round-table discussion sessions.</p>
Stage 4: Public Examination	Public Consultation	May to September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make stakeholders aware of the draft plan • To provide stakeholders with opportunities for support and objection and moving to resolve differences 	Wider public	Distribution of summary leaflet and SMP document made available for viewing.

Stage of Plan Preparation	Activity	Dates	Purpose of stakeholder involvement	Stakeholders involved	Method of involvement
Stage 5: Finalise SMP		October to December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review output from public examination and theme the responses Produce a Consultation Report on these findings Meet with CSG to discuss the nature of feedback (amending the plan / policies if need be) Meet with EMF to discuss and agree the Final Plan (amend the plan / policies if need be) Draft and agree Action Plan Meet with CSG to discuss EMF, the Action Plan and finalisation of the plan Update the Main Document and Appendices Present Members with the final plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSG EMF 	Proposed changes to draft plan, Consultation Report and Action Plan reviewed by CSG. Outcomes relayed to the EMF.
Stage 6: SMP Dissemination		January 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate to Local Authorities, Natural England, the Environment Agency and Defra Update the SMP website: www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk Inform stakeholders of the final plan 	Wider public	Hard copies and CD s. Information available to download in PDF format at www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk . Summary leaflets disseminated at Local Authorities discretion.

B2 Membership Lists

B2.1 ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM (EMF)

Five meetings were held with the Elected Members: 6th March 2006, 2nd August 2006, 11th-12th January 2007 at the Town Hall, Canterbury, 24th October 2007 at Swale Council offices and 30th January 2008 at Canterbury City Council offices. Minutes from these meetings are included in Section B4. The Table below shows attendees at the meetings.

Name	Organisation	Attended 8 th February 2006 Forum	Attended 2 nd August 2006 Forum	Attended 11 th -12 th January 2007 Forum	Attended 24 th October 2007 Interim meeting	Attended 30 th January 2008 Forum
Cllr Gerry Lewin	Swale Borough Council	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Cllr Mike Patterson	Canterbury City Council	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Cllr Nicholas Kenton	Dover District Council	N	N	Y	N	Y
Cllr Andrew Bowles	Kent County Council	N	N	N	Y	Y
Cllr John Kirby	Thanet District Council	Y	N	Y	N	
Cllr Alistair Bruce	Thanet District Council					Y
Cllr Phil Filmer	Medway Council	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Cllr Mike Harrison (Chair)	Regional Flood Defence Committee/KCC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cllr Matthew Balfour	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	N	Y	Y	N	
Cllr Brian Luker	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council					Y

B2.2 KEY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM (KSF)

The KSF involved a select number of individuals with an interest in the preparation of a SMP or those likely to be affected by the SMP policies. Members of the KSF were selected through discussion with the CSG, comprising the Local Authorities, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

During the Initial Stakeholder Engagement exercise these individuals were invited to become members of the Key Stakeholders Forum, with the understanding that this would require greater involvement in the SMP preparation including attendance at meetings and reviewing documents. Not all KSF members were able to attend all of the Key Stakeholder workshops and through the course of the SMP development specific organisations were represented by alternative members if the original member could not attend. The Table below records information sent to Key Stakeholder members and attendance at the various meetings:

Name	Organisation	Attended KSF1 (Feb 2006)	Attended KSF2 (May 2006)	Attended KSF3 (Jan 07)
Simon Herrington	Herrington Consultancy	Y	Y	N
Anne Thurston	Environment Agency	N	Y	Y
Clive Older	Environment Agency	N	N	Y
Rebecca Smith	Environment Agency (CFMP)	N	Y	N
Lisa Lennox	Environment Agency (FRM)	Y	Y	N
Nigel Pye	Environment Agency (TE2100)	N	Y	N
Lorna Gustaffsen	Environment Agency (TE2100)	N	Y	N
Hannah Gribben	Environment Agency	N	Y	Y
Paula Wadsworth	Environment Agency	N	Y	Y
Carol Pierce	Environment Agency	Y	Y	Y
Ian Murrell	Environment Agency	Y	N	Y
Frank Chester	Environment Agency	Y	N	Y
Martin Tapp	Stour IDB	Y	Y	Y
Colin Carr	Sandwich Port and Haven Commission	Y	Y	Y
Colin Fitt	Thanet District Council	N	Y	N
Ian Lewis	Swale Borough Council	Y	Y	Y
Liz Holliday	Kent County Council	Y	Y	?
Cllr Mike Harrison	Kent County Council	Y	Y	N
Ingrid Chudleigh	English Nature	N	Y	Y
Bryony Chapman	Kent Wildlife Trust	N	Y	N
Richard Moyse	Kent Wildlife Trust	N	Y	Y

Name	Organisation	Attended KSF1 (Feb 2006)	Attended KSF2 (May 2006)	Attended KSF3 (Jan 07)
Alison Giacomelli	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Y	Y	Y
George Crozer	Friend of the North Kent Marshes	Y	Y	N
Simon Ellis	Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee	N	Y	N
John Bayes	Seasalter Shellfish	Y	Y	N
David Thorpe	Kent Wildfowlers	N	Y	N
Kevin Atwood	National Farmers Union	N	Y	N
Andrew Redsell	National Farmers Union	N	Y	Y
Michael Collins	Kent Ramblers	N	Y	Y
Tony Child	Thanet Coast Project	Y	Y	Y
Jodie McGregor	MSEP	N	Y	N
Bernie Lambert	Thanet District Council	Y	Y	N
Peter Starling	Rochester Oyster and Floating Fisheries	N	N	Y
Howard Moore	Highways Agency	N	N	N
Mike Mckeown	Southern Water	N	N	Y
Alex Homfray	Sport England	Y	N	N
Elaine Kirkaldi	Seasalter Shellfish	Y	N	N
Joss Wiggins	Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee	Y	N	N
Mick Oliver	DEFRA Rural Development Service	N	N	N
Sarah Parker	Canterbury City Council	Y	N	N
Pete Dowling	Stour IDB	Y	N	N
Maggie Morgan	National Trust	N	N	N
Graham Birch	Network Rail	Y	N	N
Jo Anderson	SEEDA	N	N	N
David Partridge	Power Stations (Kingsnorth and Isle of Grain)	Y	N	N
Lis Dyson	Kent County Council	N	N	Y
Adrian Fox	Dover District Council	N	N	N
Stephen Fuller	Kent RIGS	Y	N	N
Cllr Andrew Bowles	RFDC	N	N	N
Steven Kemp	Environment Agency	Y	N	Y
Josh Peacock	Environment Agency	Y	N	N
Mike Watson	Upper and Lower Medway IDB	Y	N	N
Jo Scott	Pfizer Ltd	N	N	N

Name	Organisation	Attended KSF1 (Feb 2006)	Attended KSF2 (May 2006)	Attended KSF3 (Jan 07)
Behdad Haratbar	Kent Highway Services	N	N	N
Cllr Jim Cronk	Middle Deal and Sholden Coastal Cllr	N	N	N
Dominic Evans	Ramsgate Port	Y	N	Y
Gordon Harris	SEEDA	N	N	N
Robert Hinge	NFU Swale Region	N	N	Y
Harry Moulard	Landowner/NFU	N	N	Y
John Archer	National Farmers Union	Y	N	N
Brian Stone	NFU	Y	N	Y
Kevin Attwood	NFU	Y	N	Y
Steve Medlock	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	N	N	Y
Phil Woodgate	Medway Ports	Y	N	Y
Dr Will Wright	Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee	N	N	Y
Joan Dorwell	Friends of the North Kent Marshes	N	N	Y
Gill Moore	Friends of the North Kent Marshes	Y	N	Y
Mike Humber	Thanet DC	N	N	Y
Cllr John Bragg	Sandwich Town Council/Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners/Royal St. Georges Golf Club	N	N	Y
Roger Walton	Dover DC	N	Y	Y
Peter Jackson	Whitstable Architect	N	N	N
Jeremy Watts	Sandwich Town Council	N	N	N
John Godden	Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners	Y	N	N

B2.3 ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

The following Table indicates additional stakeholders contacted during the Initial Stakeholder Engagement stage: all these received the letter and questionnaire explaining that the SMP was being reviewed, as well as requesting data and further information (see Section B3 for sample letters and questionnaire).

Organisations			
Royal St Georges Golf Club	Lynsted Parish Council	Friends of North Deal	Thanet Countryside Trust

Organisations			
Sandwich Bay Sailing Club	Frindsbury Extra Parish Council	City of Rochester Society	Margate Central Coastal Councillor
Seasalter Golf Club Ltd	Beresford Gap Waterski & Wakeboard Club	The Ramsgate Society	Kent Downs AONB Unit
Seasalter Sailing Club	River Medway Business Users Association	Maidstone Borough Council	Medway Yachting Association
South East England Tourist Board	Thanet Nature Conservation Umbrella Group	Oare Parish Council	Minster Beach Windsurf Club
Whitstable Library	Faversham Town Council	Iwade Parish Council	Lower Halstow Parish Council
Whitstable and District Angling Society	Monkton Parish Council	White Cliffs Country Tourism Association	Catermaran Yacht Club
Whitstable Museum	Sandwich Sailing and Motor Boat Club	Medway Ports	Viking Coastal Councillor
The Deal Society	Deal Town Council	Kent RIGS	Burden Bros. Contractors Ltd
Saxon Shore Residents Association	Eastcliff Coastal Councillor	Westgate-On-Sea Coastal Councillor	Birchington North Coastal Councillor
Sport England, South East Region	Stoke Parish Council	Whitstable Oyster Fisheries Co.	N. Deal, Coastal Councillor
Tonge Parish Council	Kent Ornithological Society	Central Harbour Coastal Councillor	Dickens Country Protection Society
Cliftonville West Coastal Councillor	Sandwich, Coastal Councillor	Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust	North Road Residents Association
White Cliffs Countryside Project	Kingfisher Angling Preservation Society	Kent Fisheries Consultative Association	Medway Chamber of Commerce
Canterbury Archaeological Trust	South Road Residents Association	The Margate Society	Dover Port
Foreness Water Ski Club	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	Thanet Water Users Advisory Group	Christ Church University College, Fisheries GIS Unit
Luddenham Parish Council	Cliftonville Residents Association	Deal and Walmer Inshore Fishermans Association	Thanet Fishermans Association
The Crown Estate	Broadstairs and St. Peters Angling Society	Nayland Boat Sea Angling Society	Maidstone Museum
Cliffsend Residents Association	Seasalter Water Ski Club	Walmer & Kingsdown Golf Club	Warden/Oare Parish Councils
Herne Bay & Whitstable Water Safety Committee	ISAC 1871 Invicta Sub Aqua Club	Canterbury and Coastal Kent	Teynham Parish Council
Maidstone Borough Council	Queenborough Town Council	Margate Yacht Club	Bradstowe Coastal Councillor

Organisations			
Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Minnis Bay Sailing Club	Birchington Angling Sea Society
Deal and Walmer Fishing Association/National Federation of Sea Anglers South East Division	Minster on Sea Parish Council	Foreness Environmental Action	Herne Bay Angling Association
The Ramsgate and Broadstairs Civic Society	Birchington Parish Council	Groundwork Medway Swale	Friends of Faversham Creek
Isle of Sheppey Sailing Club	National Grid Company Plc	Sandwich Bay Sailing and Water Ski Club	British Marine Industries Federation
Kingsgate Coastal Councillor	JAWS	The Cruising Association	Campaign Protection of Rural England (CPRE)
HM Coastguard, MCA	St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe Parish Council	Broadstairs Sailing Club	Thanet Sports Council/Thanet Sub-Aqua Club
Newington Parish Council	Bobbing Parish Council	Herne Bay Sailing Club	Isle of Thanet Tourism Association
Sustrans	Cuxton Parish Council	Worth Parish Council	Acol Parish Council
Trust for Thanet Archaeology	St. Mildreds Bay Association	Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Sheppey Coastguard
Whitstable Society	North Kent Yachting Association	Kent Archaeological Society	Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust
The Sandwich Society	Sir Moses Montefiore Coastal Councillor	HM Coastguard	Sandwich Bay Residents Association Ltd
Thanet 106 Sub-Aqua Club BSAC	Kent Wildfowling and Conservation Association	Graveney with Goodstone Parish Council	Westbrook Coastal Councillor
Arethusa Venture Centre	Walmer, Coastal Councillor	St. Margarets at Cliffe, Coastal Councillor	The Pier Yard, Royal Harbour
Seasalter Chalet Owners Association	Birchington North Coastal Councillor	Marine Conservation Society	Whitstable Yacht Club
Cliffsend and Pegwell Coastal Councillor	Kite Surfing (Minnis Bay Windsurfing Club)	Upnor Sailing Club	Sandwich Community Association
Broadstairs and St. Peter's Town Council	Ringwould with Kingsdown, Coastal Councillor	Wellington Parade Residents Association	Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Ramsgate Town Partnership	The Granville Cliffe Estate Company Ltd	Margate Town Partnership	Pegwell & District Association
Medway Valley Countryside Partnership	Kent Police Marine Unit	Leysdown Parish Council	Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
Cliftonville East Coastal Councillor	Sustainability Actions	Upchurch Parish Council	Sholden Parish Council

Organisations			
Ringwould with Kingsdown Parish Council	Bradstowe Coastal Councillor	The Faversham Society (Faversham Society Planning Committee)	Planet Thanet
Ospringle Parish Council	Hernhill Parish Council	The Churches Conservation Trust	East Kent Maritime Trust
Queenborough Fishermen's Association	East Kent Friends of the Earth	Halling Parish Council	West Beach Caravan Site
Royal Yachting Association, SE Region	Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Eastern Division, Divisional Base East	Minnis Bay Windsurfing Club	North Foreland Estate
Manston Parish Council	The Downs Sailing Club	All Hallows Parish Council	The Broadstairs Civic Society
Thamesport	Royal Temple Yacht Club	Cliffsend Parish Council	Wildlife Sailing
Walmer Parish Council	Residents Association	Westgate and Westbrook Residents Association	East Kent Yachting Association
Eastchurch Parish Council	Birchington Angling Sea Society	St Mary Hoo Parish Council	Kent Federation of Amenity Societies
University of Sussex			

B3 Initial Stakeholder Engagement Materials

The Initial Stakeholder Engagement 'pack' sent out included:

1. An invitation letter: three variations of the invitation letter were produced and sent to the following categories of stakeholders (although it should be noted that there were a few duplications of the organisations being represented at both the Elected Member and Key Stakeholder level):
 - Members of the Elected Members Forum;
 - Members of the Key Stakeholder Forum; and,
 - Other stakeholders to whom a formal approach should be made. They are considered to be aware but not be familiar with SMP process. This could include: the general public, individual landowners and small businesses.

2. A questionnaire which requested basic contact details, the organisations interests and concerns with the coastline and the review of the SMP as well as whether they held or could provide any data/information.

B3.1 BACKGROUND OF SMPS: STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION

Summary of the Shoreline Management Plan Process

WHAT IS A SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address the risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.

The SMP is a non-statutory, policy document for coastal defence management planning. It takes account of other existing planning initiatives and legislative requirements and is intended to inform wider strategic planning. It does not set policy for anything other than coastal defence management.

BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW OF THE ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND SMP

The original Shoreline Management Plan covered the open coastline from Isle of Grain to Dover Harbour and was completed in 1996. It defined coastal defence management policies for a 50 year time period based upon the Government guidance issued at that time. Since 1996, numerous coastal defence strategies and schemes have subsequently been developed based on the policies recommended in the SMP. A summary of the Isle of Grain to Dover Harbour SMP is available on the South East Coastal Group website:

<http://www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk/cgi-bin/buildpage.pl?mysql=83&mode=content>

The Government guidance for producing Shoreline Management Plans has been substantially revised in the last two years to take account of changes in legislation (e.g. the European Union Habitats Directive) and changes in national flood and coastal defence planning policy as set out in the Government's "Making Space for Water" Strategy.

The South East Coastal Group which comprises representatives of all the coastal management operating authorities in the southeast of England is responsible for coordinating the SMP review. These reviews will take account of the changes in government guidance outlined above and take advantage of the results of the latest coastal process studies and coastal defence strategies which have now been produced to cover most of the SMP area.

THE IGSF CLIENT STEERING GROUP

The coastline covered by this Plan comes within the boundaries of five district / unitary local authorities who together with the Environment Agency have certain permissive powers for defending the coast. Each of the five district / unitary local authorities, the Environment Agency and the County Council have one or more representatives on the client steering group drawn from the engineering and planning teams. English Nature and English Heritage are also represented on the client steering group to ensure that natural and historic built environment interests are taken into account. Defra also attend the steering group meetings as an observer to provide advice on the procedural guidance and central Government policy with respect to the SMP process.

Client steering group members for the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP are listed below:

Name	Representing
*Ron Bonner	Medway Council
*Ian Lewis	Swale Borough Council
*Steve McFarland (Project Manager)	Canterbury City Council (Lead Authority)
*Bernie Lambert	Thanet District Council
*Roger Walton	Dover District Council
*Elizabeth Holiday	Kent County Council
*Helen Dalton	Environment Agency (Southern Region)
*Lisa Lennox	Environment Agency (Kent Area)
*Susannah Peckham/Ingrid Chudleigh	English Nature
Peter Kendal	English Heritage
Yolanda Foote/Mark Smith	Environment Agency
Carol Pierce	Environment Agency
Anita Soloman	Medway Council (Planning)
Steve Bessant	Swale Borough Council (Planning)
Sarah Parker	Canterbury City Council (Planning)
Christina Bell	Canterbury City Council
Colin Fitt	Thanet District Council (Planning)
TBA	Dover District Council (Planning)
Sarah Draper	Medway / Swale Estuary Partnership
Stephen Jenkinson	DEFRA
Simon Herrington	Herrington Consulting
* Client steering group core members	

THE MEDWAY ESTUARY AND SWALE SMP

Only the outermost parts of the Medway and Swale Estuaries were included in the original “open coast” SMP when it was developed in 1996. This was in line with the guidance at that time. There is therefore no strategic framework for the management of flood and erosion risks in the Estuaries which is hindering decision making on long-term policies for the area. The Environment Agency who have permissive powers for undertaking flood defence works in the Estuaries wish to develop a strategic flood risk management plan for the area and have elected to develop this plan in line with the SMP guidance.

THE MSFP CLIENT STEERING GROUP

The Client Steering Group for the Estuary SMP comprises representatives of the Environment Agency as well as Swale, Medway and Kent Councils. English Nature, English Heritage, The Medway / Swale Estuary Partnership and DEFRA are also represented. In addition the Chairman of the Client Steering

Group for the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP will attend the meetings to help ensure consistency across the boundaries of the two plans.

Client steering group members are listed below:

Name	Representing
*Ron Bonner	Medway Council
*Brian McCutcheon	Medway Council
*Bernie Lambert	Thanet District Council
*Ian Lewis	Swale Borough Council
*Roger Walton	Dover District Council
*Elizabeth Holliday	Kent County Council
*Helen Dalton	Environment Agency (Southern Region)
*Susannah Peckham/Ingrid Chudleigh	Natural England
*Yolanda Foote/Mark Smith	Environment Agency (Lead Authority)
*Carol Pierce	Environment Agency
*Steve McFarland	Canterbury City Council
Lisa Lennox	Environment Agency
Peter Kendal	English Heritage
Anita Soloman	Medway Council (Planning)
Steve Bessant	Swale Borough Council (Planning)
Sarah Draper	Medway / Swale Estuary Partnership
Sarah Parker	Canterbury City Council (Planning)
Colin Fitt	Thanet District Council (Planning)
Stephen Jenkinson	DEFRA
Simon Herrington	Herrington Consulting
* Client steering group core members	

JOINT CLIENT STEERING GROUP

In order to encourage consistency across the two plans and make efficient use of the steering group member's time, it is intended to initially run the two groups as a joint steering group. This joint steering group will be responsible for overseeing the initiation of the two plans, agreeing the communication plan and overseeing the data collection process. Whether the two groups continue to act as a joint steering group or not depends on the progress of the individual plans and in particular the timescale for decision making.

ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM

During 2004 and 2005, Shepway District Council, acting on behalf of the South East Coastal Group, led the preparation of the South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan. This SMP

was one of three models which were trialled for the UK shoreline. The South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan was unique in the trials in that a forum of Elected Members was involved throughout the development of the plan in debating and agreeing the terms of reference and outcomes on behalf of their own Authority.

The model developed during the production of the South Foreland to Beachy Head SMP has received a good deal of positive response from both the national group overseeing the three alternative models and from the Elected Members themselves who were involved in the process. For this reason the South East Coastal Group are applying the same approach to the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan and the Environment Agency are also following a similar approach in the Medway and Swale Estuaries.

The Elected Members Forum will have the opportunity to review the development of the plans and, in particular, comment on how the draft objectives and policies meet their Authorities needs. It is important that the Elected Member is able to agree the developing plan on behalf of the Authority in order that the policies contained in the plans are able to be ratified by the Authority in due course.

Details of the Elected Members invited to attend the forum are listed below:

Name	Representing
Cllr John Wright	Swale Borough Council
Cllr Mike Patterson	Canterbury City Council
Cllr Nicholas Kenton	Dover District Council
Cllr John Kirby	Thanet District Council
Cllr A Prodger	Medway Council
Ms Ruth Kosmin	Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC)
To be advised	Kent County Council

As is the case with the Client Steering Groups, it is intended that the Elected Members Forum runs initially as a joint Forum with the Members themselves deciding on whether future forum meetings should be joint or plan specific.

STAKEHOLDERS

There will always be large numbers of individuals and organisations who are likely to be interested or potentially affected in some way by the decisions of the project. It is intended to contact as many such individuals and organisations as reasonably possible in the early stages of the plan development to ask for their views and data contributions where applicable.

Those stakeholders who confirm an interest will be contacted by email or letter with updates on the progress of the plans. Further information will be available on the South East Coastal Group Website.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

The Key Stakeholders Forum is a forum which is designed to act as a focal point for discussion and consultation at key stages during the development of the project. Because it is impractical to involve all stakeholders in the Key Stakeholder Forum meetings it is important that the membership of this group should provide a fair representation of the primary interests within the study area, ensuring due consideration of all interests during the review process.

The Key Stakeholder Forum needs to include representatives of those who will be significantly affected by the outcomes of the SMP review process including appropriate representation of the public.

It is intended that the first Key Stakeholder Forum is a joint forum in which the whole SMP process is explained and initial views sought. Subsequent forum meetings are likely to be specific to the individual plans because of the large number of issues likely to arise for each of the two plans.

A list of the Stakeholders / Key Stakeholders will be maintained by the project managers and their consultants and will be available on the coastal group website*

B3.2 ELECTED MEMBER INVITATION LETTER (SAMPLE)

South East Coastal Group,

C/o Military Road, Canterbury

Kent, CT1 1YW

www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

27th October 2005

Dear

Medway & Swale Estuaries and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plans.

We are writing to invite you/your organisation in the development of two strategic coastal flood and erosion plans for the north and east coast of Kent. These are (1) the Shoreline Management Plan for the Medway and Swale Estuaries and (2) the review of the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan.

During 2004 and 2005 Shepway District Council, acting on behalf of the South East Coastal Group, led the preparation of the South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). This SMP was one of three models which were tested for the UK shoreline. The South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan was unique in that a forum of Elected Members was involved throughout the development of the plan in debating and agreeing the terms of reference and outcomes on behalf of their own Authority.

The model developed during the production of the South Foreland to Beachy Head SMP has received a good deal of positive response from both the national group overseeing the three alternative models and from the Elected Members themselves who were involved in the process. For this reason the South East Coastal Group intend to apply the same approach to the Medway and Swale Estuaries and Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plans.

Because of your Council's interest in this coastline, we would like to invite you to the initial meeting of the Elected Members Forum to be held on a date, probably around the end of January 2005. We shall write to you again to confirm the arrangements once they are finalised. In the meantime, we would be grateful if you would confirm your nomination to participate in the Forum.

It is anticipated that the Elected Members Forum would likely meet on three or four occasions during the next 18 months.

As a member of the Elected Members Forum you will have the opportunity to review the development of the plans and, in particular, comment on how the draft objectives and policies meet your Authorities needs and those of the residents you represent. It is important that the Elected Member is able to agree the developing plan on behalf of the Authority in order that the policies contained in the plans are able to be ratified by the Authority in due course.

For your further information, we attach:

A map showing the area that the Plans cover

A brief summary of the SMP Process and the anticipated role of the Elected Members and Key Stakeholders Forum.

Full contact details of your local authority / Environment Agency representative on the Steering Group

A full list of other organisations invited to join the Key Stakeholders Forums

If you have any questions on the above please contact your Authorities representative on the Officer Steering Group in the first instance. You can find their details on the local Authority contact list.

It would be much appreciated if you could confirm your participation in the Elected Members Forum to Christina Bell on 01227 862575 or alternatively by email to christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Steve McFarland

South East Coastal Group (Chair)

B3.3 KEY STAKEHOLDER SAMPLE INVITATION LETTER

South East Coastal Group

c/o Military Road, Canterbury,

Kent, CT1 1YW

www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

Dear

Shoreline Management Plans for Kent

We are writing to invite you/your organisations participation in the development of Shoreline Management Plans for Kent. One plan will cover the Medway Estuary and Swale and the other will cover the North and East Kent coast (the Isle of Grain to South Foreland, near Dover).

The South East Coastal Group is preparing these plans to consider flood and erosion risk management over the next 100 years. The Coastal Group members comprise organisations with responsibilities related to the management of coastal defences in the area. These organisations are Medway Council, Swale Borough Council¹²⁰, Canterbury City Council, Thanet District Council, Dover District Council, the Environment Agency, Kent County Council and English Nature.

These projects have been commissioned to take account of:

- Latest coastal studies (e.g. improved understanding of likely climate change impacts);
- Issues identified by most recent coastal management planning (e.g. coastal defence strategy plans and other coastal initiatives);
- Changes in legislation (e.g. European Union Habitats Directive);
- Changes in policy development procedures (new guidance prepared by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)).

Because of you/ your organisation's interest in this coastline, we are writing to invite you to the initial meeting of the Key Stakeholder Forum to be held on a date, yet to be finalised, at the end of January 2006. We shall write to you again to confirm the arrangements. In the meantime, we would be grateful if you would confirm your willingness to participate in the Forum. Participation would be likely to involve attendance at three meetings during the next 24 months

Furthermore, we would appreciate your help in providing any appropriate information you may hold which will improve the data on which the plans are prepared. We would like to learn too about those issues that you would want to see being addressed in the plans and any other comments that you feel the Coastal Authorities should be aware of during the preparation of the plans. To this end, would you please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire through which you can indicate your areas of

interest, the form and type of information you may hold appropriate to the study of the coastline and what future contact arrangements we should make with your organisation. We have attached a list displaying the data we already hold and the type of data we hope to obtain from you.

In summary, the role of these plans is to provide large-scale assessments of the risks associated with coastal and estuarine processes and to present a policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner over the next 100 years. They determine the natural forces that are sculpting the shoreline and predict, as far as is possible, the way in which it will be shaped into the future. The plans then go on to identify the main issues of concern relating to erosion and flood risk, and the management of these natural processes. These issues will be obtained from those with an interest in the coast, be it as residents, businesses or those with a concern for the natural and built heritage. The issues are then brought together to determine the policies which should be applied to allow society's objectives to be achieved in full acknowledgement of the potential impact on the natural environment and likely environmental, financial and social costs involved.

The risk management policies to be considered are those defined by Defra.

These are:

- **Hold the existing defence line;**
- **Advance the existing defence line;**
- **Managed realignment** – allowing controlled retreat of the shoreline;
- **No active intervention** – a decision not to provide or maintain defences.

These policies relate to the provision of flood and erosion defences; however plan development and implementation is jointly undertaken by engineering and planning officers.

As a member of the Key Stakeholder Forum you will have the opportunity to review the development of the plans and, in particular, comment on how the draft objectives and policies meet your needs and those of others you represent.

For these reasons, we attach:

1. A note containing further information on Shoreline Management Plans;
2. A brief questionnaire and accompanying data list;
3. Contact details of the local authorities and the Environment Agency;
4. A full list of other organisations that are being contacted;
5. A map showing the areas that the Plans cover.

We would be extremely grateful if you would complete and return the enclosed questionnaire by December 12th 2005 to: **South East Coastal Group. c/o Christina Bell, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW**. Alternatively, you can download the questionnaire from: www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk and return it via e mail to christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk.

If you do not wish to be involved with the Shoreline Management Plan Review or to be contacted any

further concerning this matter, please complete the enclosed slip and return it in the prepaid envelope enclosed. Alternatively contact Christina Bell on the e-mail address displayed above or by telephone: 01227 862575.

For information, the Environment Agency is also preparing plans for the management of flood risk from rivers in Kent. These are called Catchment Flood Management Plans and you may be contacted about these separately by the Environment Agency.

Yours sincerely

p. p Christina Bell

Steve McFarland

South East Coastal Group (Chair)

Direct dial 01227 862455

B3.4 STAKEHOLDERS (OTHER) SAMPLE INVITATION LETTER

South East Coastal Group,

C/o Military Road, Canterbury

Kent, CT1 1YW

www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

27th October 2005

Dear

Medway & Swale Estuaries and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plans.

We are writing to invite you/your organisation in the development of two strategic coastal flood and erosion plans for the north and east coast of Kent. These are (1) the Shoreline Management Plan for the Medway and Swale Estuaries and (2) the review of the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan.

During 2004 and 2005 Shepway District Council, acting on behalf of the South East Coastal Group, led the preparation of the South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). This SMP was one of three models which were tested for the UK shoreline. The South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan was unique in that a forum of Elected Members was involved throughout the development of the plan in debating and agreeing the terms of reference and outcomes on behalf of their own Authority.

The model developed during the production of the South Foreland to Beachy Head SMP has received a good deal of positive response from both the national group overseeing the three alternative models and from the Elected Members themselves who were involved in the process. For this reason the South East Coastal Group intend to apply the same approach to the Medway and Swale Estuaries and Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plans.

Because of your Council's interest in this coastline, we would like to invite you to the initial meeting of the Elected Members Forum to be held on a date, probably around the end of January 2005. We shall write to you again to confirm the arrangements once they are finalised. In the meantime, we would be grateful if you would confirm your nomination to participate in the Forum.

It is anticipated that the Elected Members Forum would likely meet on three or four occasions during the next 18 months.

As a member of the Elected Members Forum you will have the opportunity to review the development of the plans and, in particular, comment on how the draft objectives and policies meet your Authorities needs and those of the residents you represent. It is important that the Elected Member is able to agree the developing plan on behalf of the Authority in order that the policies contained in the plans are able to be ratified by the Authority in due course.

For your further information, we attach:

A map showing the area that the Plans cover

A brief summary of the SMP Process and the anticipated role of the Elected Members and Key Stakeholders Forum.

Full contact details of your local authority / Environment Agency representative on the Steering Group

A full list of other organisations invited to join the Key Stakeholders Forums

If you have any questions on the above please contact your Authorities representative on the Officer Steering Group in the first instance. You can find their details on the local Authority contact list.

It would be much appreciated if you could confirm your participation in the Elected Members Forum to Christina Bell on 01227 862575 or alternatively by email to christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Pp Christina Bell

Steve McFarland

South East Coastal Group (Chair)

STAKEHOLDERS (OTHER) SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE**Shoreline Management Plans for Medway Estuary and Swale and North Kent Coast (Isle of Grain to South Foreland)**

Please answer the following questions and return the completed questionnaire by the end of October 2005 to South East Coastal Group. We would appreciate your return of the questionnaire even if you do not wish to be further involved in the Plans.

Name of your organisation or business

Address

Name of contact

Position in organisation

Address if different from 2

Telephone No.

Fax No.

Email address

Referring to the attached list of consultees – are there any other stakeholders that you would recommend we contact?

COMMENTS

Is your organisation or business affected by the risk of coastal flooding or erosion? If so, please give brief details including any significant events.

What are the main issues relating to the way in which the coastline is managed and which you want to see being dealt with in the plan?

What objectives do you have for the future management of the coastline?

Do you have any views on the way in which the existing defences have had an impact on the way in which the coastline has developed?

Do you have any views on changes that should be made to the existing coastal defences? What effect do you think this would have?

INFORMATION

Please let us know if you hold information on any of the following aspects, if so, in what format it is held and are you are willing to make it available to the Project Team.

A map of your premises, site(s) or showing your area of interest

Local coastal processes

Flooding and erosion events

Design and construction of existing coastal defences

The natural environment and ecology

The built environment, coastal industries and land use

Ports and harbours

Agriculture

Tourism and amenity usage of the coast

Inshore fisheries

Thank you for your time in completing this questionnaire

B4 Elected Members Materials

B4.1 INTRODUCTION

Below are a series of documents that were issued to the Elected Members prior to each of the forums and the minutes that were circulated thereafter.

B4.2 ELECTED MEMBER INVITATION LETTER TO EMF 1

South East Coastal Group,

C/o Military Road, Canterbury

Kent, CT1 1YW

www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

Dear

Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review and Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan, Elected Members Forum.

Further to our letter to you, dated October 2005, and subsequent telephone conversations, we are pleased to confirm that the first meeting of the Elected Members Forum for the above Shoreline Management Plans will take place at 6.30pm on the evening of Monday 6th March 2006 at the Board Room, Canterbury City Council Offices, in Canterbury. Please find enclosed a location map, Meeting Agenda; draft Constitution for the group and a full list of the members of the forum, with contact details.

The Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review and the Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan are strategic coastal flood and erosion plans for the north and east coasts of Kent. They will set out a policy framework for future management of the coastline and will have significant implications for current and future land use and the natural and built environment. Policy options available for management of flood and erosion risks comprise Hold the Line, Managed Realignment, No Active Intervention or Advance the Line.

As a member of the Elected Members Forum you will have the opportunity to debate and develop the plans and, in particular, comment on how the objectives and policies meet your Authority's needs and those of the residents you represent. It is important that you are in a position to 'agree' the developing plan on behalf of your Authority so that the Authority can ratify the policies contained in the final plans in due course.

It is programmed that the Elected Members Forum will meet three times during the development of the Shoreline Management Plans. The first meeting is a joint meeting for both plans and the group will decide whether they would like further meetings to be joint or separate in nature. In addition, the

group will elect a chairperson – either one ‘joint’ chairperson for both plans, or separate chairs for each plan.

Draft flood and erosion risk management objectives for each section of coast will be sent to you for review closer to the meeting date. We then intend to discuss these during the meeting.

It would be much appreciated if you could confirm your attendance at the first meeting of the Elected Members Forum. Responses can be sent via email to: christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk

Alternatively, any questions or queries can be sent by post to the: South East Coastal Group, c/o Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you at the first Forum in March 2006.

Yours Sincerely,

Steve McFarland

South East Coastal Group (Chair)

B4.3 ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 1: THE REVIEW OF THE ISSUES TABLE

South East Coastal Group,

C/o Military Road, Canterbury

Kent, CT1 1YW

www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

24th February 2006

Dear Cllr

Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review and Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan, Elected Members Forum – 6th March 2006

We have previously contacted you regarding the above projects, including by correspondence in October and December 2005. The most recent letter confirmed that the first meeting of the Elected Members Forum, which you are invited to join, will take place from **6pm to 9pm on Monday 6th March 2006** at the Canterbury City Council Offices. A location map and list of members of the forum was enclosed.

The letter also provided some background to the Shoreline Management Plan process and stated that draft flood and erosion risk management objectives for each section of coast would be sent to you for review closer to the meeting date, for discussion at the meeting.

These draft objectives have now be prepared and set out in the form of a table for each Shoreline Management Plan (i.e. Isle of Grain to South Foreland and Medway Estuary and Swale). The tables list the features of the coastline and potential issues associated with their current and future management, in relation to flood and erosion risks. The tables also summarise why the features are important, who benefits from them and suggest appropriate objectives. These objectives will form the basis for flood and erosion risk management decisions as the Shoreline Management Plans develop. The tables have initially been produced from available baseline information, some of which can be broad-brush in nature. It is very important that the tables are developed to comprehensively reflect the exact local circumstances for each section of coast and that specific objective are set. By providing feedback on these tables you, as elected members, will make a vital contribution to this process ensuring that all key issues associated with coastal management in the area are correctly addressed. As such, please find attached the draft Issues and Objectives table(s) for your areas of interest.

Please also find attached to this letter an agenda, and location map for the meeting on the 6th March 2006. For your information, the draft constitution will follow in due course. I look forward to meeting you at the Forum and making important progress in the development of these Shoreline Management Plans. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or Christina Bell on 01227

862575.

Yours sincerely

Steve McFarland

South East Coastal Group

B4.4 ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 1 CONSTITUTION

Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review and Medway Estuary & Swale Shoreline Management Plan

Draft CONSTITUTION

Introduction

The group of authorities responsible for the management of the shoreline between the Isle of Grain and South Foreland and the tidal River Medway (downstream of Allington Lock near Aylesford), Medway Estuary and Swale, are to set up a forum of elected members which, together with officers of the authorities, are to act as the principal decision-making body for development of two Shoreline Management Plans. Key stakeholders will be invited to participate in a Stakeholder Forum to be convened at appropriate times to provide information and comment as the plan develops.

This document sets out the Constitution for the Elected Members Forum and the Officers Steering Group.

1. Objectives and Remit - Elected Members Forum (EMF)

- 1.1 To ratify the overall scope of the SMP.
- 1.2 To ratify the stakeholder strategy and the key stakeholder representation.
- 1.3 To agree the issues to be dealt with by the SMP.
- 1.4 To agree the priority of the issues.
- 1.5 To agree the objectives for the SMP.
- 1.6 To agree draft proposals from the Contractor.
- 1.7 To agree the activities of the Steering Group.
- 1.8 To agree the policies to be contained within the draft SMP.
- 1.9 To seek ratification of the SMP policies from their respective authorities.

2. Objectives and Remit – Officers Steering Group

- 2.1 To provide Client expertise in deciding the scope and extent of the SMP.
- 2.2 To agree the proposals of the consultant before their submission to the EMF.
- 2.3 To convene meetings of the Elected Members Forum and Key Stakeholders Forum (KSF).
- 2.4 To provide the secretariat and support for the Elected Members Forum.
- 2.5 To report back to their respective authorities.
- 2.6 To direct consultation with stakeholders.
- 2.7 To oversee the public consultation exercise.
- 2.8 To provide listing of initial consultee's to Contractor.
- 2.9 To seek ratification of SMP policies through the Elected Members Forum.

3. Membership of Elected Members Forum

- 3.1 Each local authority having responsibility for any length of shoreline within the defined plan areas will nominate one elected member to represent it on the EMF.

- 3.2 The Southern Region Flood Defence Committee of the Environment Agency will nominate a member to represent them on the EMF.
- 3.3 Kent County Council will nominate a member to represent them on the EMF.
- 3.4 The membership of the EMF may co-opt additional elected members from time to time by agreement.
- 3.5 Members of the EMF may nominate a substitute to attend in their place if they are unable to attend a meeting

4. Management of the Elected Members Forum

- 4.1 The Forum will elect a Chairperson from amongst its membership. Replacement of the Chairperson will similarly be as the result of a majority vote.
- 4.2 A Deputy Chairperson may be nominated in case of non-availability of the Chairperson.
- 4.2 Officers from the lead authority for the production of the SMPs (Canterbury City Council and the Environment Agency) will provide the secretariat for the Forum.

5. Meetings of the Elected Members Forum

- 5.1 At the first meeting of the Forum members will agree the stages of SMP production when they wish to meet. The secretariat will then propose provisional dates for those meetings. Each agenda will conclude with a confirmation or amendment of the date, time and venue of the next meeting.
- 5.2 All the business of the meeting will be recorded in the minutes and shall normally be a matter of public record. In accordance with normal confidentiality requirements of public authorities the Chairperson may declare a matter "confidential" with the reasons being set out in the minutes.
- 5.3 Agendas for each meeting will be sent out at least five working days in advance of each meeting. Minutes of each meeting will be available within ten working days of each meeting.
- 5.4 The Chairperson will agree with the EMF Secretariat the need for the Contractor to attend any particular meeting.

6. Decision making process

- 6.1 Matters to be agreed by the EMF will be presented to its meeting by relevant officers with a clear recommendation of the matters to be decided.
- 6.2 Decision-making will be, where possible, by consensus. Where this is unattainable a majority vote will secure the decision. Each authority in attendance at the meeting will have one vote. In the event of a tie the Chairperson will have a casting vote in their own right (i.e. a vote in addition to that which they lodged as a representative of their own authority).
- 6.3 The Chairperson may decide to defer a vote if an authority has been unable to be represented at a relevant meeting.
- 6.4 Matters of conflict during the plan preparation will be resolved by officers within the Steering group. Where this has not proved possible the matter of dispute will be presented to the EMF supported by the relevant arguments. The process outlined in 6.2 above will again be used to determine the matter.

- 6.5 All decisions made by the EMF will be recorded in the minutes together with supporting reasons for the decision outcome. The minutes will be a matter of public record.
- 6.6 It will be deemed that each representative, including any substitute, on the EMF has the authority to make decisions on behalf of their relevant authority in accordance with the objectives set out in section 1 above. In exceptional circumstances, the Chairperson may defer a decision to allow members to consult with colleagues.
- 6.7 The Lead Authorities will have a right of veto on any matter which directly affects their contractual relationship with the Contractor.

7. Funding

- 7.1 The cost of administering and supporting meetings of the EMF will be borne by the Lead Authorities who will recover the costs through the grant aiding mechanism.
- 7.2 All costs and expenses attributed to individual members of the EMF will be borne by their relevant authorities.

B4.5 MEMBERSHIP OF ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM

Title / Name / Surname	Job Title	Organisation
Cllr. Gerry Lewin	Elected Member Representative	Swale Borough Council
Cllr. Mike Patterson	Elected Member Representative	Canterbury City Council
Cllr. Nicholas Kenton	Elected Member Representative	Dover District Council
Cllr. Andrew Bowles	Elected Member Representative	Kent County Council
Cllr. John Kirby	Elected Member Representative	Thanet District Council
Cllr. Phil Filmer	Elected Member Representative	Medway Council
Cllr. Mike Harrison	Elected Member Representative	Regional Flood Defence Committee/KCC
Cllr. Matthew Balfour	Elected Member Representative	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

B4.6 ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 1 AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND AND MEDWAY ESTUARY & SWALE****SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS****Elected Members Forum Meeting**

Monday 6th March, 2006, 6.30pm, Board Room, Canterbury City Council Offices, Canterbury

AGENDA & TIMETABLE (with notes for Chair)

We have set the agenda against a timetable as there are quite a few items to get through in this first meeting. If we finish more quickly that's obviously fine, but it will be important that ample opportunity is afforded for comment on the draft issues (half an hour is allowed at present).

7:00 Welcome from South East Coastal Group (Steve McFarland, Canterbury CC)

Steve will open the meeting, giving a brief background to the SMP and the South East Coastal Group. He will then invite the attendees to briefly introduce themselves, for the benefit of all attending.

7:05 Introductions from EMF Representatives

Brief statement of who, what organisation, position (e.g. Portfolio holder), and interest in the coast.

7:15 Elect Chairperson

Cllr? of ? has nominated Cllr? of ? to act as Chairperson. To receive any other nominations. *Steve will ask Cllr? to confirm their nomination of Cllr ?, then ask if there are any other nominations. If none, then assume a quick show of hands from Elected members (i.e. not Officers, etc) to confirm – if others are nominated then will need a more formal vote. Once Cllr? has been confirmed as Chair it will be appropriate to ask if any of the delegates have anything else they want to discuss at the meeting, if there is an opportunity.*

7:20 Declaration of Interests

The Cabinet Member and any officers present should disclose personal or prejudicial interest/s in any item/s on this agenda. Anyone with a personal interest must describe and give details of the interest. Unless the personal interest amounts to a prejudicial interest, he/she may participate fully in the meeting.

A prejudicial interest is one that a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice a

member's judgement of the public interest. Anyone with a prejudicial interest must, unless an exception applies or a dispensation has been issued, withdraw from the meeting room.

7:25	<p>Background to Shoreline Management Plans and Stakeholder Engagement</p> <p>(Steve McFarland, Canterbury CC)</p> <p>Presentation outlining the aims of the SMP, then the role of the Elected Members Forum and raising some points for the Delegates to discuss/agree. Final slide will present points for agreement</p>
7:40	<p>Agree Constitution/Terms of Reference of the EMF and Stakeholder Involvement Strategy</p> <p>Opportunity to question study team on approach being taken, raise potential changes to the Constitution/ToR, and finally agree the approach taken. Show of hands to confirm agreement.</p>
7:50	<p>Issues facing future management of the coast (Adam Hosking, Halcrow Group)</p> <p>Presentation briefly identifying key issues relating to shoreline management, focusing on the future impacts of climate change on coastal risks.</p>
8:00	<p>SMP Process and approach to issues identification (Adam Hosking, Halcrow Group)</p> <p>Presentation briefly describing the SMP development process and timetable, then focusing on the approach to identifying the issues presented in the tables circulated ahead of the meeting. Stressing the importance of issues/objectives in policy definition.</p>
8:15	<p>Discussion and Agreement of Issues (as presented in circulated document)</p> <p>Opportunity for Members to comment upon the draft issues presented in the document sent to them. It should be noted, that the issues tables already include comments provided by the project Steering Group and Key Stakeholders Forum.</p> <p>It will be important that this discussion is kept at the level appropriate to the SMP (i.e. not embroiled in the detail of an individual house or seawall, but looking at the broader issues at each location that SMP policies should be looking to address). The previous presentation will stress the importance of considering issues at this 'strategic' level.</p> <p>Once issues have been discussed, and agreement made to changes/additions, the</p>

intention is to get agreement to the issues. Again, a show of hands is probably best way.

If the Members feel they can't give agreement as the issues need a significant reworking, or they haven't had sufficient opportunity to review, then I think we need to set a deadline of the following Friday (17 March) for responses, with their agreement that the study team will make necessary changes based on their comments. This would be a last resort as we really don't want to incur a delay.

If little or no discussion is forthcoming (how this half hour will go is very difficult to pre-judge – it will probably depend on whether members have reviewed the document sent to them), we can move on to the next item more quickly, leaving time at the end to discuss any of the 'other' items raised previously by Members.

8:45 'What next?' in the SMP (Adam Hosking)

Brief presentation on taking issues forward to define and rank shoreline management objectives for the SMP.

8:50 Any other business

8:55 Next Meeting (provisionally set for Thursday 25th May 2006)

The study team has a significant amount of work to do now to identify the risks to features and the priorities of the objectives. Once this has been completed in draft it is intended to circulate to members ahead of a second meeting of the forum. A provisional meeting date of 25 May is set. Adam Hosking will update on this proposed date. May be 1st June if attendees would like documents 2 weeks in advance again (1 week if 25/05/06).

If we are ahead of time this will provide an opportunity to discuss any other items Members have raised.

9:00 Close

Thanks to all for giving up their evening to attend.

B4.7 ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 1 MINUTES

ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND AND MEDWAY ESTUARY & SWALE

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Elected Members Forum Meeting

Monday 6th March, 2006, 6.30pm, Board Room, Canterbury City Council Offices, Canterbury

MINUTES

Present:

Adam Hosking (Halcrow Group)

Steve McFarland (CCC)

Christina Bell (CCC)

Cllr Mike Patterson (CCC)

Liz Holliday (KCC)

Cllr Roger Manning (KCC)

Cllr Mike Harrison (KCC/RFDC)

Cllr John Kirby (TDC)

Bernie Lambert (TDC)

Cllr John Wright (SBC)

Cllr Angela Prodger (Medway)

Apologies:

Cllr Nicholas Kenton (DDC)

Helen Dalton (EA)

1. Welcome from the South East Coastal Group

SMcF opened the meeting with a brief introduction to the Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) and

the South East Coastal Group (SECG).

2. Introductions from EMF Representatives

It was requested by SMCF that all attendees briefly introduce themselves with details of their organisation, and interest in the coastline for the benefit of all those attending the Forum.

SMCF delivered a presentation to the group explaining exactly what the SMP process involves and why it needs to take place.

- JK then questioned the level of input that the Elected Members will have in setting the policies derived from the SMP process. SMCF explained that Elected Members are involved in the plans to aid the process of setting the policies and strategies developed; therefore they will have a large stake in the process.
- RM and AP similarly commented that the plans should provide coastal managers with specific solutions and policies so that these can be readily implemented along the Open Coast (Isle of Grain to South Foreland) and Estuary (Medway and Swale) areas involved. SMCF commented here that this was to be further explained in the latter part of the presentation.
- MH referred to the Key Stakeholders Forum (KSF) of which he attended at this point. It was suggested to the group that they should feel comforted by such high attendance and interest levels at this meeting from many important individuals/organisations, as they will help to define the real issues and subsequent solutions within the SMP process.
- SMCF noted here that it would be helpful for the Elected Members group if a full list of Key Stakeholders was to be issued to them for information and reference purposes. Action to be carried out by CB.
- AH answered general questions on Elected Member/Key Stakeholder Involvement within the plans, whilst a projector fault was dealt with.

3. Election of a Chairperson

MH was nominated by RM, for the reason that he has had much experience and involvement within Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management. All Elected Members agreed this motion.

MH was subsequently elected Chairman of the Elected Members Forums.

4. Declaration of Interests

None

5. Background to Shoreline Management Plans and Stakeholder Engagement

SMCF delivered the second half of presentation outlining the aims of the SMP, explaining the Management Model and roles of the Key Stakeholders/Elected Members Forums. The final slide presented points for agreement by the Elected Members

6. Agreement of Constitution/Terms of Reference of the EMF and Stakeholder Involvement Strategy

All agreed that this should be named 'Terms of Reference', and all were satisfied with terms utilised

within it.

AP asked if plan would have any real 'teeth' to implement the policies. MH commented that Elected Members present have influence to have policies incorporated into their local plans, that is where the 'teeth' will come in.

7. Issues Facing Future Management of the Coast

Presentation delivered by AH, identifying Key Issues relating to Shoreline Management, including 2 main potential scenarios of; 'No active Intervention', and, 'With Present Management'. Future impact of climate change on coastal risks was also focused upon here.

- RM posed the question to AH as to whether the idea of the SMPs is to protect all residential property at all costs. AH responded by explaining that the defence of 'everything' in whatever asset form along the coastline is neither feasible nor possible for these plans. It is therefore the Role of the Issues tables (to be explained in later presentation by AH) to determine the Key areas of concern, and to identify possible alternative management policies with a long-term time frame in mind. Shoreline Management Plans promote the shift from coastal defence to coastal risk management; therefore making the public aware of the SMP process is of vital importance for this reason as the objectives can be applied to local plans.

AH delivered latter part of presentation explaining Key Stages of the SMP development process, including possible policies to be adopted, workflow and the development/use of the Issues and Objectives Tables

8. Discussion and Agreement of Issues

Copies of the Issues Tables for both plans (in amended format after initial input from Steering Group and Key Stakeholders) were provided at the meeting. AH explained that the aim of this part of the Forum was to give Elected Members the opportunity to comment upon draft Issues and Objectives, with a view to keeping the level of discussion appropriate to the SMP (i.e. not highly local details at this stage). It was also explained that if the group felt that more time was needed to review the tables, a deadline could be set for this.

- MH requested that any amendments made after review should be clearly marked
- SMCF requested that feedback is given to the Elected Members individual technical officer at their local authority and then passed onto the consultant, all agreed to CB.
- JW enquired about the level of feedback required. AH responded that amendments should be made according to what is actually present along the coastline, and why these features are important. At this stage fine details are not required.
- RM noted that prioritising within the tables is important, but asked how this information will be utilised for the next stage of the SMP. AH responded with 'What Next?' presentation, details displayed below.

9. What Next? In the SMP

- AH delivered presentation explaining Issue and Objective identification and prioritisation, distinction between rural and urban issues, and lastly the conversion of issues to objectives and policy appraisal.
- LH requested deadline for feedback, SMCF suggested 20th March 2006, all agreed.

10. Any Other Business

MH asked if Project Team Members would be available to attend individual authorities Cabinet meetings to explain the process if required, all present said yes.

For information, KCC are holding their Local Board Meeting regarding water in Whitstable on the 28th April for anyone who wishes to attend.

Thames Gateway involvement to be investigated by CB.

11. Next Meeting

8th June 2006, 6.30pm in Boardroom, Canterbury City Council, Canterbury.

Refreshments will be available from 6pm

12. Close of Meeting

SMCF thanked all those present for attending.

- MH asked for every effort to be made by all to attend subsequent meetings, be it from the Elected Member themselves or a representative of their interests.

B4.8 LETTER TO EMF AHEAD OF ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 2**ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND AND MEDWAY ESTUARY & SWALE****SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

30th May 2006

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR KENT - ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 2, 8TH JUNE 2006

Dear Elected Member,

The next Elected Members Forum for the Shoreline Management Plans for Kent will be held on Thursday 8th June 2006, at 6.30pm. Refreshments will be available from 6pm however.

The venue for the meeting is the Boardroom at the Canterbury City Council Offices. If you are travelling to Canterbury by car, please park in the new visitor's car park on Military Road. Then make your way to the front entrance of the building where a project team member will be waiting to show you to the Boardroom.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Briefing Note (including the agenda) for the meeting. A Summary note of the events of the second Key Stakeholders Forum has also been enclosed for your information, along with the revised Issues and Objectives Tables, to be reviewed at the meeting. Amendments to these tables have been highlighted in red.

It would be much appreciated if you could confirm your attendance to this meeting if you have not already done so to Christina Bell: christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk or 01227 862575. Similarly, if you have any queries or questions regarding this meeting do not hesitate to make contact.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on 8th June

Yours Sincerely,

Steve McFarland

South East Coastal Group (Chair)

B4.9 ELECTED MEMBER FORUM 2 AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND AND MEDWAY ESTUARY AND SWALE SHORELINE
MANAGEMENT PLANS****Elected Members Forum Meeting 2**

Thursday 8th June 2006, 6 for 6.30pm, Boardroom, Canterbury City Council Offices, Canterbury

Agenda and Timetable

Paperwork needed for the meeting: Revised Issues Tables with Ranking, Key Stakeholders Forum 2 Summary Note, Briefing Note.

Refreshments will be available from 6pm

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Update the Elected Member Forum of the progress of the two projects
- Ensure that the forum is aware of the coastal changes and risks
- Ensure that 'people' focussed issues are well represented in the SMP development

6:30 Brief Welcome and Introductions (as a reminder)

6:40 Update on revision of Issues Tables (Rhian Jones) – including new columns added for Ranking and Comments from Steering Group and Key Stakeholders from second Forum. Any further comments regarding the amendment of the Issues Tables can be raised here.

6:50 Brief Presentation on events of Key Stakeholders Forum 2 and the key issues arising from the workshop (Christina Bell)

7:00 Discussion of areas of stakeholder agreement & conflict This part of the meeting will be focussed on highlighting some of the areas of the coastline that are likely to change along with the risks and benefits associated with such change. The EMF will be encouraged to take an active part in highlighting any key issues along their individual frontage that the KSF has not already addressed.

7:45 Presentation on what happens at the next stage of the plans (Simon Herrington)

7:55 Any Other Business Coastal Adaptation Project

Date of Next Meeting

8:00 Close Thank you to all for giving up their evening to attend.

B4.10 ELECTED MEMBER FORUM 2 LETTER SUPPORTING BRIEFING NOTE

Dear «Title»

Please find attached the Minutes from the Elected Members Meeting for the Shoreline Management Plans for Kent, held on 6th June 2006.

As discussed at the meeting, it would be much appreciated if you could pass on your comments regarding the revised Issues and Objectives Tables to your Local Authority Officer, within the next 2 weeks.

Please note that further developments regarding the SMP, and the date and details of the next Elected Members Meeting will be sent to you as soon as they have been finalised.

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact Christina Bell either via e mail: christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk , or alternatively by telephone: 01227 862575.

Kind Regards

Steve McFarland

B4.11 ELECTED MEMBER FORUM 2 BRIEFING NOTE (22ND APRIL 2004)

Venue: Boardroom, Canterbury City Council, Canterbury

Date Held: 8th June 2006

Present:

Cllr Mike Patterson (Canterbury City Council), Cllr Mike Harrison (Regional Flood Defence Committee/Kent County Council), Cllr John Wright (Swale Borough Council), Cllr Roger Manning (Kent County Council), Cllr John Kirby (Thanet District Council), Cllr Nicholas Kenton (Dover District Council), Roger Walton (Dover District Council), Liz Holliday (Kent County Council), Bernie Lambert (Thanet District Council), Ian Lewis (Swale Borough Council), Mark Smith (Environment Agency), Helen Dalton (Environment Agency), Steve McFarland (Canterbury City Council), Christina Bell (Canterbury City Council), Simon Herrington (Herrington Consulting), Rhian Jones (Halcrow Group)

Apologies: None

1. Welcome from the South East Coastal Group

Cllr Mike Patterson opened the meeting with a welcome to the members of the forum and an introduction to the current recognition of the importance of Shoreline Management Plans.

2. Introductions from EMF Representatives

It was requested by MP that all attendees briefly introduce themselves with details of their organisation for the benefit of all those attending the Forum.

3. Update on revision of Issues Tables

Rhian Jones delivered a presentation to the group updating them on the work undertaken for the revision of the Issues and Objectives tables. This included an explanation of the new columns added for Ranking of the Objectives, which will ultimately guide the Policy direction. Members of the Forum were invited to suggest specific changes to the tables, which will be incorporated into the revision of the Tables. Additional comments are to be forwarded to Christina Bell, and then passed onto Halcrow.

Cllr John Wright recommended clarification that the Saxon Shore way around Barksore marshes deviates from the defence line out of the coastal plain in this location.

Cllr John Kirby detailed that Thanet DC/ National Trust investigations have confirmed that some Pegwell Bay defences contain contaminated material and that the investigations concluded that the best option of management is that the material remains in situ.

Cllr Mike Harrison recommended that the tables include reference to Whitstable as it currently isn't covered.

Ian Lewis recommended that the A249 Road Bridge to Sheppey be considered for 11 ranking rather than 12.

Action: RJ to update Issues and Objectives table in light of comments received during and after the meeting.

4. Presentation on events of Key Stakeholders Forum 2

Christina Bell delivered a presentation on the events of the Key Stakeholder Forum held on the 4th May 2006. There was a good representation of interest groups at the forum, however due to unforeseen circumstances the Infrastructures representative was unable to attend.

CB explained the activities of Breakout Session 1, which divided the KSF into groups of individuals with similar interests of disciplines. This resulted in each group providing a practical vision for the SMP coastlines over each of the three epochs (0-20 years, 20-50 years and 50-100 years). Breakout Session 2 divided the KSF into different groups of individuals, split by geographical area. Each group were asked to seek a level of agreement on key drivers/policy options than need to underpin scenario testing for specific sections of the coast.

The presentation explained the generic policy options as defined by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs namely; 'Hold the existing defence line', 'Advance the existing defence line', 'Managed realignment' and 'No Active intervention'. Steve McFarland highlighted the implications of no protection to the coast, particularly to beach sediments, and the long term implications of climate change.

5. Discussion of areas of stakeholder agreement & conflict

Steve McFarland and Mark Smith talked through the Policy Options suggested at the Key Stakeholders Forum as presented on a map of the SMPs. It was emphasised that at this stage, the policy options for specific sections of the coast were not finalised and further Policy Scenario Assessment will be undertaken, taking account of Coastal Processes and other technical influences.

Action: Elected Members to consult Officers on the key issues on their individual frontage that has not been addressed at the Key Stakeholder Forum. Comments to be forwarded to Christina Bell

Additional comments on the Policy Options will be sought from Elected Members once Scenario testing has taken place.

A brief discussion took place on the ranking of Environmental interests against each other. Action: RJ to provide additional information on Ranking of themes.

6. Next Stage of the plans

Simon Herrington explained the next Key Stages of the SMP development process, including possible policies to be adopted, workflow and the development/use of the Issues and Objectives Tables. SH

explained that EMF3 will be a very important meeting as it is the last EMF for these SMPs. The preferred policies formed within the SMP production would be presented and considered in detail for agreement / refinement

7. Any Other Business

Steve McFarland informed the group that there was a proposal to hold a Conference for Elected Members taking place in October 2006. This will inform Elected Members and others on current projects/initiatives occurring on the coastline.

Cllr Mike Harrison recommended the use of Kent life for articles.

8. Next Meeting

Date and venue of the next meeting are to be confirmed by Christina Bell. Liz Holliday suggested that the next meeting should be longer in order for more detailed discussions to take place. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for Council Officers to attend, and a representative from English Nature be present.

9. Close of Meeting

MH thanked all those present for attending.

B4.12 ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 3: AGENDA 12/01/2007

Location: Guildhall, Canterbury

Chair: Cllr Mike Harrison (RFDC)

Start: 9.30am

Introduction and previous minutes (Cllr Harrison) 10 mins

Update Presentation (Mark Smith-Environment Agency) 20 mins

Introduction to the day, review of the work done on the SMPs to date and set out the mechanics of the 3rd meeting of the forum (agreement to public consultation on policies).

Unit by Unit discussion of preferred policies (Halcrow - 1 hour, 45 mins)

Unit by Unit justification and discussion of the preferred SMP policies - this will include reference to the outputs of Key Stakeholders Forum 3.

11:45-12:00 BREAK

Unit by Unit discussion of preferred policies (Halcrow - 1 hour)

Unit by Unit justification and discussion of the preferred SMP policies where the policy was deemed acceptable by the Key Stakeholders at Forum 3.

Outstanding Issues Session (Halcrow & Chair - 20 mins)

An opportunity to capture any additional feedback from the SMP policy discussions.

Future Consultation (Halcrow & Mark Smith - 20mins)

Discussion of future public consultation – best methods, local communication networks, venues.

Next Steps in SMP and Future Meeting Needs (Halcrow & Mark Smith - 10mins)

Outline next stages of SMP, Elected Member's Responsibilities and determine future meeting needs.

AOB & DONM (10mins)

14:00: CLOSE

B4.13 ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 3: MINUTES**Isle of Grain to South Foreland and Medway & Swale Estuary SMP****Elected Members Forum 3**

Venue: Guildhall, Canterbury

Date Held: 11th January 2007

Present:

Cllr Mike Harrison (Kent County Council/Regional Flood Defence Committee), Helen Dalton (Environment Agency), Cllr John Kirby (Thanet District Council), Mike Humber (Thanet District Council), Cllr Nicholas Kenton (Dover District Council), Roger Walton (Dover District Council), Cllr Andrew Bowles (Kent County Council), Liz Holliday (Kent County Council), Cllr Mike Patterson (Canterbury City Council), Hannah Gribben (Environment Agency), Ingrid Chudleigh (Natural England), Nigel Pontee (Halcrow), Andrea Richmond (Halcrow), Mark Smith (Environment Agency), Steve McFarland (Canterbury City Council), Christina Bell (Canterbury City Council)

Apologies: None

1. Introduction

Cllr Harrison opened the meeting with a brief introduction. It was requested by Cllr Harrison that all attendees briefly introduce themselves and their organisation for the benefit of all those attending the Forum.

It was agreed by all that the unit by unit policy discussion should be reversed to start at the East coast frontage, for the benefit of Cllr Nick Kenton and Roger Walton, due to other important afternoon commitments.

2. Update Presentation

SM delivered a presentation to the group explaining what an SMP is and where it fits in the hierarchy of strategic coastal defence plans. He explained the aim of the meeting and the role of Elected Members in the SMP process. SM then gave an overview of the 4 generic SMP policies.

3. Unit by Unit discussion on the preferred policies

Proposed policies for future management of this shoreline have been derived from a series of analysis. Proposed policies were previously presented to the Client Steering Group, a technical group of local experts, who with their site specific knowledge refined the proposed policies to preferred policy options. The preferred policies were recently presented to a group of representative stakeholders, namely organizations with an interest in the coast (KSF 3 – 8th January 2007). Their feedback on the preferred policies has been incorporated and these along with the preferred policies were presented to the Elected Members over a two day forum (11th-12th January 2007). This meeting covers the individual units and corresponding preferred policies for the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 (from the Isle of Grain to Shell Ness) and the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP.

SM and NP presented the individual management units and corresponding policies, highlighting the justification for each policy and any comments / objections made by the Key Stakeholders at KSF 3.

4b26. South Foreland

No comments

4b25. St Margaret's

RW noted that the proposed policies are acceptable here as the Bay is stable to the extent that natural HTL is likely to take its course (although some defences are present here).

4b24. Oldstairs Bay to St. Margaret's

RW asked if there would be beneficial to remove the derelict defences in the Northern section of this unit.

NP noted that in terms of safety to the public, this will be included in the policy statement.

4b23. Sandown Castle (remains of) to Oldstairs Bay

No comments

4b22. Sandwich Bay Estate (south) to Sandown Castle (remains of)

MH noted the example of Sovereign Harbour (East Sussex) regarding the economics of local property development in areas similar to this unit. In this case, the maintenance of sea defences was paid for by the developer.

If HTL was to be adopted along this section for all 3 epochs, the SMP would indeed dictate that maintenance would need to continue to occur here for the next 100 years, with costs being incurred by developers.

IC added that in terms of the environment, this coastline needs to be held to protect a range of lizard species that inhabit the sand dunes here.

4b21. Pegwell Bay (south of the River Stour to Sandwich Bay Estate north)

NK expressed concern regarding the accreting sand dunes in this area. He questioned NAI as although the dunes are currently accreting, if erosion does occur here within the 100 year SMP time period, they may not be protected. This may also have detrimental impacts upon adjacent areas of coastline.

AR expressed agreement to this comment, and noted that the policies (if needs be) will be assessed in future years, as if a breach were to occur, maintenance would not be carried out under the policy of NAI.

JK added that the current plans for a wind farm offshore of Pegwell Bay, and resulting cables that would need to be protected here. HTL would be a more preferable option.

AB proposed that this needs to be reassessed at this stage of the plan, as changing agreed policies in the future is difficult, especially from NAI to HTL. MH agreed.

IC noted that dunes here are of international designation, and require natural sediment transport processes to survive. Natural England can therefore see the benefits of NAI.

RW added that local economics would be affected if NAI was to be adopted here, as with no maintenance to defences the golf course would be lost and therefore the annual golf tournament would no longer be held. RW reiterated that this area requires management, although the needs of the natural environment are also important.

MS clarified choice of NAI policy option here, for the benefit of the Elected Members:

The strategy previously carried out for this area indicates that NAI is the preferable policy choice in this area

It is key to include details of intended management within the policy statement. For example, in this case NAI (with localised HTL) should the dune along this frontage breach within a 100 year time frame.

NK agreed that if the current shoreline will be held naturally by the dunes, NAI would be acceptable, but reiterated that HTL is preferable as this can be reassessed in the later epochs should maintenance of the dunes not be required.

MH asked NP to clarify justification for chosen policy options in this area, with regard to future managers.

NP explained that the Strategy for this area concludes that NAI is sufficient for continued protection here (due to the presence of the dunes), hence the reason the consultant has proposed it. Also with the level of understanding of coastal processes etc this area, and that NAI is already working very well here this policy option is most suitable.

RW asked if storm events here occurred on a 1 in 50 year basis (not the 1 in 200 year proposed), would HTL be preferable?

HD commented that HTL requires managers to hold the current line of defence, and in this case this is not necessary, therefore care must be taken if HTL were to be adopted, for consistency purposes.

RW noted that if NAI dictates natural migration of the dunes with continued protection then NAI is preferable, but if the dunes are left to fail, this would cause significant problems here.

SM asked if this problem could be resolved in the policy statement within the final SMP document?

LH commented that the policy option adopted for this area may have to be resolved during public consultation. Either HTL or NAI could both be adopted, provided the correct explanatory text is

provided. It would be a good idea to determine which policy option causes the most controversy during public consultation to perhaps aid the decision, therefore aiding agreement.

IC responded that although this would be a good idea, it would still change the definition of HTL, resulting in inconsistency.

RW stated that NAI would be a step too far in this area. If a breach were to occur here much would be at stake, and flooding would continue into North Deal. The policy option chosen for this section should be a continuation of the previous unit.

Action: Consult with strategy and reassess policy appraisal

All agreed that a written clarification of HTL will also be required to aid agreement in this area.

4b20. West Cliff (Ramsgate western harbour arm to north of the River Stour)

MS comments that the chalk cliffs that line the coast in this area are required for natural sediment feed, and asked if it will be mentioned in the policy statement that these cliffs are currently undefended, and need to remain undefended?

NP responds that yes, this will be the case.

4b19. Ramsgate Harbour

MH questioned the degree of effect Sea Level Rise will have upon the Harbour.

NP responded that within the Harbour there are many floating assets that will be unaffected. Maintenance to Harbour walls and surfaces may need to be in the form of raising/strengthening.

MH noted the urgency for this as he recalled a 1.3 m tidal surge last year in this area, which almost reached harbour surface level.

4b18. Whiteness to Ramsgate

Mike Humber noted that the chalk cliffs here protecting a grade 2 listed building (public house) need to be defended in the imminent future, and therefore HTL is supported, and advised to be adopted. He also commented that this needs to be included in the policy statement, so that when draft SMP document goes to Public Consultation, the importance of HTL here is addressed.

NP and MH commented that the importance of such buildings must be assessed in relation to, for example, the economic value of large villages.

LH noted that as with the last SMP (South Foreland to Beachy Head), it will be more important to select a policy that suits the majority of the area, then in the text it can be mentioned that there may be opportunities for differing localised management strategies.

SM noted the importance of stating that for every unit, the supporting text must state that economic appraisal's and feasibility studies are a necessity.

MH commented that in terms of liaising with members of the public, the supporting text must be very clear.

4a17. Cliftonville (Fulsam Rock to White Ness)

Similar comments made to Unit 18, it is required that the supporting text must clearly state the preferred policy option and exact locations as to where contrasting management opportunities may be adopted.

4a16. Margate

No comments

4a15. Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea

Comments as per 4b17

Mike Humber noted that he is awaiting comments regarding the management of Epple Bay Road.

LH has requested the information on this, and will pass this onto Mike Humber as soon as she receives it.

SM noted that next years DEFRA programme will include an investigation into risk assessment in Thanet, focusing upon the feasibility of protecting the coastline. Therefore, individual areas such as Epple Bay Road will be picked up at strategy level.

AR noted that the Action Plan stage of the SMP (after Public Consultation) will aid resolving these issues.

MH commented on his concerns regarding time. He expressed the importance to funding bids to DEFRA to be applied for in the short term future.

AR responded that this will also be prioritised in the Action Plan.

4a14. Reculver Towers to Minnis Bay

(Indicative flood plain displaying potential results of MR suggested on a map)

MH suggested that MR in this area should be confined to the flood zone.

AB noted the value agricultural land in this area, but agreed with the proposed policy.

He contested that the Railway Line should definitely remain here however, as economic impacts of loss would be detrimental to Thanet.

SM noted this choice of policies most inexpensive. Also at the third Key Stakeholders Forum, it was strongly agreed that the Railway line must remain.

NP noted the main objections to MR from KSF3:

Loss of archaeological interests

Compensation for landowners?

Kent Ramblers wanted to see footpaths relocated if MR was adopted.

MH suggested that it would be helpful to ask a DEFRA representative to aid decision making process/resolve above conflicts here.

4a13. Reculver Country Park

LH questioned defence of Reculver Towers here. All agreed that this monument should be defended, due to economic/historic importance.

4a12. Herne Bay to Bishopstone Breakwater

No comments

4a11. Swalecliffe to Herne Bay Breakwater

MH asked if outfall sluices on the beaches of Swalecliffe/Herne Bay will be maintained.

SM reassured MH that this will be the case.

4a10. Whitstable Harbour (east) to Swalecliffe

No Comments

4a09. Whitstable Town to Whitstable Harbour

MH requested clarification of unit boundary here, and therefore a policy unit change of name.

All agreed: **WHITSTABLE WEST TO WHITSTABLE HARBOUR**

4a08. Seasalter to Whitstable Town

MH noted that the bund protecting the Golf Course here has been heightened, but this area is still particularly vulnerable, especially properties in the flood zone. Policies therefore agreed by all.

4a07. Faversham Creek to Seasalter

AB strongly objected to MR along this frontage. He noted that there will be a need for realignment of Power Lines if a Sub Station for the Power Station here is constructed.

AB also noted the economic benefits of the road. If MR is to be adopted then the retreat line should be positioned fronting the road, as opposed to the Railway Line (between the Sportsman Public House and Graveney Village). This will reduce economic dis-benefits and loss of residential property.

SM explained that a recent strategy has been carried out for this area.

65 properties are currently situated on the Faversham Road, in advance of the clay bund defence already in place. Even if HTL were to be adopted here, these properties will still be lost as they lie in advance of the HTL position. Management of these properties will therefore be highly unsustainable.

The strategy also states that future management of this coastline will depend on Nature Conservation Interests. Where current defences are of a low standard (land in front of Freshwater Grazing Marshes) HTL will be adopted. However, where the defences are of a better standard, Realignment is likely to occur after the first epoch, as the sea wall can be maintained with ease in the first 20 years.

MP noted that the SMP will benefit property development and potential impacts of Realignment here as there will be greater enforcement in place to prevent further residential growth.

AB reiterated the importance of the Grazing Marshes, and supports the suggestions of the strategy. MR with local HTL is therefore favoured.

MH requested a list of designations along the open coast area within the SMP boundary. This will aid determination of what features are of major importance and where, all agreed.

4b 06 – Leysdown-on-Sea to Shell Ness (MR/MR/MR)

NP explained the feedback from Key Stakeholder Forum 3 (KSF3).

NP explained how issues such as the recording of archaeological artefacts is not in the remit of the SMP although such tasks can be recommended actions made for relevant authorities/ future strategies.

NP stated that the slide showed the hypothetical maximum extent of a realignment in this location.

Cllr Lewin questioned how MR would be described in the SMP document and which MR extent is used to estimate costs? As the SMP document will be used by others to substantiate funding in the future,

the description of MR should not be simplistic, and the MR extent used should be clear, e.g. the maximum MR extent, in the policy unit statement and supporting mapping.

Cllr Harrison agreed that MR extents should be made clear in the SMP document.

MS added that MR extents are only a 'guesstimate' at SMP level, costing for exact MR extents are not in the remit of SMP's, however an assessment of economic viability is in the limits of the SMP.

NP pointed out that MR along this frontage (for both this SMP and the Shell Ness to Sayes Court frontage in the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP) would mean that properties at Shell Ness would not be protected.

4b 05 – Warden Point to Leysdown-on-Sea (HTL/HTL/MR)

Cllr Harrison questioned whether it is possible to include an overarching statement in the document covering the generic issues raised by the Agricultural, Rights of Way and Archaeological representatives at KSF3 with respect to managed realignment.

AR confirmed that statements to this effect could be added into the main document and supporting Appendices.

Liz Holliday commented that as the new sea defences in Warden Bay have been given the go ahead, the SMP would need to recognise this. Halcrow will take these defences into consideration when drafting the policy unit statements. IL confirmed that these defences will be compatible with the policies in units either side.

4b 04 – Minster Slopes to Warden Point (NAI/NAI/NAI)

Cllr Lewin noted that this area is partly a SSSI and therefore the cliffs are allowed to erode naturally, which causes problems for walkers.

Cllr Harrison requested on behalf of the Elected Members a list of all the environmental designations within the study areas (covered by both SMPs) on a unit by unit basis (Halcrow to action).

4b 03 – Minster Town (HTL/HTL/HTL)

Cllr Harrison questioned whether the boundary has been moved so the undefended section is included in the previous unit.

AR confirmed that the boundary had been moved for this reason.

4b 02 – Garrison Point to Minster (HTL/HTL/HTL)

Cllr Lewin asked for clarification that the shingle bank at Minster is included in this unit.

NP and AR confirmed that it was.

Liz Holliday noted that the Medway Ports consultation regarding the site at Garrison Point could potentially be Advance the Line which could cause implications in this area. KCC agreed to inform the contractors of the SMP policies in this area.

4b 01 – All Hallows-on-Sea to Grain (HTL/MR/MR)

Cllr Lewin queried the purpose of the shading on the map in the presentation.

NP explained that it represented the largest possible extent of MR, however this line is not fixed and that the MR extent will be refined and defined at Strategy level.

Cllr Harrison asked if a MR this large would be undertaken by a natural realignment or a breach in the defences?

NP suggested that without the details, it would most likely be the latter, where new realigned defences would be constructed first before a breach was made in the current defences. NP and AR highlighted that the MR would take place at any point within the 2nd Epoch, however it would take time to come to fruition.

IL questioned how TE2100 policies would affect the Swale and Medway estuaries, e.g. a new Thames Barrier. IL went on to explain that an experimental closure of the Barrier last year caused a considerable increase in water levels in the Medway. NP explained that at this stage different options are still being considered in TE2100 and therefore have not been specifically tested in the SMPs. IL expressed his concern regarding channelisation in the Thames Estuary and the resulting implications for the Medway and Swale estuaries. MS reiterated that we are working closely with the TE2100 team to ensure consistency and that TE2100 had made a statement that they were not looking at changing the Thames Barrier for at least another 30 years.

Cllr Harrison recommended that future Thames Barrier relocations consider integrating a 3rd Thames crossing

On behalf of their cabinet, the Elected Members have agreed the above preferred policies to take to public consultation.

Action: AR/CB to construct Table of feature designations.

IC provided a brief background in terms of Natural Environment for benefit of Elected Members decision making.

500 hectares natural land is present here, including 2 internationally designated, and 2 other grazing marsh areas.

Natural England therefore encourages MR in undesignated areas.

AB noted that a small strip of designated salt marsh is present on the landward side of the Sea Wall; therefore protection is also encouraged here.

MH questioned the future of the beach chalets.

SM responded that as these lie in advance of the HTL line, these would be lost.

BREAK

4. Unit by Unit discussion on the preferred policies

Completed before break

5. Outstanding Issues

MS raised Pegwell Bay to Sandown Unit. Suggested that MR would be a more preferable option here?

SM responded by suggesting a meeting between Halcrow/Dover District Council/Environment Agency/Natural England to discuss the policy option most suitable to all interested parties, then subsequently to devise a policy statement for review by Elected Members for decision making.

7. Next Steps (1)

SM noted that it was decided during the break to bring this item forward on the agenda.

SM described how the agreements made at the meeting will be incorporated into Policy Statements. These will then be sent to Elected Members for review.

AB requested a meeting with SM regarding Public Consultation. He commented that it is essential that all Elected Members have all required information regarding policy options and decisions, to enable them to deal with the public in a similar manner to the project team.

MH commented that decisions regarding public meetings need to be made as soon as possible, for example who will chair them.

MP requested a meeting with ward councillors, to brief them before the SMP goes to Public Consultation. He noted that it will be essential for Elected Members to attend the Public Meetings, all agreed.

6. Future Consultation

SM described to the group what is planned for future consultation:

All documents to be put onto relevant pages of the South East Coastal Group,

Have consulted with Client Steering Group, and requested the to enquire within their local authorities for details of local publications to publish articles advertising the SMPs

Consulted with Key Stakeholders, who are aware of other interest groups (not currently on stakeholder list). Newsletters will be prepared for them.

Notices to be placed in local newspapers

As with the South Downs SMP Open meetings (2/3) to be held with the public to publicise SMP, what has been done, what is planned for the future. Noted here by SM that officers within local authorities must take charge of disseminating information to the public, but with help from the lead authorities within the project team

SM noted that at the third Key Stakeholders Forum, the Friends of the North Kent Marshes/National Farmers Union representatives commented that it may be a good idea to contact anyone directly affected by the policy decisions, to give them every opportunity to be involved. It may also be necessary to meet with them.

MH expressed his concerns regarding personal levels of public consultation. The reason for this is that objections may have a major impact upon the final SMP document and policy choices. He advised that public meetings will be necessary, but personal meetings may prove to be problematic.

7. Next Steps (2)

SM noted that there were still a few things to cover for this item.

It was explained by SM that Public Consultation is planned for April 2007.

AB suggested that Public Consultation be left to the first week in May, due to the occurrence of local Council Elections.

LH noted that for the last SMP this was also the case, and did prove to be problematic.

MS expressed concerns over time scales and restricted budgets for the next financial year, and asked Halcrow if changing the time of Public Consultation would prove to be problematic in terms of this.

MH and AB reiterated the fact that it is the Elected Members that will need to chair the public meetings, and if these are carried out before elections, it may be the case that they can only attend, but not speak regarding policy options if they were to not be reinstated as Councillors.

LH suggested that the production of the SMP documents could be carried out before Public Consultation, to save on costs, and perhaps solve budgetary problems?

MH proposed that Public Consultation will not start until the second week of May, 2007 to avoid election problems –All agreed.

NP verified that a 3 month consultation will be sufficient-All agreed.

AR noted that the draft policy statements will be available for review before the SMP document is published, but it is envisaged that these will not substantially re-written.

8. Date of Next Meeting

NP suggested that a meeting will be required once the draft policy statements have been constructed, for a review session.

SM expressed concerns over cost implications of this, and therefore suggested that the documents be sent to the Elected Members for review, and if there are no major comments a meeting will not be required – All agreed.

DONM – Provisionally 12/13th March 2007

SM noted that it is important to start thinking about EMF5, which will occur post-consultation. How will the SMP document be presented to local authorities? Date to be decided in the near future.

MH requested that EMF3 for both plans should be publicised, to keep all interested parties involved.

Action – SM/CB/AR to organise

B4.14 ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 4: MINUTES**Shoreline Management Plans for Kent****ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND/MEDWAY ESTUARY AND SWALE****MEETING AT SWALE COUNCIL****24th October 2007**

Attendees:

Cllr Harrison (Regional Flood Defence Committee)

Cllr Bowles (Kent County Council)

Cllr Lewin (Swale Borough Council)

Ingrid Chudleigh (Natural England)

Elizabeth Holliday (Kent County Council)

Philippa Harrison (Environment Agency)

Ian Lewis (Swale Borough Council)

Mark Smith (Environment Agency)

Steve McFarland (SM) (Canterbury City Council)

1. Introductions/Apologies

Introduction and welcome to the meeting from Cllr Harrison. Primary aim of the meeting was to discuss the consultation feedback and agree the recommended responses and any changes to the policies put forward by the client steering group. The meeting covered general comments on the SMP and those specific to the Swale Council frontage.

2. Consultation

MS gave a presentation giving a brief overview of the comments received during public consultation, with regards to 'response themes'. These issues were as recorded in the consultation response documents as circulated ahead of the meeting. SM remarked that the major issues arising from the responses were related to 4 topics.

Loss of Agricultural Land

Loss of designated freshwater marshes

Compensation and blight for those with property in the "shaded" realignment zones

The effectiveness of the consultation process

Cllr Harrison asked whether CPRE had previously been involved in the process and what contributions they had made given their detailed response to the consultation at this stage.

Cllrs Harrison and Lewin requested clarification on how we would respond to queries relating to future responsibilities and standards of protection of defences. (SMF ACTION) MS explained that the response would be under the generic 'Defences' section of the consultation report and would state that the SMP does not define these issues and only sets coastal management policy. The consultation report will explain that this feedback will feed into the action plan to set the scope for future works.

MS explained the CSG agreement to provide separate responses to the consultation feedback provided by SE Coastal Group Members. Areas of lessons learned will be fed back to Defra for future updates of the SMP procedural guidance and coastal management planning structure.

Contentious Areas

Faversham Creek to Seasalter – Policy Unit 4a 07

SM provided an overview of the issues along the frontage and explained that around 50% of all consultation responses to the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP related to this frontage. A public meeting was held, attended by approximately 130 people and a petition has been signed by 1400 people.

SM had explained to the CSG that there now appears to be a strong case for considering the east and west sections of this unit separately:

East (between the Blue Anchor and the Sportsman) a strip of coastal properties and caravan parks along the side of Faversham Road, to the rear of which are internationally designated marshes.

West (between the Sportsman and Faversham Creek) a seawall protecting mainly productive agricultural land with local and national conservation designations.

The consultant had re-assessed the objective assessment for both the east and western frontages. The results for the west were very similar to the original assessment where MR and HTL met / partially met most objectives. The results for the east showed HTL meeting most objectives in all 3 epochs. However it was noted that with the majority of properties being sited on the seaward side of the defences it would be difficult to defend these assets under the sea level rise projections for the third epoch. The more detailed economics carried out by Canterbury City Council supported this. The CSG agreed to:

split the frontage into two sub-units (division point is at the Sportsman Pub);
keep the policies the same for the western unit (HTL/MR/MR) but add that there are opportunities for MR, for habitat creation, in the first epoch subject to further studies;
Change the policies for the eastern unit to (HTL/HTL/MR) and note that the recommended policy for the 2nd and 3rd epochs is kept under review.

These changes were supported by those present at the meeting

Further studies will be required to investigate realignment and habitat creation along this sub-unit, as well as, and in combination with other areas along the Swale frontage. Reference to these studies should be included in both the Isle of Grain to south Foreland Action Plan and Estuary Action Plan. It

was noted that there was currently no strong push to create intertidal habitat in the Swale Estuary vicinity and that the seawall was in reasonable condition and serviceable for a number of years.

Southern shoreline of the Isle of Sheppey - Policy Units E4 25, 26 and 27

MS gave an overview of the concerns and objections raised during public consultation:

Concern over the extents of MR shown;

Concern of MR over internationally designated habitat;
Concern over the reality of finding compensatory habitat;
Loss of large expanses of agricultural land is unacceptable; and,
Questionable justification of MR in short to medium term, no ecological or economic justification.

MS reiterated that the extents shown are only indicative (actual extents are not defined at this stage) and the details of any realignment will therefore be assessed in further studies. These studies will also need to look at the implications of MR throughout the Swale to inform people and the Environment Agency and to feed into FRMS. The CFMP will identify areas for habitat creation. The CHaMP will investigate gains and losses of habitat. The Action Plan will identify the further studies and monitoring required.

IL noted that despite targeted letters and a local meeting, there have been no responses from residents at Shell Ness. All agreed that sufficient effort had been made to consult.

Elizabeth Holiday suggested that it should be made clear on each map and policy statement that the managed realignment positions were indicative only. (HALCROW ACTION)

The Client Steering Group recommendation was accepted by those present.

Other comments

The NFU letter and Defra's response was discussed. Cllr Bowles asked for details of those who represented NFU and ADA on Defra's national flood and coastal defence stakeholder forum (SMF ACTION).

3. Action Plans

MS gave an introduction to the Action Plans, explaining their purpose as a Resourced Programme of Works to Implement the SMP and describing the range of information contained within the Plans.

The client steering group will be commenting on the action plans in November and updated copies would be passed to all elected member representatives in December.

4. Press/ Publicity

Cllr Harrison and SMcF discussed an article nearing publication in the Whitstable times.

SMcF has been invited to present at a CPRE Climate Change & Impact on Local Communities conference. All agreed that any presentation should be SMP generic and not field any queries on local SMPs. (SMF ACTION)

5. Agree Action Plans

MS highlighted that the Action Plan is a key part of the commitment the Elected Members make on behalf of their respective organisation. (ALL ACTION)

The process by which the SMP would be adopted by Local Authorities and others was discussed. Following a suggestion by Elisabeth Holliday it was agreed that a generic committee report would be prepared which each authority could adapt to their frontages. (MS / SMF ACTION)

6. Finalise & Disseminate SMPs

The action plans will be developed, the plan amended and the consultation response report publicised between November and December. (HALCROW ACTION)

EMF5 will be held in early January to agree the action plan and agree the route for each authority for adopting the SMPs. EMF5 to be scheduled asap. (HALCROW ACTION)

The final SMPs are scheduled to be presented to the EA Regional Flood Defence Committee in January. (Cllr HARRISON / MS ACTION)

Cllr in requested a hard copy of any further documents. (HALCROW ACTION)

7. AOB

Cllr Harrison clarified that, in concluding EMF4 with the representatives wishing to be present in attendance, the EMF are satisfied that the content of the plans are agreed and there should be no further major changes. (ALL ACTION)

B4.15 ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM 5: MINUTES

Shoreline Management Plans for Kent

Isle of Grain to South Foreland/Medway Estuary and Swale

Elected Member's Forum 5

30th January 2008

Board Room, Canterbury City Council, Canterbury.

Attendees:

Chair: Cllr Mike Harrison (Kent CC/RFDC)
Cllr Andrew Bowles (Kent CC)
Liz Holiday (Kent CC)
Cllr Alistair Bruce (Thanet DC)
Mike Humber (Thanet DC)
Cllr Gerry Lewin (Swale BC)
Ian Lewis (Swale BC)
Cllr Mike Patterson (Canterbury CC)
Sarah Parker (Canterbury CC)
Cllr Nicholas Kenton (Dover DC)
Roger Walton (Dover DC)
Brian McCutcheon (Medway DC)
Cllr Brian Luker (Tonbridge and Malling BC)
Ingrid Chudleigh (Natural England)
Hannah Gribben (Environment Agency)
Mark Smith (Environment Agency)
Phillipa Harrison (Environment Agency)
Steve McFarland (Canterbury CC)
Nigel Pontee (Halcrow)
Sam Box (Halcrow)

Apologies:

Cllr Roger Latchford (Thanet DC)
Cllr Phil Filmer (Medway DC)
Bryan Geake (Medway DC)
Steve Medlock (Tonbridge & Malling BC)
Anne Thurston (Environment Agency)

1. Introductions/Apologies

The chair (MH) opened the meeting. Introductions were given by all attendees present. MH explained the aim of the meeting and gave a brief overview of the status of the SMPs to date.

2. Progress update

MS gave a brief introduction to the day and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to agree the Action Plans and how these actions should be delivered. MS explained how the Action Plans had been developed since the last EMF in conjunction with the Local Authority officers. MS went on to clarify that each Local Authority with a frontage within the SMP boundaries needs to adopt the plan before the final SMPs are ratified by the Environment Agency Regional Director (formerly the role of the Defra Regional Engineer).

MS gave an update on the status of the Consultation Reports. The Consultation Reports for both SMPs are drafted and ready to be uploaded onto the South East Coastal Group's website. Respondees will be informed when they are both on the website. SMF reiterated that each Local Authority should be familiar with the responses agreed by the steering group, recorded in the Consultation reports, which relate to their frontage, so they are prepared if further questions arise. SMF went on to say that the Consultation Reports would be re-circulated to Local Authorities if required, before they are uploaded onto the web.

MH requested that an updated Briefing document/ handbook be prepared to create a handbook for all officers and Elected members on the SMPs. (MS/ SB/ SMF)

MH asked whether the past weather has created anything unexpected along the SMP coastlines. MS & SMF replied that there had not.

3. Action Plan Approval

SMF explained that the SMPs set out recommended policies and the Action Plan sets out how these policies should be implemented. The Action Plan should be discussed at coastal group meetings and progress should be reported against each action. Each action is given a high (H), medium (M) or low (L) priority and some actions will need to be promoted by more than one Local Authority. Therefore it is important to decide who will do what.

SMF explained that the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP will be going to Canterbury Full Council in February 2008 to recommend that the Council approves all that is recommended in the Action Plan to tie in with council procedures. However, this timescale may not be achievable for all Local Authorities involved.

SMF went on to highlight and explain the main actions in the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP to the Elected Members, for their discussion and agreement:

Table 6.1 – Study Requirements

- The clash between preservation of freshwater habitats and the creation of intertidal habitat is a problem highlighted in both SMPs. Therefore a high priority action is to initiate a study to look at the balance of habitats and to inform appropriate places and extents of realignments. MS explained that an Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken by the Environment Agency in conjunction with Natural England for the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP. On the Medway Estuary & Swale SMP, this has resulted in the removal of the 'Indicative Realignment Extents' and change in annotation (agreed with Client Steering Group) of the managed realignment policies (described later). The decision making in the appropriate assessment has been assured in consultation with Defra who are satisfied that the SMP policies will not cause adverse affect on habitats if further studies inform the future realignments. The Open Coast Appropriate Assessment is underway, learning lessons from this work done, and similar issues may arise. Text will be added to the action plans for both SMPs showing the link between the action and regional and national habitat programmes. (MS/SB)
- The development of a communications plan will tie in with the potential adaptation process. SMF went on to say that he had spoken with Jim Hutchinson (Defra) about this and that there is a report due to be published, as part of Defra Making Space for Water – 'Adaptation Tool Kit' project, which will include the consideration of compensation and adaptation measures for coastal communities. SMF and LH are also looking into funding sources for liaising with schools and developing websites etc. In the mean time, each Local Authority (LA) will need to look at who will be affected by the plans and how each LA will deal with affected people. MH suggested that a generic press release / information pack for LA's to use would be helpful.
- SMF highlighted the other study requirements identified in the Action Plan.

Table 6.2: Defence management, monitoring and study requirements by policy unit.

- Requirement for strategy reviews, details of works required and specific study and monitoring requirements are common to each policy unit.
- MH expressed his concern that no costs are included or whether the priority relates to the Environment Agency or engineering or where finance will be coming from. SMF explained that the priorities given are specific to the SMP and relate to time periods i.e. High = within the next 5 years, Medium = within the next 10 years and Low = within the next 20 years. The Action Plan itself is designed to only cover the next 20 year period. With regards to engineering and maintenance actions, actions where defences have a long residual life have been given a low priority. This does still mean that maintenance activities will still be undertaken. MS suggested a form of words to add to the tables to clarify that the SMP assumes all necessary maintenance is undertaken where defences exist (MS/SB). MP agreed that extra words would help in the case of Faversham Road, where there is already concern that protection to houses will not be maintained, so this would help clarify things.
- IL questioned how the Swale Strategy review would be undertaken, would it be joint between the Environment Agency and Local Authority? SMF clarified that where a LA is involved in a

frontage then an agreement between the EA and LA will need to be made as to how the strategy will be funded and who will take the lead on the project.

- E4 04 - study requirements include an exit plan. The Defra erosion mapping project will help inform the situation along the north of the Isle of Sheppey. The LA need to understand what their responsibility is to the residents. IL explained that if NAI is already the policy then essentially there is no responsibility for the LA to undertake further actions. SMF added that he will try and get some legal advice on these points as in other areas of the country some LA's were informing local people of their levels of risk with respect to flood and erosion risk. NP explained that the National Assessment of Coastal Erosion project will inform this.
- 4a 07A & B – SMF highlighted that people in this area still feel that the SMP is too narrow in scope and does not look at social wellbeing of residents affected. SMF went on to suggest that the strategy review should engage with these people right from the offset to involve them in the process from the start.
- 4a 14 – There is still a concern on the impact of a realignment in this location. The action plan therefore highlights that a detailed study is required before anything is progressed. Again the action plan needs to clarify that there will still be defence spending in the 1st epoch. MS additional words should cover this.
- 4a15 – A Coastal risk assessment is recommended to clarify issues where there are no defences around Thanet.
- 4b 20 & 21 – Consultation responses reflect that residents do not believe that the SMP responds to flood risk in the River Stour, they are worried that flooding will occur by the 'back door'. RW suggests that additional words need to be added to the Action Plan to explain how the SMP, CFMP and strategy all tie together (SB). NK explained that the Stour CFMP (2007) goes up to the sea and that this ties in with the Pegwell Bay Strategy which is due to be approved. MS added that the links between these projects is already explained in the consultation report. MS to send NK, RW and SMF the note explaining the links between the strategy, the CFMP and the SMP (MS). NK explained that there are concerns regarding flooding by the 'back door' at Cliffsend. MH added that the SMP recommends Hold the Line in that location and that the works in the action plan are a low priority which should be ok. RW the strategies need to be cross referenced in the Action Plan (SB).
- GL raised that question of where the issue of erosion is discussed in relation to a policy change from HTL to NAI along adjacent units (e.g. at Warden Bay)? SMF explained that these issues of transition between different policy units have been assessed generally in the SMP but the detail of how they are managed will be picked up and assessed in the strategy reviews. For example, at Warden Bay the programme of maintenance works at the site of the new revetment includes for managing the boundary between the rock defences and the eroding cliff.

MS highlighted and explained the main actions in the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP to the Elected Members, for their discussion and agreement:

Table 6.1: Study Requirements

- MS explained that study requirements are similar to those in the open coast Action Plan. The only addition is the assessment of erosion and flooding impacts between Aylesford and Rochester. MS also highlighted that following AA recommendations, the managed realignment extents on the policy unit maps have been changed. Managed realignment is shown by a line with arrows, indicating potential locations where a realignment could be implemented.

Table 6.2: Defence management, monitoring and study requirements by policy unit.

- E401 – IC explained that the only works taking place at Thamesport at present is the expansion of the jetty. BM added that Medway Ports are also undertaking channel deepening, and that relationships with the Thames Estuary 2100 project are still important. MS reiterated that the outcomes of the TE2100 project so far are consistent with the SMP recommendations.
- E404 – Residential Marine refers to the owner company of Hoo Marina.
- E416 & 19 – NAI is recommended therefore there is a need to engage with affected parties.
- E4 19 – add KCC Highway Authority to ‘actions to be promoted by’ (SB).
- E430 – Medway Islands, NAI is recommended therefore regular monitoring will be required.

SMF highlighted the actions identified in both SMPs for spatial planning.

Table 6.3: Actions for Spatial Planning

- 1 & 2 - SEERA and SEEDA should be informed of the SMPs. There may be opportunity for them to become members of the coastal group.
- MH and all other Elected Members requested a copy of the membership of the south east coastal group (SMF). SMF explained that Defra is looking at the future of coastal groups. At present Elected Members are outside of this group. Defra would like the coastal groups to become larger and more strategic. The South East Coastal Group would be amalgamated with the South Downs Coastal group to form a new coastal group. MH explained that there were worries that this approach will lead to more general agendas and additional travel for members leading to members becoming disinterested. Therefore it is suggested that SMP sub-groups are formed to progress the action plans. Questions still remain about the role of the Elected Members in this process. MH argued that this format will not work and will lead to regionalisation where individual districts will not be represented. AB added that local knowledge will be lost. LH mentioned that the Elected Members involved in the South Foreland to Beachy Head SMP wrote to Defra to explain how well the process went. SMF and LH agreed to draft a letter for Cllr Harrison to Defra to state the feelings of the Elected Members regarding this point (SMF/LH).

- 3 - A presentation will be given to the Kent Planning Officers Group (KPOG). POST NOTE also KPPF where the planning officers themselves are more likely to be found.
- 5 - BM suggested that the inclusion of the SMP as a section or annex to the Local Development Framework documents is unrealistic. The text needs to be reworded in the Action Plan (SB). The words should therefore refer to the fact that the SMP will become part of the reference base to each local plan.
- 6 - 'Policy risk zones' should be replaced with the words 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessment' (SB). RW also indicated that we are duplicating what is written in PPG 25, so we should instead refer to PPG 25 in the action.
- 7 – This should be tied into adaptation.

MS highlighted the further actions identified in both SMP action plans.

Comments on Table 6.4: Further actions

- The Coastal Group represents all of the Local Authorities.
- Remove action 6 in the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Action Plan as it is already complete (SB).
- Action 10 – (IGSF action plan) & Action 9 (MES action plan) add the Environment Agency into the responsibility section (SB).
- BL Questioned why the interaction between flooding and water storage (i.e. between river and coastal flooding) on the floodplain is not specifically included in the action plan and no reference is made to development control. On the first point, MS explained that this is considered in CFMPs and that the local CFMP had been developed in close consultation with our teams. SMPs and CFMPs inform each other but there should also be a formal link between the two. PH agreed that there is always a boundary issue, however this issue should be made clear in the SMP (SB). SMF added that both SMPs need to be checked to ensure that there are specific comments in each policy unit where this applies, e.g. realignment over marsh areas and water courses. MS suggested that words were already in the Action Plan reflecting that coastal management should not affect flood storage (Table 6.1) and regarding development control (Table 6.3). All agreed the wording, the clarity of the development control references will be checked (SB/MS/SMF).

MH invited any other comments regarding the Action Plans. No further comments were put forward. The Elected Members therefore formally agreed to the amended Action Plans for both SMPs.

4. Approval of full final plan

SMF explained that it is important for each Local Authority to formally adopt the SMPs. Canterbury CC see it as a key decision and are therefore going to full council to adopt the plan on 21st February. Elected Members were asked for their timetables for LA adoption of the SMPs:

Thanet DC (Mike Humber) – cabinet on the 31st January 2008 and full council on the 28th February 2008.

Swale BC (Ian Lewis) – cabinet on the 19th of March 2008 and assuming a change in policy, full council on May 14th 2008.

Medway C (Brian McCutcheon) – will write a letter explaining that the SMP has been formally agreed and adopted by the council (BM). Any more formal approval requirements will be investigated and a programme confirmed if required.

Canterbury CC (Cllr Mike Patterson) – full council on 21st February 2008.

Tonbridge and Malling BC (Cllr Brian Luker) – planning committee on 25th February 2008 and council on the 2nd April 2008.

Dover DC (Roger Walton) – cabinet in March 2008 and full council in May 2008.

Kent CC (Cllr Andrew Bowles) – cabinet date to be confirmed.

Environment Agency –Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) on the 9th April 2008.

Natural England – are ready to sign of the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP and will be ready to sign off the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP conditional on the Appropriate Assessment.

MS reiterated that the plans have been developed by the lead authorities (EA and CCC) on behalf of the south east coastal group. The ownership of the plans lies with the Local Authorities. Before Defra can approve the plans they have to be approved by the local Authorities. Medway will need to go through some kind of approval before going to Defra. A letter to that extent will be required to formally sign the plans off (BM).

Following SMP adoption by the LA's the SMPs will be sent to a national review group to check consistency and then to the Environment Agency Regional Director (formerly the role of the Defra Regional Engineer) for approval. The timescales for this are probably any time from late summer onwards.

5. Links with planning

Links with planning were discussed previously in the meeting.

BM reiterated that there would be a slot for a presentation to KPOG, potentially in March. Also it may be advantageous to give a presentation to the Kent Technical Officers (see group above also) association to feed to engineering staff. BM to arrange and confirm as agenda items for these groups (BM).

6. AOB

The Elected Members raised concerns over the regionalisation of the coastal groups as their role is very important and the groups are already a significant size to administrate. All EMs agreed to back a letter to Defra to highlight their concerns. LH/SMF/MH to draft. MH to sign on behalf of the Elected Members Forum.

7. Close

MH thanked officers past and present for all their hard work and team effort. Officers and members have been given the opportunity to be involved throughout the SMP process. The Elected Members should assist Officers in moving the plans forward. MH questioned the requirement for another meeting in the Autumn to catch up on progress in order to keep everyone informed. SMF suggested that an SMP or coastal group meeting could be arranged to provide an update on the SMP adoption process. All agreed that a meeting should be arranged for the Autumn, potentially as part of a coastal group meeting to be updated on the SMPs and other wider coastal issues. South East Coastal group officers to lead (All coastal group officers).

Author: Sam Box

Copy: All invitees

B5 Key Stakeholders Materials

B5.1 INTRODUCTION

Below are a series of documents that were issued to the Key Stakeholders prior to each of the forums and the minutes that were circulated thereafter.

B5.2 INVITATION LETTER TO KSF1

South East Coastal Group,

C/o Military Road, Canterbury

Kent, CT1 1YW

www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

22nd December 2005

Dear

Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review and Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan
Key Stakeholders Forum

Further to our letter to you, dated 27th October 2005, we are pleased to confirm that the first meeting of the Key Stakeholders Forum for the above Shoreline Management Plans will take place from 9.30am to 1pm on Wednesday 8th February 2006 at the Guildhall in Canterbury. Please find enclosed a location map and a full list of the members of the forum.

The Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review and the Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan are strategic coastal flood and erosion plans for the north and east coasts of Kent. They will set out a policy framework for future management of the coastline and will have significant implications for current and future land use and the natural and built environment. Policy options available for management of flood and erosion risks comprise Hold the Line, Managed Realignment, No Active Intervention or Advance the Line.

As a member of the Key Stakeholders Forum you will have the opportunity to debate and develop the plans and, in particular, comment on how the objectives and policies meet your needs and those of the organisations and interests you represent.

It is programmed that the Key Stakeholders Forum will meet three times during the development of the Shoreline Management Plans. The first meeting is a joint meeting for both plans. For the second and third meetings it may be appropriate to have separate meetings for each plan in order to consider the information in appropriate detail.

Draft flood and erosion risk management objectives for each section of coast will be sent to you for review closer to the meeting date. We then intend to discuss these during the meeting.

It would be much appreciated if you could confirm your attendance at the first meeting of the Key Stakeholders Forum. Responses can be sent via email to: christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk , or by telephone: Direct Dial 01227 862575.

Alternatively, any questions or queries can be sent by post to the: South East Coastal Group, c/o Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you at the first Forum in February 2006.

Yours Sincerely

S. McFarland

B5.3 KEY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM 1 AGENDA**ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND AND MEDWAY ESTUARY AND SWALE****SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS****Key Stakeholders Meeting****Wednesday 8th February 2006, 9:30am, Guildhall, Canterbury, Kent****AGENDA****1. Welcome from South East Coastal Group (Steve McFarland, Canterbury City Council)**

Welcome from Chairman, with brief background to the SMP and the South East Coastal Group.

2. Introductions from KSF Representatives (Attendees)

A brief statement of who, what organisation, position and why interested in coast; for the benefit of all attending.

3. Background to Shoreline Management Plans (Adam Hosking, Halcrow)

Presentation outlining the aims and approach to development of the SMPs and the key drivers in setting shoreline management policies.

4. SMP Stakeholder Involvement Strategy (Christina Bell, Canterbury City Council)

Presentation outlining the role of the Key Stakeholders Forum and the other groups to be involved in the development of the plans.

5. Approach to Issue and Objective Identification (Philippa Harrison, Halcrow)

Presentation briefly identifying how the study team has gone about identifying the Issues/Objectives presented in the tables circulated to attendees ahead of the meeting. Explanation of the importance of the objectives in policy selection.

6. Break Out Session

Attendees will break into groups to consider the flood and erosion risk management issues. This will be informed by the draft issues tables, but will focus upon what the stakeholders consider to be important to the future management of the coast. Attendees will be divided into groups based upon a combination of geographical areas (e. g Medway Estuary) and Interests (e. g nature conversation and fisheries)

7. Feedback from Groups and Discussion

Feedback on the Issues identified by each group and discussion of areas of potential conflict and

agreement rising.

8. 'What Next' in the SMP? (Adam Hosking, Halcrow)

Presentation on how the Issues/Objectives will be taken forward to appraise their importance and ultimately to define shoreline management policies. Also details of proposed future involvement of the Key Stakeholders

9. Next Meeting

10. Any Other Business

11. Close

B5.4 KEY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM 1 MINUTES**MEDWAY & SWALE ESTUARY AND IGSF OPEN COAST SMPs****KEY STAKEHOLDER'S FORUM: 8/2/06****GROUP 1**

Group Members	Adam Hosking (AH) Mark Smith (MS) Claire Munday (CM) Ingrid Chudleigh (IC) Alison Giacomeli (AG) Bryony Chapman (BC) Harry Moulard (HM) David Thorpe (DT)	Halcrow Environment Agency (EA) Environment Agency Natural England (NE) RSPB Kent Wildlife Trust National Farmers Union (NFU) Kent Wildfowlers Association.
Question 1	<p>For the features currently listed in the draft Issues and Objectives Tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are they described correctly? - Are the issues, benefits and beneficiaries correctly identified? - Has an appropriate objective been set? <p>Initially OK but would like more time to assess – will respond individually within 2 weeks</p>	
Question 2	<p>Are there any features that have been missed? If so, please add them to the table or list here.</p> <p>HM (50yrs) & DT (5yrs) have observed vertical erosion of islands, mainly within the Medway, but coastal wide through natural estuary processes. Beneficial reuse of dredging has been discussed at length with respective authorities and NE.</p> <p>Surge effect of Thames Barrier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for used N. Kent coast for lower standard of protection areas (flood storage). - Effect on defences 	

	<p>– Differing water levels being worked to</p> <p>BP/ Medway LPA proposal for wind farm around Allhallows</p> <p>Yantlett creek near Allhallows is a potential realignment site from IC’s (NE) perspective.</p> <p>Elmley Marshes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - potential intertidal habitat opportunities - compensation (freshwater) opportunity towards east around Harty marshes (arable reversion) - Elmley is v. important for birds - Freshwater compensation should be in sustainable locations not defended tidal floodplains. <p>Graveney and Pegwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Realignment opportunity IC (NE) – Offshore windfarm infrastructure has allowed for realignment within defended floodplain (location of stations & protection of cables) – <p>Managed realignment opportunity at Reculver to Minnis Bay (NE)</p> <p>North Sheppey cliffs should have no defences – RSPB/ EN/ KWT</p> <p>Intertidal wave cut platforms (SAC) around the Isle of Thanet should be recognised and protected.</p> <p>Faversham Oyster Fishery should be a stakeholder.</p>
<p>Question 3</p>	<p>What do your group consider to be the most important features and issues for future management of the shoreline?</p> <p>There should be NO net loss of either inter-tidal or freshwater designated sites (net area). All freshwater loss will require like for like compensation in local sustainable locations – all</p> <p>Any inter-tidal habitat creation should include appropriate compensation for landowners & leased users. (HM & DT). Agri-environment schemes seem to have provided a good mechanism for this in Essex (HM) although landowners would prefer direct compensation such as in road/ rail schemes (comp. Purchase)</p>

	<p>Freshwater habitat creation for compensation will be required in advance of any inter-tidal schemes to prepare for works – links to CFMP/ T2100 are very important</p> <p>General – links to CFMP/ T2100 are very important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - compensation land - tidal surge allowance - defence lowering for Thames/ upstream benefit - new Thames barrier effects & 100yr planning
Question 4	<p>Have you identified areas of agreement and conflict between objectives, if so what are these?</p> <p>Yantlett creek realignment opportunity and current (power stations etc.) and proposed (Windfarm) infrastructure.</p>
<p>MEDWAY & SWALE ESTUARY AND IGSF OPEN COAST SMPs</p> <p>KEY STAKEHOLDER'S FORUM: 8/2/06</p> <p>GROUP 2</p>	
Group Members	Andrew Bowles, Iain Murell, Helen Dalton, Graham Birch, Mike McKeown
Introduction	Suggest spend 30 minutes on questions 1 and 2. You are provided with copies of the draft Issues and Objectives Tables for both plans, which can be marked up with comments. Suggest spend at least 30 minutes on questions 3 and 4. Please continue on separate sheets as necessary. You will be asked to feedback on these questions.
Question 1	<p>For the features currently listed in the draft Issues and Objectives Tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are they described correctly? - Are the issues, benefits and beneficiaries correctly identified? - Has an appropriate objective been set? <p>This will be checked and comments fed back by the 15th</p>
Question 2	<p>Are there any features that have been missed? If so, please add them to the table or list here.</p> <p>The following features arose in conversation, although they may already be on the table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Stour freshwater system. Managed by the IDB, water levels are managed for abstraction. Consideration needs to be given to the impact of policy on the tidal sluices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outfalls, abstraction locations will be identified by Mike McKeown (Southern Water) and he will send through a GIS layer with all abstraction points etc. • Brackish water is a problem at Lidden Marshes. • LMIDB – there is a proposal for a new pumping station to be built at Kelmsey Marshes (just outside of the creek) due to increased infrastructure. • Mud accretion along the north bank of the Swale and at Queenborough the creeks are silting up. Andrew reported that the outfalls are becoming blocked and appear to be moving further from the shore with mudflat and saltmarsh accretion. • English-French power distribution line extends across the North Kent marshes. Refer EDF energy for more information. • Substation (proposed?) for London Array windfarm in Nagden Marshes, towards the back of Cleve Hill. This location is closest to the distribution line. • Another distribution line is proposed to run to Richborough (Sp?). This will supply energy from the Kentish Flats. • Proposed barrage at Sandwich Bay.
<p>Question 3</p>	<p>What do your group consider to be the most important features and issues for future management of the shoreline?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to protect railways • Infrastructure is required for economic growth, which is important for Thames Gateway and zones of changes. Because of these developments, transport routes are only going to be improved. Graham noted that the exception to this is the railway at Folkestone Warren. • Milton Creek is a zone of change, although it is at risk of flooding. • Kenuaf (cement factory/paper mills), is a huge employer in the area and the railway is also present here – this needs to be protected. • Seasalter, Emley, Nagden and Or marshes are all important areas of green tourism and recreation. • Burham marshes and Downs are freshwater marshes – potential conflict if wish to re-introduce saline water. • With exception to the proposed pumping station noted above, the existing infrastructure will be used in conjunction with the Thames Gateway and Zones of Change.
<p>Question 4</p>	<p>Have you identified areas of agreement and conflict between objectives, if so what are these?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of regeneration are located in the flood plain, which goes against the idea to create a more sustainable coastline. • Conflict between enhancement of environment and the need for agricultural land. • Loss of freshwater habitat vs. creation of inter-tidal habitat • Railways are located in potential realignment areas. • River Stour freshwater system: managed realignment of these areas will impact on the internal management of the freshwater system. Farmers also hold licences under the water act to manage the water flow, which are time limited. The length of the licenses (which extend to 2016-worth checking!) could impact on the timing of policy change. Should the licences be cut short, compensation would be required. • Compensation would be required by the farmers for land lost due to realignment. • Should infrastructure, such as sewerage works at Seasalter require relocation as part of the long-term plan, consideration should be given to the fact that the implementation of this would be dependent on approvals and the provision of funding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Railway embankments should not be confused with coastal defences. They are not built of sufficient materials to protect against flooding and erosion, so new embankments should be built. Embankments are also susceptible to instability as a result of rising groundwater, and oppositely land drainage, where settlement of the embankments will occur. Graham would like to see the railways protected since the costs of relocation are very expensive.• Helen noted need to look at requirements for compensation at two levels, locally and also regionally, i.e. sites of potential realignment need to be identified for the purpose of the south coast as a region (as part of BAP habitats, and need to create 40ha per year).• Need to ensure that the SMP does not conflict with the CFMP.
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B5.5 KEY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM 2: INVITATION LETTER

South East Coastal Group,
C/o Military Road, Canterbury
Kent, CT1 1YW
www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

26th April 2006

Dear

Medway & Swale Estuaries and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plans – Key Stakeholders Forum 2, 4th May 2006

I am writing to invite you to the second Key Stakeholders Forum for the Shoreline Management Plans for Kent, to be held on **Thursday 4th May 2006**.

Similar to the previous meeting, this Forum will be held at the **Guildhall in Canterbury** (location map enclosed), **commencing at 9.30am**. Refreshments will be available from 9am. Please note that it is advised to allow plenty of time for traffic congestion, as Canterbury experiences high levels at this time.

At this meeting, we intend to provide details of progress on the SMPs but also invite you to take part in 2 Group discussion sessions essential to the next stage of the development of the SMP. Details of these are all included in the enclosed agenda.

I have also enclosed copies of the revised and expanded Issues and Objectives Tables to be reviewed by you prior to the meeting. Copies of the original tables showing your feedback from the first Key Stakeholders Forum can also be viewed on the South East Coastal Group Website: www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk.

It would be much appreciated if you could confirm your attendance to this meeting either via e mail: christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk, or alternatively by phone: 01227 862575. Similarly if you have any questions or queries regarding the Forum do not hesitate to contact Christina on 01227 862575 or myself on the number below.

I look forward to seeing you at the Forum on the 4th May

Kind Regards

Steve McFarland

Southeast Coastal Group Chair

B5.6 KEY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM 2: AGENDA

ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND AND MEDWAY & SWALE ESTUARY SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Key Stakeholders Forum 2

4th May 2006

AGENDA

9.30am: Welcome

1. Introduction and presentation of the activities to date. (15mins)

Introduction to the day and review of the role of the KSF. Summary of work undertaken to date and present position.

2. Presentation of the risks and baseline scenarios. (25 mins)

Overview of the extent of potential risk and illustration of how the coast would look under the two baseline cases: 'no active intervention', i.e. letting defences fail, and 'maintain present management', i.e. retaining all existing defences.

3. Breakout Session 1. (60 mins)

The KSF will be divided into groups of individuals with broadly similar interests or disciplines (e.g. nature conservation, property, commerce, etc). Each group will be asked to provide a practical vision for the SMP coastline for its given discipline over each of the three epochs, taking account of the information on defined issues and risks. Each group will also be asked to identify possible areas for compromise and establish how accepting of change they can be, especially when considering how the importance of issues might change over time.

4. Group discussion of conclusions from Breakout Session 1. (40 mins)

The conclusions of each group are to be fed back to the rest of the KSF. This will be followed by discussion on key points to see where we have a degree of consensus and where conflict exists between different groups.

12.00 – 12.45: LUNCH

5. Breakout Session 2. (60 mins)

The KSF will be divided into different groups (nominally 5) of individuals, with a mix of interests/disciplines in each. Each group will focus upon a separate section of the coast. Groups will be asked to consider the different viewpoints from the morning session and seek a level of agreement on what should be the key drivers/policy options that need to underpin scenario testing for that area.

Again consideration needs to be given to any potential change in the issues over time.

6. Group discussion of conclusions from Breakout Session 2. (40 mins)

The conclusions of each group are to be fed back to the rest of the KSF, highlighting areas of agreement and conflict. This will be followed by discussion to give an opportunity to others outside that particular group to add further comment.

7. Summing up. (5 mins)

Discussion and summary of the main points arising from the day; areas of agreement and areas of conflict. We will not attempt to have resolution of all conflicts on the day – if necessary, subsequent meetings with the interested parties may be required.

2.30: CLOSE

B5.7 KEY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM 2 BRIEFING NOTE**ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND AND MEDWAY & SWALE ESTUARY
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN****Key Stakeholders Forum 2****4th May 2006****Aim and Objectives of the Workshop****Aim of the workshop**

Future coastal defence policies for the North Kent shoreline need to be driven by the stakeholders: it is your Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). Therefore, the aim of the Key Stakeholders Forum (KSF) workshop on the 4th May 06 is to involve the stakeholders in the setting of future shoreline management policies by:

- developing an understanding of the issues and the risks;
- establishing an appreciation of each others' viewpoints;
- starting to develop a vision of the future of this shoreline.

The workshop will use the draft Issues and Objectives Table, previously sent to you by Christina Bell, which lists all issues identified within the SMP areas, the associated benefits, an objective for each benefit and a theme-specific rank for that objective.

This stage of decision-making is one more step in the development of the SMPs. The workshop will identify potential policies and ideals that could be developed into scenarios and tested; it should not be viewed as defining the final preferred policies themselves. These will be established through the testing process, reviewed against objectives and coastal processes, and then discussed at a subsequent KSF workshop (September/October 2006).

Workshop objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to establish:

- the vision(s) of the various stakeholders for the whole SMP shoreline over each epoch, i.e. the next 20 years, 50 years, and 100 plus years;
- any 'overriding drivers' for directing future policy and specific future policy options that the stakeholders wish to see tested;
- areas of agreement and conflict;
- potential scope for compromise and acceptance of future change.

In order to direct the development of future policy, the involvement of stakeholders is essential.

Introduction

This document summarises the key comments and conclusions from the Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Key Stakeholders Forum (KSF) workshop held on 4th May 2006 at the Guildhall, Canterbury.

The aim of the KSF workshop was to involve the stakeholders of the Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review, in the setting of future shoreline management policies through bringing together an understanding of the issues, the risks and an appreciation of each other's viewpoints.

Meeting Attendees

Name	Organisation	Breakout Session 1	Breakout Session 2
Adam Hosking	Halcrow	Env	4 & 5
Nigel Pontee	Halcrow	Eng	2 & 6
Emma Fisher	Halcrow	Eng	3
Andrea Richmond	Halcrow	Tour	1
Rhian Jones	Halcrow	Plan	4 & 5
Sam Box	Halcrow	Agri	2 & 6
Simon Herrington	Herrington Consultancy	Plan	1
Steve McFarland	Canterbury City Council	Agri	3
Christina Bell	Canterbury City Council		4 & 5
Mark Smith	Environment Agency	Infra	2 & 6
Anne Thurston	Environment Agency	Eng	3
Rebecca Smith	Environment Agency (CFMP)	Eng	2 & 6
Lisa Lennox	Environment Agency (FRM)	Eng	2 & 6
Nigel Pye	Environment Agency (TE2100)	Eng	3
Lorna Gustaffsen	Environment Agency (TE2100)	Plan	2 & 6
Hannah Gribben	Environment Agency	Env	1
Paula Wadsworth	Environment Agency	Env	3
Carol Pierce	Environment Agency	Env	1
Martin Tapp	Stour IDB	Eng	5
Colin Carr	Sandwich Port and Haven Commission	Plan	1
Colin Fitt	Thanet District Council	Plan	5
Ian Lewis	Swale Borough Council	Plan	3
Liz Holliday	Kent County Council	Env	1

Cllr Mike Harrison	Kent County Council	Plan	4
Ingrid Chudleigh	English Nature	Env	2 & 6
Bryony Chapman	Kent Wildlife Trust	Env	4
Richard Moyse	Kent Wildlife Trust	Env	2 & 6
Alison Giacomelli	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Env	1
George Crozer	Friend of the North Kent Marshes	Env	3
Simon Ellis	Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee	Agri	5
John Bayes	Seasalter Shellfish	Agri	4
David Thorpe	Kent Wildfowlers	Agri	4
Kevin Atwood	National Farmers Union	Agri	2 & 6
Tony Redsell	National Farmers Union	Agri	5
Michael Collins	Kent Ramblers	Tour	5
Tony Child	Thanet Coast Project	Tour	4
Jodie McGregor	MSEP	Tour	2 & 6
Bernie Lambert	Thanet District Council	Eng	
Absences			
Ian Murrell	Environment Agency (Water Resources)		
Howard Moore	Highways Agency		
Mike Mckeown	Southern Water		
Alex Homfray	Sport England		
Apologies			
Elaine Kirkaldi	Seasalter Shellfish		
Joss Wiggins	Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee		
Mick Oliver	DEFRA Rural Development Service		
Sarah Parker	Canterbury City Council		
Pete Dowling	Stour IDB		
Maggie Morgan	National Trust		
Graham Birch	Network Rail		
Jo Anderson	SEEDA		
David Partridge	Power Stations (Kingsnorth and Isle of Grain)		
Lis Dyson	Kent County Council		
Adrian Fox	Dover District Council		
Stephen Fuller	Kent RIGS		
Cllr Andrew Bowles	RFDC		

Steve Kemp	Environment Agency		
Josh Peacock	Environment Agency		
Mike Watson	Upper and Lower Medway IDB		
Jo Scott	Pfizer Ltd		
Behdad Haratbar	Kent Highway Services		
Cllr Jim Cronk	Middle Deal and Sholden Coastal Cllr		
Dominic Evans	Ramsgate Port		
Gordon Harris	SEEDA		
Session 1: Eng = Engineering Plan = Planning, Property & Development Env = Environment Infra = Infrastructure Agri = Agriculture, Aquaculture & Wildfowling Tour = Tourism & Recreation		Session 2: 1 = Sandwich to South Foreland 2 = Outer Medway and Swale Estuaries 3 = Whitstable to Isle of Grain 4 = Faversham to Isle of Thanet 5 = Isle of Thanet to Sandwich 6 = Medway Estuary to Rochester and Medway Towns	

Outline of KSF Workshop Activities

Presentation by Halcrow

This outlined the role of the SMP and summarised activities to date. There was also an overview of the extent of potential risks and illustration of how the coast would look under the two baseline cases: 'No Active Intervention', i.e. letting defences fail, and 'with present management', i.e. retaining all existing forms of defences.

Breakout Session 1

The KSF was divided into six groups of individuals with broadly similar interests or disciplines (see table above). Each group were asked to provide a practical vision for the SMP coastlines over each of the three epochs (0-20 years, 20-50 years and 50-100 years), taking account of the information on defined issues and risks. The conclusions from each group were fed back to the rest of the KSF attendees and there was a brief discussion of the main points.

Breakout Session 2

The KSF was divided into different groups of individuals, split by geographical area. Each group was asked to consider the different viewpoints highlighted from the morning session and seek a level of agreement on what should be the key drivers/policy options that need to underpin scenario testing for specific sections of coast. The conclusions of each group were fed back to the rest of the KSF attendees, highlighting areas of agreement and conflict.

Summary of Conclusions from Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 1

The policy options identified in breakout sessions 1 and 2 have been mutually agreed upon as those the KSF wish to see tested at the Policy Scenario Assessment stage. It should be noted however that during Policy Scenario Assessment, other influences such as process benefits or technical issues may mean other options may also need to be tested.

Engineering

- Developments were identified; Thames Gateway housing at Allington, Large development by Medway Lanes and Peters Pit development. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) will pay for defences. Hold the Line is suitable for highly developed areas, including Medway Towns, north Sheppey, Sittingbourne, Faversham, Whitstable, Herne Bay, Margate and Deal.
- The power stations on the Isle of Grain and Kings North are important. Investment and development by ODPM at Sheerness, e.g. Kingsferry Bridge. However long term sustainability is questionable when protecting small amounts of houses.
- The group identified opportunities for realignment at Chetney, south Sheppey, south Swale and Graveney Marshes.
- Managed Realignment versus Hold the Line costs need to be weighed up at Thanet Way and the A299 road. Land is subsiding at this location so will need large amounts of fill to continue to Hold the Line. Will sea level rise reduce sand supply to Margate Hook sand bank, and consequently protection to the coast?
- The group asked if the beaches at Margate sands will continue to be replenished as sea levels rise (SLR)? Chalk wave cut platforms at Grenham Bay are lowering, this could increase in the future making Hold the Line a less economical option (depending on maintenance costs of defences in the 2nd epoch).
- At the Margate headland Southern Water provide their own protection to their pipe. The North Foreland Estate is currently unprotected therefore No Active Intervention would be suitable.
- Pegwell Bay to Deal No Active Intervention (Sandwich Bay Strategy, April 2007). Sewerage works and landfill are someway landwards. What is the barriers' impact on the Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP)? At Pegwell the sandbanks are still accreting, will this continue with SLR? North of Deal there is localised opportunities for Managed Realignment.
- There is recognition that maintenance of Thanet sea defences is expensive so there is scope for a potential change in policy in the long term, due to the beach.
- There is potential for Kings North and Grain Power Stations to be lost in the last epoch. However there are cables into the Isle of Grain, essential infrastructure and the land is potentially contaminated which needs to be taken into consideration when deciding on future management policies.
- High ground in the south of Isle of Grain: ODPM is considering development in this location as part of the Thames Gateway; however realignment to the east of this at Lower Stoke is a possibility as a future policy.

Planning, Property & Development

- The basic infrastructure needs to be maintained to the Isle of Thanet, i.e. roads including the Thanet Way dual carriageway and railway line, do not want to let it become an island. Transport

links are important for education/work/tourism. Managed retreat at Seasalter marshes would mean inundation up to the main Thanet to London railway line. This line is not possible to relocate so would it be protected if with a Managed Realignment policy?

- Infrastructure to the Isle of Sheppey and the Isle of Grain are equally important. The railway/road bridge onto the Isle of Sheppey is the only link to the mainland. The road is effectively on a causeway from the bridge; how long will it act as a defence? Commercial infrastructure includes the Liquid natural gas terminal located on the Isle of Grain.
- What are the gains if the Wantsum channel was opened? The value of land lost should be balanced against the environmental habitats created as well as the costs of relocating infrastructure.
- At what risk is keeping the integrity of the towns? All coastal towns are important assets for their heritage, character and tourism. What is the future for development in these areas? It is recognised that there are smaller scattered villages on the floodplain, i.e. Wantsum Channel. There is an uncertainty regarding these flood risk areas therefore the worst case scenario should be considered. What is the link between development control and risk management plans?
- Ports – Ridham Port has a commercially active dock as has Whitstable. They employ a number of people and have been identified for huge regeneration. The development needs to be fit for purpose in 100 yr+ therefore Hold the Line is needed. Richborough Port has the potential to be re-opened in the future.
- Beaches - The sandy beach is important at Thanet. Will there be increased development along this coast due to tourism potential? Implications of caravan park developments/holiday chalets/commercial enterprises near the beach may potentially result in damage to the beach. Increased storminess and sea level rise will have to be taken into consideration when identifying policy.
- Commercial developments – include the liquid natural gas terminal at Grain and the Pfizer development.
- Areas of derelict/brown field land along the Sandwich corridor have been identified for future economic development and investment. New infrastructure would also need to be taken into consideration.
- Medway Towns areas – are highly developed areas commercial and residential. New and potential developments include Thames Gateway developments, Shellhaven and Rochester Riverside development which are currently having new defences installed.
- Margate is experiencing extensive development; however there is limited development potential on surrounding green field land.
- What will drive policy?
 - Thanets slowly eroding cliff line
 - Developments on top of cliffs
 - The road at Epple Bay is under threat
 - Areas that are undefended at present
 - Characteristics of towns, e.g. Whitstable
 - Sheerness is below sea level

- Deal High Street is below sea level
- Waste water treatment sites
- Power stations/gas facilities and other commercial activities
- The need to preserve developed areas
- Cost

Environment

- All Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) are not included on the maps.
- RSPB - The key thing is for international sites to maintain the 'coherence' of the network. If habitat is lost then there has to be compensatory habitat in place before the losses are incurred. The extent of inter-tidal losses needs to be known to enable an informed decision to be made.
- Kent Wildlife Trust – The ultimate goal if no other issues are present is to remove defences and allow the coast to function naturally, but this is not feasible in reality. As well as looking at minimising loss, maximising gain should be as important. When considering realignment, it needs to be definite that habitats that will be lost will be compensated for.
- Environment Agency – There are large areas of the Isle of Sheppey which could be realigned, the issue here is that a large part of it is freshwater Special Protection Area (SPA) so will need to be compensated for. There is a possibility for realignment in low-lying areas/ intensive arable/grassland.
- It would be useful to have a worst case scenario for accretion rates, for example is loss of all saltmarsh possible in places?
- A study on water beetle communities has shown that communities varied between all locations, this will pose an issue for compensation. Wantsum and Romney Marsh may provide possible areas for compensation. Inland compensation sites will work for some features but not others. Functions and features will have to be looked at on an individual basis.
- Information on possible compensation areas needs to be investigated. Would this be done through Appropriate Assessment? How strategic would the assessment need to be? Is the criticality of species considered? Gains and losses need to be weighed-up, if 1ha is lost then it should be compensated with 2ha.
- A trial site for Managed Realignment would be useful to see if it works, and could examples from elsewhere be looked at? Possible realignment opportunities include Wantsum Channel, Cleave Hill, Yantlet Creek, and upstream of Rochester (SNCI Warden Marshes).
- Thanet chalk reef will be lost; therefore it is necessary that this habitat is not lost from other places that are undefended. However rollback of chalk grassland is acceptable.
- We need to accept that the next level (scheme implementation) policy options may change. However at this stage we need to try and agree the best policy option with the information we currently have.

Infrastructure

- No representatives were at the forum therefore infrastructure issues were discussed within other groups.

Agriculture, Aquaculture & Wildfowling

- Kent Wildfowlers wanted it known that their land ownership was not mentioned in the issues and objectives table.
- Between Grain and Kings North Hold the Line policy is needed to protect agricultural land. Land is important for capital/farming value, Isle of Grain is important for vegetable production. The Medway is important for grazing.
- The soil type is also important along with the long term strategic value of land. In the long term food issues may be an issue. If there are shortages in other countries/areas then production will have to increase locally. The implications of this need to be considered when choosing policies.
- Shellfishery and wildfowlers perspective is to remove defences to create breaches, encouraging recreation of saltmarsh habitats. Flooding will benefit the river by allowing it to find its natural form. A small breach may create erosion problems in other areas therefore the complete removal of defences is recommended with a Managed Realignment policy.
- The Isle of Thanet/Wantsum Channel is an important fertile strip of land of high class quality and value (Grade 1). Arable farming is conducted in the north and fruit growing towards the south. This high quality land needs to be protected. 150-250 species of bird are found in this area. There has also been huge investment into this area which needs to be taken into account when deciding on policies.
- Looking at the wider perspective, when identifying land for retreat, unit value of the original area of land is important. Therefore, if a section of land is identified for realignment the unit value of the remaining land may be reduced further. There is therefore a wider impact than just the area immediately affected by retreat. There is a long recovery period when good land is temporarily flooded. Retreat should not contaminate reservoirs or streams.
- The oyster shellfishery at Recover is of national importance and is recognised as a research facility. This however could possibly be relocated.
- There is a varied emotional attachment to farming land; sometimes it is purely business with no emotional attachment but other times the land may be passed down from family to family and therefore has emotional attachments associated with it.
- Conflicts arise between agriculture and fishery view points and between the value of land verses the long term need.
- Low value agricultural land is identified between Pegwell Bay and Deal and at Graveney Marshes. Graveney Marshes is identified as a possible site for realignment as it would be the least damaging in this location.

Tourism & Recreation

- The Heritage Coast between South foreland and Kingsdown is actively eroding. Therefore 'No Active Intervention' policy was agreed, providing the Saxon Shore Way was re-routed. This option would help to preserve the landscape and retain public access to the coastline, but it may be in conflict with the landowner (of the golf course).
- 'Hold the Line' between Kingsdown and Deal to protect recreation assets and heritage sites such as castles, the town of Deal itself, the pier (used by anglers) and to maintain the beach (by beach recharge).
- Sandown Castle to Sandwich Bay Estate – The nationally/internationally important golf course is acknowledged but the group agreed there was potential for a 'No Active Intervention' policy, albeit with active erosion monitoring. If erosion became an issue, then the group suggested

considering a managed retreat option – which would essentially involve recycling material. Under either scenario the Saxon Shore Way would be re-routed.

- Pegwell and Sandwich Bays ‘No-Active Intervention’ was suggested because this section of the coast contains Kent’s largest National Nature Reserve (NNR), environmental designations, bird watching area, environmental centre as well as Cliffs End Eco-Hub.
- Ramsgate is regarded as an important tourist area, promoted by Kent Tourism association and Thanet District Council. The group would like to see a shift from a fully managed coastline to a coastline which has ‘pockets’ of unmanaged stretches – where there is potential.
- Ramsgate to Minnis Bay, the group suggested hold the line in the short term, as properties along this stretch of the coastline are deemed important assets in the short term. A balance between nature and tourism/property is needed / called for in the medium term, therefore the group suggested that a combination of Hold the Line and Managed Realignment (where there is scope). The group felt that more information is required to propose a policy in the long term, due to the complex shoreline interactions i.e. sand is building up in Botany Bay and an erosion hot spot exists at Westgate-on-Sea.
- Minnis Bay to Herne bay, important tourism and recreation features: used as a cycle route/tourist attraction, Caravan Park, also has heritage aspects and a commercial oyster farm. Holds the Line suggested in the short term, maintaining the seawall, but research the feasibility of realignment in the medium/long term.
- Herne Bay to Whitstable, Hold the Line for all three epochs, was suggested, as the towns are important for tourism and property assets. However there may be realignment potential at Swalecliffe and Seasalter.
- Seasalter to Sittingbourne, house boats at Faversham noted as important feature (therefore hold in the short term) but the group felt that this area had potential for realignment in the medium to long term.
- Isle of Sheppey, nature tourism important on the south coast especially bird watching. Possible areas suitable for realignment include Emley Island and between Warden Point to Swanley farm, elsewhere Hold the Line due to property assets etc. The group noted that Twydall tourist centre is an important tourist hotspot for boats, walkers and cyclists therefore Hold the Line suitable.
- Isle of Grain - Hold the Line along with flood compartments – look for realignment options where possible.
- Upstream of Rochester, Hold the Line with opportunities for realignment/flood compartments in various locations.

Breakout Session 2

The policy options identified in breakout sessions 1 and 2 have been mutually agreed upon as those the KSF wish to see tested at the Policy Scenario Assessment stage. It should be noted however that during Policy Scenario Assessment, other influences such as process benefits or technical issues may mean other options may also need to be tested.

Isle of Grain to South Foreland

South Foreland to St Margaret's

(0 – 20 years) - **No active intervention**

(20 – 50 years) - **No active intervention**

(50 - 100 years) - **No active intervention**

St Margaret's

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line**

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line**

St Margaret's to Oldstairs Bay

(0 – 20 years) - **No active intervention**

Saxon Shore way is an important asset to the coastline in this area. Legislation is needed to ensure the recreation feature is maintained. No intervention should be the policy where the chalk and reefs are designated in the SAC.

(20 – 50 years) **No active intervention**

(50 - 100 years) **No active intervention**

Oldstairs Bay to Deal

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line/Managed realignment/no active intervention** should all be tested.

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line/Managed realignment/no active intervention**

Deal

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line**

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line**

Lydden Valley to Sandwich Bay Estate

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line/managed realignment** potential for saltmarsh creation under sea level rise. Compensation of habitat should be recognised in the SMP to account for no net loss of habitat.

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line/managed realignment**

Sandwich Bay Estate to Pegwell Bay

(0 – 20 years) - **No active intervention/managed realignment/hold the line** should be tested although managed realignment is the preferred policy. Sand dunes are designated in this area and the coast is accreting. It is vital to maintain the infrastructure to Thanet, Deal and Herne Bay.

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line/managed realignment** potential for saltmarsh creation under sea level rise.

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line/managed realignment**

The group also discussed:

- Habitat compensation, i.e. freshwater loss verses inter-tidal gain.
- What happens after the SMP time frame, i.e. if hold the line is kept at St Margaret's, it will eventually form a promontory.
- Uncertainties regarding shoreline response to sea level rise and climate change.
- Key policy drivers: they need to be marked on a map so it can be seen how they affect management up and down drift.
- The recognition of the involvement and awareness of other strategy schemes, but to not let the SMP be dictated by these.

Sandwich to Isle of Thanet

Pegwell Bay to Ramsgate (East cliff)

Ramsgate has extensive areas of important commercial/residential/tourism assets. A future advance the line option is potentially viable at Ramsgate Harbour.

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line**

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line**

Ramsgate (East cliff) to Dumpton Gap

Chalk cliffs and platforms are designated so need to be able to erode naturally.

(0 – 20 years) – **No Active Intervention**

(20 - 50 years) - **No Active Intervention**

(50 - 100 years) - **No Active Intervention**

Dumpton Gap to North Foreland (including Broadstairs)

Extensive areas of important commercial/residential/tourism assets.

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line**

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line**

North Foreland to Cliftonville

Chalk cliffs and platforms are designated so need to be able to erode naturally.

(0 – 20 years) – **No Active Intervention**

(20 - 50 years) - **No Active Intervention**

(50 - 100 years) - **No Active Intervention**

Margate

Extensive areas of important commercial/residential/tourism assets. Chalk cliffs and platforms are designated so need to be able to erode naturally therefore no active intervention is applicable in these locations.

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention** - designated chalk cliffs

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention** - designated chalk cliffs

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention** - designated chalk cliffs

Westgate on Sea to Birchington (Minnis Bay)

Areas have assets that need protection however, chalk cliffs and platforms are designated so need to be able to erode naturally therefore no active intervention is applicable in these locations.

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention** - designated chalk cliffs

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention** - designated chalk cliffs

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention** - designated chalk cliffs

Minnis Bay to Reculver

Area consists of high value agricultural land. Seasalter Shellfish nursery is also important. The railway line extends the length of the unit, inland. A no active intervention/managed realignment policy would have to take into consideration the rail track, e.g. defence of the line, relocation etc.

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line**

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 - 100 years) – **No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

Reculver

Residential properties therefore hold the line is needed.

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line**

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line**

Reculver to Bishopstone

Area designated as SSSI.

(0 – 20 years) – **No Active Intervention**

(20 - 50 years) - **No Active Intervention**

(50 - 100 years) - **No Active Intervention**

Beltinge

Minor protection is given by the mud/sand foreshore. No active intervention should be considered in certain places.

(0 – 20 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention**

(20 - 50 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention**

(50 - 100 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention**

Herne Bay

It is important to protect properties/assets close to the coastal frontage, although the town does not depend on the seafront. Hampton has been identified as a potential site for managed realignment.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line /Managed Realignment at Hampton**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the line/Managed Realignment at Hampton**

Studd Hill to Swalecliffe

Area of Swalecliffe is designated as an inter-tidal SPA, Ramsar and SSSI. Managed realignment where the caravans occupy land up to Studd Hill should be considered in the second epoch as the natural bay should be allowed to retreat.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line**

(20 – 50 years) – **Managed Realignment**

(50 – 100 years) - **Managed Realignment**

Swalecliffe to Seasalter (Whitstable)

It is difficult to separate the two. The area has expensive properties, second homes, young families are moving into the area. The character of the town needs keeping, the beach is integral to this character, and therefore replenishment may be necessary in the future. Seasalter levels, extensive area of natural sand/mud is poor quality land but is designated as a European SPA. The inter-tidal area is important and therefore may need localised protection of the frontage. Infrastructure needs protection.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the line**

Whitstable to Isle of Grain

Whitstable to Faversham Creek – including Graveney Marshes (east), Cleve Marshes and Nagden Marshes.

No shore erosion along this shoreline, designated SPA although land is of low agricultural value. There are plans to create a park/nature reserve at Nagden Marshes, if this is the case there may be scope for managed realignment. Managed realignment will potentially provide huge environmental benefits. It is noted however that the railway line and high voltage cables cut across the marshes which may present problems with managed realignment.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the line**

Leysdown marshes (Isle of Sheppey)

Policy chosen will be dependent on policy decisions in the south of Sheppey. NAI/managed Realignment may open up the mouth of the Swale which could potentially have up estuary impacts, i.e. erosion.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line/No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line/ No Active Intervention/ Managed Realignment**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the line/ No Active Intervention/ Managed Realignment**

Leysdown on Sea

High economic value, i.e. holiday housing, business on higher ground, beaches high recreational value, however risk of rapid erosion in this area. Potential to realign in the third epoch.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the line/ Managed Realignment**

Leysdown to Warden

A discrete flood area, possibility of earth bund inland with managed realignment which will environmentally enhance the area by increasing BAP species such as bees/voles/plants. Beach recharge may also be a possibility.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line/Managed Realignment**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line/ Managed Realignment**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the line/ Managed Realignment**

Warden

Consists of around 300+ properties. Opening up this area may allow flooding to the east (outflanking) therefore need to test both NAI and Hold the line policies at this location.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line/No Active Intervention**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the line/No Active Intervention**

Warden to Minster

Clay cliffs are geologically important. There may be potential for house relocation if no active intervention policy is adopted.

(0 – 20 years) – **No Active Intervention**

(20 – 50 years) - **No Active Intervention**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention**

Sheerness

Infrastructure and housing assets/investments around the town and docks. The shingle banks from Sheerness to Bartons Point are recharged every 2 years. High level land in this area although there may be a remote risk of 'back door' flooding.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the line**

Elfinstone Point to Grain

Power station at Grain, therefore it is important to defend this section.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the line**

Grain to All Hallows

Area identified for potential housing development and a potential new site for a new power station.

The whole area is designated SPA. BAP habitat is quite achievable to relocate therefore there is potential for realignment. Includes the A228 road and pipeline to Heathrow and Gatwick.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line** will become more difficult to justify with time.

(20 – 50 years) – **Hold the line/Managed Realignment**

(50 – 100 years) – **Hold the line/Managed Realignment**

Outer Medway & Swale Estuaries and Medway Estuary to Rochester & Medway Towns

The group proposed the following policies to be tested:

Grain to Kingsnorth.

Middle Stoke Marshes is an accreting area therefore habitat is not a driver here. Important infrastructure, i.e road, gas pipes landward of saltmarsh is located in this section. Defences are not maintained at present therefore No Active Intervention needs to be looked at as an alternative policy in the 20-50 and 50-100 year epochs.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the Line/No Active Intervention**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the Line/No Active Intervention**

Kingsnorth to Lower Upnor.

The area consists of villages and Kingsnorth Power Station.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the Line**

Cockham Wood

The Ancient woodland is a SSSI and Cockham wood Fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). There is a No Active Intervention policy at present, however there is a possibility that English Heritage may wish to defend the Fort in the future.

(0 – 20 years) – **Do Nothing**

(20 – 50 years) - **Do Nothing**

(50 – 100 years) - **Do Nothing**

Upper Upnor/Rochester/Chatham/Gillingham Towns

These towns have important assets, property, businesses, infrastructure, docks etc, therefore Hold the

Line is the only option to consider.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the Line**

Rochester to North Halling

The shoreline is bordered by the railway line, the A228 road and housing, therefore Hold the Line is the chosen policy.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the Line**

Halling Marshes

The marshes are owned by the Kent Wildfowlers, this area has potential for No Active Intervention and possible Managed Realignment.

(0 – 20 years) – **Do Nothing/Managed Realignment**

(20 – 50 years) - **Do Nothing/Managed Realignment**

(50 – 100 years) - **Do Nothing/Managed Realignment**

Halling to Snodland

The Holborough Marshes SSSI is a UK BAP priority habitat and Kent Wildlife Trust reserve and extends along both sides of the river. Managed Realignment is a possibility in the long term subject to replacement of habitat locally.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) – **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

Additional information **Laybourne Lakes Country Park** needs to be sought regarding this site before investigating policies to test. The railway line extends across the country park and property assets fringe the area. The park is designated as an SNCI local wildlife site. Abbey Mead Lake is part of the Holborough to Burham SSSI.

(0 – 20 years) – No policy decided for this frontage.

(20 – 50 years) – No policy decided for this frontage.

(50 – 100 years) – No policy decided for this frontage.

New Hythe to Allington to Paper mill

It is important to Hold the Line due to infrastructure, business and property assets.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the Line**

Paper Mill to Burham Court

The area consists of agricultural land and freshwater grazing marsh SNCI. Burham Marshes is a SSSI and UK BAP priority habitat.

(0 – 20 years) – **No Active Intervention**

(20 – 50 years) - **No Active Intervention**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention**

Wouldham Marshes

The land is low grade MOD land therefore No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment should be considered.

(0 – 20 years) – **No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

(20 – 50 years) - **No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

Barkshore Marshes

Barkshore Marshes is a SSSI therefore there is a need to protect the habitat in the first and second epochs.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) – **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

Chetney Marshes

Chetney Marshes is internationally designated as an SPA in part. It forms part of a compensation project for the construction of the A249. Intertidal habitats are UK BAP priority habitats. If potential replacement grazing marsh is identified, then there is potential for a No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment policy in the third epoch.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) – **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

Kingsferry Bridge to Sittingbourne

Infrastructure and industry are located along this shoreline, i.e. Ridham Dock, paper mill etc.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the Line**

Murston Pits to Faversham Creek

The area consists of Murston Pits, and coastal grazing marsh that is agriculturally managed to enhance the SSSI. Defences are justifiable in the short and medium terms to protect the habitat, however there is potential for No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment policies in the last epoch to allow time to find habitat compensation areas.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) – **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

Shellness to Elmley Island

The land is low quality agricultural land and coastal grazing marsh (SSSI and SPA). There is potential for No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment policies in the last epoch to allow time to find habitat compensation areas.

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) – **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment**

Elmley Island

Elmley Island is a National Nature Reserve and RSPB reserve bordered by higher ground behind. It has been identified as a potential location for saltmarsh creation.

(0 – 20 years) – **Managed Realignment**

(20 – 50 years) – **No Active Intervention**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention**

Elmley Island to Rushenden disposal site

(0 – 20 years) – **Hold the Line**

(20 – 50 years) - **Hold the Line**

(50 – 100 years) - **Hold the Line**

Rushenden disposal site to Sheerness

Land is relatively high at the disposal site therefore a No Active Intervention policy is possible.

(0 – 20 years) – **No Active Intervention**

(20 – 50 years) – **No Active Intervention**

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention**

Medway Islands

The islands are accreting but are in an unfavourable status. The island complex needs to be maintained as important bird breeding areas. Beneficial recharge from dredging to build up the islands may be a possibility as sea levels rise. Monitoring will help policy choice in the future.

(0 – 20 years) – **No Active Intervention** with monitoring

(20 – 50 years) – **No Active Intervention** with monitoring

(50 – 100 years) - **No Active Intervention** with monitoring

Each group presented their findings for potential policies along both the Medway and Swale estuaries and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland coastlines. There was a consensus of agreement by all stakeholders regarding the proposed policies to be tested.

A question regarding the involvement of the ‘other’ stakeholders was raised. Halcrow explained that following on from the recent pilot SMPs for North Norfolk, South Foreland to Beachy Head and South Downs, the approach taken on involving ‘other stakeholders’ was to incorporate their feedback into the Issues and Objectives table. Thereafter, the opinion of these ‘other’ stakeholders would be sought during the consultation period (which ran for 3 months during the pilot SMPs). It was proposed that comments provided during the consultation period would be put into a database, including details of who the comment came from and the nature of the comment. It was suggested that invites to the third KSF, be sent out in good time as the invitations to the second KSF were sent out only a week before the meeting.

What Next?

Halcrow will complete the baseline studies (coastal processes, existing defences report, No Active Intervention and With Present Management), the issues and objectives tables and the theme reviews. The completion of these reports along with the discussion and outputs from both the Key Stakeholders and Elected Members Forum, determine the identification of Key Policy Drivers for each of the SMPs. Their identification is fundamental to the next stage; the definition of possible policy options and scenarios.

For each possible policy option and scenario, the shoreline interactions and responses will be

reviewed and an assessment made against the issues and objectives.

A preferred scenario will then be defined and a broad economic review will be completed for those options. It should be noted that the economic review will not influence policy decisions.

B5.8 KEY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM 3: INVITATION LETTER

South East Coastal Group,
C/O Canterbury City Council
Military Road, Canterbury
Kent, CT1 1YW
www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

7th November 2006

Isle of Grain to South Foreland and Medway Estuary & Swale Shoreline Management Plans for Kent – Key Stakeholders Forum 3

Dear

I am writing to invite you to the third Key Stakeholders Forum for the Shoreline Management Plans for Kent.

This meeting will be held on **Monday 8th January 2007**, at the **Guildhall in Canterbury**. Please find enclosed a location map of this venue for your information. The meeting will **commence at 9.30 am**, refreshments will be served from 9am however.

At this Forum the project team will be presenting the preferred policies and the geographical areas covered by those policies. Following this there will be an opportunity to discuss them in detail to gain feedback on the following:

- a) The acceptability of the policies
- b) The balance of the policies
- c) Raise issues that could have missed
- d) Gain an understanding of the best way of putting the policies into practice.

Enclosed is an information sheet, to update you on the work that has been carried out since the last Key Stakeholders Forum, what we intend to gain from the third forum, and the work that needs to be carried out for the duration of the plans. A brief agenda for the meeting is also included within this.

Also enclosed are the draft Proposed Preferred Policies Tables. Please review these ahead of the Meeting. Please focus on the units local to yourself and those where your interests may be affected by the recommended policies.

Finally, I enclose a reply slip for you to confirm your attendance to this meeting. Please complete and return this in the envelope provided, as soon as possible.

If you have any queries or questions regarding this meeting, or any other aspect of the Shoreline Management Plans for Kent, please do not hesitate to contact Christina Bell via e mail: christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk, or by telephone: 01227 862575.

I look forward to hearing from you/seeing you at the meeting

Yours Sincerely

Steve McFarland

SECG Chair

B5.9 KEY STAKEHOLDER FORUM 3 AGENDA**ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND AND MEDWAY & SWALE ESTUARY
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN****Key Stakeholders Forum 3: 8th January 2007****AGENDA****AGENDA FOR THE NORTH KENT SMPS KEY STAKEHOLDER'S FORUM 3*****Morning Session: Medway & Swale SMP Area******Start: 9.30am (arrive for coffee from 9am)*****8. Introduction and presentation (20mins)**

Introduction to the day, review of the work done on the SMPs to date and set out the mechanics of the 3rd meeting of the forum. Overview of SMP policies, how the current preferred policies have been developed and how they may differ from the record of KSF2

9. Unit by Unit discussion of preferred policies (2 hours, 20 mins)

Unit by Unit justification and discussion of the preferred SMP policies. These will be referenced to the policies determined by the Key Stakeholders at Forum 2.

10. Outstanding Issues Session (30 mins)

An opportunity to capture any additional feedback from the SMP policy discussions

11. Break for Lunch/ Future Consultation (15 mins)

For parties not wishing to stay for the afternoon session, discussion of future public consultation – Our proposed method. Feedback on improved methods, local communication networks, venues

12.30 – 13:30 : LUNCH***Afternoon Session: Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 Area******Start: 13.30pm (Arrive for lunch from 13:00pm)*****12. IF REQUIRED - Recap Introduction and presentation (20mins)**

Introduction to the day, review of the work done on the SMPs to date and set out the mechanics of the 3rd meeting of the forum. Overview of SMP policies, how the current

<p>preferred policies have been developed and how they may differ from the record of KSF2</p> <p>13. Unit by Unit discussion of preferred policies (2 hours)</p> <p>Unit by Unit justification and discussion of the preferred SMP policies. These will be referenced to the policies determined by the Key Stakeholders at Forum 2.</p> <p>14. Outstanding Issues Session (40 mins)</p> <p>An opportunity to capture any additional feedback from the SMP policy discussions</p> <p>15. Future Consultation (30 mins)</p> <p>Discussion of future public consultation – Our proposed method. Feedback on improved methods, local communication networks, venues</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>17:00: CLOSE</p>
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B5.10 KEY STAKEHOLDER FORUM 3 BRIEFING NOTE**ISLE OF GRAIN TO SOUTH FORELAND AND MEDWAY & SWALE ESTUARY
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN****Key Stakeholders Forum 3: 8th January 2007****Introduction**

This document summarises the key comments and conclusions from the Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan 2 Key Stakeholders Forum (KSF) 3 meeting held on 8th January 2007 at West Gat Hall, Canterbury.

The aim of the KSF 3 meeting was to present, discuss and obtain feedback from the key stakeholders on the Preferred Policies put forward for both the Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan, and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review.

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Nigel Pontee	Halcrow (Project Manager)
Sam Box	Halcrow (Deputy Project Manager)
Rhian Jones	Halcrow (Senior Environmental Scientist)
Steve McFarland	Canterbury City Council (Project Manager)
Christina Bell	Canterbury City Council
Mark Smith	Environment Agency (Project Manager)
Anne Thurston	Environment Agency
Carol Peirce	Environment Agency
Clive Older	Environment Agency
Hannah Gribben	Environment Agency
Paula Wadsworth	Environment Agency
Ian Murrell	Environment Agency (Water Resources)
Ian Lewis	Swale Borough Council
Peter Starling	Rochester Oyster and Floating Fisheries
Frank Chester	Environment Agency
Robert Hinge	NFU Swale Region
Harry Moulard	Landowner/NFU
Brian Stone	NFU
Kevin Attwood	NFU
Steve Medlock	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Richard Moyes	Kent Wildlife Trust
Michael Collins	Kent Ramblers
Phil Woodgate	Medway Ports
Martin Tapp	Stour IDB
Ingrid Chudleigh	Natural England
Alison Giacomelli	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Tony Child	Thanet Coast Project
Andrew Redsell	National Farmers Union
Lis Dyson	Kent County Council (Archaeology)
Dr Will Wright	Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee
Dominic Evans	Ramsgate Port (Left 12.05)
Mike Mckeown	Southern Water
Colin Carr	Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners
Joan Dorwell	Friends of the North Kent Marshes
Gill Moore	Friends of the North Kent Marshes
Mike Humber	Thanet DC (pm only)
Cllr John Bragg	Sandwich Town Council/Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners/Royal St. Georges Golf Club
Roger Walton	Dover DC (pm only)
Adrian Fox	Dover DC
Apologies	
Cllr Mike Harrison	Kent County Council
Peter Jackson	Whitstable Architect
John Bayes	Seasalter Shellfish
Jeremy Watts	Sandwich Town Council
Stephen Kemp	Environment Agency
John Godden	Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners
Elaine Kirkaldi	Seasalter Shellfish
John Archer	National Farmers Union
Maggie Morgan	National Trust
Josh Peacock	Environment Agency
Lorna Gustavsen	Environment Agency – TE2100
Graham Birch	Network Rail

Outline of KSF 3 Activities

Morning Session: Medway and Swale SMP Area

Introduction and Presentation - Mark Smith (Environment Agency)

This outlined the role of the SMP and Key Stakeholders, summarised activities to date and gave an overview of the four generic SMP policy options (Hold the Line, Advance the Line, Managed Realignment and No Active Intervention).

Unit by Unit Discussion of preferred Policies – Nigel Pontee (Halcrow)

This outlined the preferred policies by unit, with reference to policies identified for testing from KSF 2, and included the justification for the policies presented.

Outstanding Issues Session

This session captured any additional feedback from the SMP policy discussions.

Future Consultation

This session outlined and discussed potential consultation methods for future public consultation.

Afternoon Session: Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP 2 Area

Re-cap Introduction and Presentation – Steve McFarland (Canterbury City Council)

This outlined the role of the SMP and Key Stakeholders, summarized activities to date and gave an overview of the four generic SMP policy options (Hold the Line, Advance the Line, Managed Realignment and No Active Intervention), for those Key Stakeholders who did not attend the morning session.

Unit by Unit Discussion of preferred Policies – Steve McFarland (Canterbury City Council), Nigel Pontee (Halcrow)

This outlined the preferred policies by unit, with reference to policies identified for testing from KSF 2, and included the justification for the policies presented.

Outstanding Issues Session

This session captured any additional feedback from the SMP policy discussions.

Future Consultation

This session outlined and discussed potential consultation methods for future public consultation

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
4b 01 Allhallows-on-Sea to Grain	HTL	MR	MR	<p><u>NFU/Landowners</u> – Objection due to potential to loose farmland, concerns raised regarding extent of MR – additional information required specific landuse and compensation issues.</p> <p><u>Kent County Council</u> – Objection due to potential loss of heritage features. Need to record and monitor heritage features and mitigate in the SMP.</p> <p><u>Ramblers</u> – Note Would prefer HTL in epochs 2 and 3, however will agree to MR if Footpaths are realigned; therefore a suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP.</p> <p><u>NFU</u> – Strategic Agricultural Interest in this area has evolved over the past 12 months due to rising cost of commodities and potential impact of Climate Change</p> <p><u>Friends of the North Kent Marshes</u> - Commented on the Beach at Allhallows on Sea and low lying properties and therefore MR may not be appropriate.</p> <p><u>RSPB</u> – Internationally important habitat landward side of seawall and – need for compensation for losses?</p>
4b 02 Garrison Point to Minster	HTL	HTL	HTL	<p>Policies Agreed</p> <p><u>Ian Lewis (Swale Borough Council)</u> - Note the Port has been taken over by a developer - that may also look to other options on the North Coast, i.e. ATL, if ATL is not the policy is it completely ruled out?</p> <p><u>Steve McFarland</u> – <i>No not completely, if ATL is proposed by the developer it would need to be assessed separately.</i></p> <p>HTL is the best option for managing coastal defences</p>

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
4b 03 Minster Town (chalet park to Royal Oak Pub)	HTL	HTL	HTL	No Comment - Policies Agreed Note minor adjustment to the boundary of the Unit
4b 04 Minster Slopes to Warden Point	NAI	NAI	NAI	Policies Agreed <u>Kent County Council</u> – Note heritage concern about lack of recording and the need to monitor. Note a recent study on Warden Bay has been undertaken – the outcomes of the Study are due to improve Sea Defences in Warden Village in Summer 2007 leading to the protection of 100 properties. Cliffs of special geological interest – no new sea defences and currently undefended area therefore: Adjust boundary to edge of permanent development with caravan sites within 4b04 not 4b05 Whole coastline is SSSI – Note that Coastal Erosion is taking place at a rate of 1M per year (landscapes) although it occurs as landslides rather than at a steady rate.
4b 05 Warden Point to Leysdown-on- Sea	HTL	HTL	MR	Policies Agreed subject to detail of MR in due course. <u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Note that footpaths will need to be realigned in the 3rd Epoch; therefore a suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP. Locally important landscapes Main town assets and - protect existing Sea Defence

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
4b 06 Leysdown-on-Sea to Shell Ness	MR	MR	MR	<p>MR would result in property losses at Shell Ness.</p> <p>NFU – Objection due to land loss.</p> <p>Kent County Council – Objection due to loss of heritage features. Need to record and monitor heritage features. If not feasible – excavations and monitoring **Check funding availability from Defra and policy with English Heritage (Peter Murphy)</p> <p>Kent Ramblers – Objection due to loss of footpaths. Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore a suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP.</p> <p><u>Ian Lewis (Swale Borough Council) –</u> Should the management of heritage assets come out of MR funding? <u>Steve McFarland: Property and asset Loss – no compensation at present.</u> <u>Cardiff University are undertaking work ‘Coastal Adaptation Study’ on impacts on populations in vulnerable sites, e.g. Purchasing property, Compensation issue for communities but no conclusions and unlikely to be straight financial compensation</u></p> <p><u>RSPB –</u> Habitat could be created without losing freshwater habitat, dependant on the MR position.</p>
4b 07 Faversham Creek to Seasalter	HTL	MR	MR	<p>NFU objected to loss of farmland/Heritage Issues</p> <p>Kent Ramblers – Would accept MR as long as the footpaths are realigned, i.e. provisions made for mitigation in the SMP.</p> <p>Detailed Strategy in this area which would mark realignment at railway line.</p> <p><u>NFU –</u> MR should be concentrated where defences are inadequate / failing. <u>Steve McFarland –</u> The beach and foundations of defences are subject to erosion and potential undermining even though structures are otherwise ok. Approximately 60 properties would be in advance of the defended line and likely to be lost over a 100 year period</p>

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
4b 08 Seasalter to Whitstable Town	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comment - Policies Agreed
4b 09 Whitstable Town to Whitstable Harbour	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comment - Policies Agreed
4b 10 Whitstable Harbour (east) to Swalecliffe	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comment - Policies Agreed
4b 11 Swalecliffe to Herne Bay Breakwater	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comment - Policies Agreed
4b 12 Herne Bay Breakwater to Bishopstone Manor	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comment - Policies Agreed
4b 13 Reculver Country Park	NAI	NAI	NAI	Policies Agreed Heritage concerns – managed as a retreating site
4b 14 Reculver Towers to Minnis Bay	HTL	MR	MR	NFU - objection due to loss of high value and quality agricultural land and cost of moving Sea Wall to a longer length. Should be HTL in epochs 2 and 3. Ramblers – Objection due to possible loss of paths. Would like to see HTL in all three epochs in this area. Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore a suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP. Kent County Council – Heritage concerns. Need to manage risk to key

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
				<p>heritage features. If not feasible – excavations and monitoring.</p> <p>In 1953 the railway line was flooded/ breached</p> <p>Loss of intertidal habitat could be compensated using land/the chalk wall in front of the railway. Parts of the existing line would need to be used to provide shelter otherwise there would be no saltmarsh formation due to the aggressive wave climate.</p> <p><u>Steve McFarland</u> –</p> <p>Coastal squeeze is going to be more of a problem as sea levels rise. Beach management is likely to be costly in this area as time goes on</p> <p><u>RSPB</u> –</p> <p>Good area to create intertidal habitat due to loss of agricultural land.</p>
4b 15 Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea	HTL	HTL	HTL	<p>Policies Agreed</p> <p>Localised opportunities for NAI. No new defences where currently undefended</p>
4b 16 Margate	HTL	HTL	HTL	<p>No comment - Policies Agreed –although no new defences where currently undefended</p>
4b 17 Cliftonville (Fulsam Rock to White Ness)	HTL	HTL	HTL	<p>No comment - Policies Agreed –although no new defences where currently undefended</p>

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
4b 18 White Ness to Ramsgate	HTL	HTL	HTL	<p>Policies Agreed <u>Steve McFarland</u> – Although HTL, Defra states this is still subject to funding and affordability, there may be a delay until funding is available or if funding is unavailable the policy may not be upheld. Noted that the SMP makes policy recommendations at this stage – but does not guarantee future action (dependent on funding etc). Make clear within the policy for local opportunities for NAI</p>
4b 19 Ramsgate Harbour	HTL	HTL	HTL	<p>No comment - Policies Agreed –although no new defences where currently undefended</p>
4b 20 West Cliff (Ramsgate western harbour arm to north of the River Stour)	HTL	HTL	HTL	<p>Note Policy Boundary Changed District Council and Environment Agency are working on the Pegwell Bay Strategy . Also Sandwich Bay Strategy which goes up the Stour. <i>** Need to check policy with strategies and CFMP, needs to be made clear how the SMP policies relate to and tie in with the strategies. Clarification needs to be made as to the form of defences for HTL.</i> Some sections are NAI at present so why has HTL been proposed? Requirement to look are this area in more detail – note importance of Geological sites (RIGS) and SSSIs where cliffs should not be protected and need to be exposed. <u>Cllr Bragg</u> – There are no formal defences at Abbsfleet at present, where the road (is the defence) is fronted by mudflats and floods during very high tides. Note the West Site is a Waste Disposal Site Former Hooverport land has potential contamination issues <u>Cllr Bragg</u> – If this area floods it would mean wide scale flooding up to Sandwich.</p>

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
4b 21 Pegwell Bay (south of the River Stour to Sandwich Bay Estate north)	NAI	NAI	NAI	<p><u>Cllr Bragg / Colin Carr</u> – Objection due to concern regarding the sufficient protection of the railway line and Sandwich, which will be worse with sea level rise.</p> <p><u>Natural England</u> – Sandunes are a natural, adequate coastal defence.</p> <p><u>Cllr Bragg</u> – <i>Does not agree that they will protect Sandwich.</i></p> <p><u>Dover DC</u> – Expressed concern over the management of dunes. If the dunes breached or are damaged then under NAI would it be expected that remediation works would be carried out to gain the original standard of protection?</p> <p><i>**Clarification is needed regarding the Pegwell Bay Strategy</i></p> <p><u>Cllr Bragg</u> – requires hydrological and other evidence that the area will not be subject to flooding</p> <p>Reservations of the integrity of the natural flood defences. Clarification sought with Strategy</p> <p>Note – shingle is encroaching into the previous Policy Unit i.e. feeding the beach north of this unit.</p>
4b 22 Sandwich Bay Estate (south) to Sandown Castle (remains of)	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comment - Policies Agreed
4b 23 Sandown Castle (remains of) to Oldstairs Bay	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comment - Policies Agreed

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2 - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
4b 24 Oldstairs Bay to St Margaret's	NAI	NAI	NAI	Policies Agreed There are around 20/30 homes on the top of the cliff that may be at risk. Note the Nature and Environmental importance of having an actively eroding Cliff Halcrow to check erosion contours.
4b 25 St Margaret's	HTL	HTL	HTL	Policies Agreed Note defences on the bottom of the Cliff
4b 26 South Foreland	NAI	NAI	NAI	No comment - Policies Agreed

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
E4 01 North Grain to Colemouth Creek	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comments - Policies Agreed.
E4 02 Colemouth Creek to Bee Ness Jetty	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	<p>NFU – objection due to loss of land. <u>Kent Wildlife Trust</u> – Policy promoted, subject to AA, as it moves toward a more natural coastline.</p> <p>Is MR proposed purely for economic reasons? <i>No, it may be unsustainable to HTL in the same position, economics should not be the main driver however we are bound by the system we have to work to and the policy therefore has to be affordable.</i> How do you define affordable? <i>We should be looking at ‘economically justifiable’ not just ‘affordability’, the policy is economically justifiable where the assets are more valuable than the cost of defences, however other factors also need to be considered for example, technical acceptability.</i></p> <p><u>NFU / Landowners</u> – Compensation is needed if land is lost – current Government approach is insufficient. MS explained that the SMP has to be developed within the current Government Framework with this issue normally managed through Agri-Environment Schemes MR is more expensive as a new line of defence needs to be constructed. MS explained that the plan covers 100year timescale, whereas any defence has a maximum design life of 50years. Any defence will require expensive reconstruction during the life of the plan, MR offers opportunities to determine not only, the most Economically sustainable line but the most technically & environmentally sustainable line also. It appears that everything has been decided behind closed doors. <i>MS explained that the policies have been fully appraised before the meeting, and the</i></p>

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
				<p><i>documents can be reviewed on the SE Coastal Group website.</i></p> <p>More information is needed to make an informed decision, for example regarding the specific extents and positions of MR.</p> <p><i>MS – It is not the place of the SMP to define extents of MR.</i></p> <p><i>NP – Strategies look into extents of MR</i></p> <p><u>RSPB</u> –</p> <p>If MR is over internationally designated sites the loss of habitat would have to be compensated for elsewhere.</p> <p>Has the Appropriate Assessment happened yet? How much intertidal will be lost to sea level rise? What is the balance sheet of gains and losses?</p> <p><i>MS – the AA will be undertaken once the policies have been set.</i></p> <p><u>Kent County Council</u> –</p> <p>MR will cause a negative affect on the landscape and heritage features so is mitigation decided at policy stage?</p> <p><i>MR allows the flexibility of the line of defence, standard of protection of the defence is determined by what is being protected and can change. Heritage issues will be clearly identified and brought in at the strategic stage.</i></p> <p>Will the Strategy Plan require an Environmental Impact assessment?</p> <p>Yes.</p>
E4 03 Kingsnorth Power Station	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comments - Policies Agreed.
E4 04 Power Station to Cockham Wood	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	<u>NFU</u> – objection due to loss of land. Kent Ramblers – Mitgation required (relocate footpath)
E4 05 Hoo Marina to	NAI	NAI	NAI	Kent Ramblers – objection due to loss of footpaths, however, mitigation regarding realignment of footpaths over time would be acceptable.

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
Lower Upnor				<p><u>Kent County Council</u> – objection due to loss of Cockham wood Fort.</p> <p><u>Kent County Council</u> – If features are going to be lost, will money be available to record and monitor these features? <i>No. English Heritage has stated that in this location loss of the heritage feature is acceptable.</i></p> <p>What happens where three consecutive management units have policies of HTL, NAI and HTL? <i>MS - In a coastal setting headlands will form, however estuaries are different as it is very difficult to predict where the shoreline will be in the future. Defences would be constructed to stop outflanking of defences in management units adjacent to the NAI unit. In this location the management unit consists of high land and hard geology.</i></p>
E4 06 Lower Upnor to Medway Bridge	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comments - Policies Agreed.
E4 07 Medway Bridge to North Halling	HTL	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	<p><u>Phill Woodgate</u> – objection due to cost already spent in this area combined with the cost effectiveness of MR in this small area.</p> <p><u>Kent Wildlife Trust</u> - Invertebrates are found in the Saline Lagoons under the Medway Bridge. <u>Kent County Council</u> – MR may not be acceptable due to loss of unknown heritage features, more detail is needed first. The SMP should make it clear that monitoring of these features should take place. <i>MR is only a concept in the SMP and does not go into any specific details, it just flags up the potential of MR along the frontage.</i></p>
E4 08	MR with	MR with	MR with	Kent Ramblers – Mitigation required (relocate footpath)

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
North Halling to Snodland	localised HTL	localised HTL	localised HTL	<p><u>Harry Moulard</u> – Epoch 1 should be HTL to allow for discussion and other studies to be carried out. <i>MS - 20 years is a long time and some defences may need replacement before 20 years, therefore a decision needs to be made before the end of the first epoch.</i></p> <p><u>Kent Wildlife trust</u> – Is land value and replacement value taken into account for MR? <i>No, the economics are very broad as the MR line is not specified.</i> There is a need to phase in the MR, to allow time to find replacement habitat etc. <i>'Managed' means a more flexible line and means that finding compensation habitat will also be managed in a responsible manner. It may be that only the process starts in the first epoch, MR may not actually take place until epoch 2.</i></p>
E4 09 Snodland to Allington Lock	HTL	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	<p><u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP.</p> <p><u>Kent County Council</u> – Heritage features need mitigation, i.e. monitoring and recording.</p>
E4 10 Allington Lock to north Wouldham	HTL	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	<p><u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP.</p> <p><u>Kent County Council</u> – Heritage features need mitigation, i.e. monitoring and recording.</p> <p>A new Medway bridge and development (Peter's Village) have been given the go ahead in this location. The realignment will need to include management of these features.</p>
E4 11 Wouldham Marshes	MR	MR	MR	<p><u>NFU</u> – Possible objection due to loss of land in a potential farming area. Compensation details and economics are needed before decisions are made.</p> <p><u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP.</p>

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
E4 12 Medway Bridge to west St Mary's Island	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comments - Policies Agreed. Management Unit should be renamed as 'Medway Bridge to west St Mary's Island.'
E4 13 St Mary's Island to the Strand	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comments - Policies Agreed.
E4 14 The Strand to west Motney Hill	HTL	MR	MR	<u>Kent County Council</u> – Heritage features need mitigation, i.e. monitoring and recording. <u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP. HTL in first epoch to allow for further investigation into MR due to possible contamination issues.
E4 15 Motney Hill to Ham Green	MR with opportunities for HTL	MR with opportunities for HTL	MR with opportunities for HTL	<u>NFU</u> – objection due to loss of land and conservation interests. <u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP. <u>Kent County Council</u> – Heritage features need mitigation, i.e. monitoring and recording. <u>Natural England</u> – Horsham Marsh is internationally designated and MR would require compensatory habitat. <u>Friends of North Kent Marshes</u> – Express concerns regarding the position of compensatory habitat as compensatory habitat needs to be close to the lost habitat for the bird life.

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
				<p>Does compensatory habitat need to be close to where the loss occurs? <i>It is desirable but also has to be sustainable.</i></p> <p>How many locations have been identified for compensatory habitat creation? <i>Natural England's advice will be sought, also there is a national study and the CFMP should identify potential areas.</i></p>
E4 16 Ham Green to east of Upchurch	NAI	NAI	NAI	<p><u>NFU</u> – objection due to loss of land.</p> <p><u>Harry Moulard (landowner)</u> – objection due to loss of land.</p> <p><u>Kent Ramblers</u> – objection due to loss of paths. – Mitigation could overcome objection</p> <p><u>Kent County Council</u> – Object unless Heritage features mitigated, i.e. monitoring and recording.</p> <p><u>Ian Lewis</u> – <i>**Requested likely erosion rates for different soils where NAI has been proposed</i></p> <p><u>NFU</u> - The orchards are of great importance and should not be lost.</p> <p><u>Harry Moulard.</u> – Are there provisions for compensation to landowners with a NAI policy? <i>No, the Government have no obligation to keep defences if lives are not affected.</i></p> <p><i>**Guidance on compensation to be provided to the Harry Newland (Landowner)</i></p> <p><u>NFU</u> – It is not always possible to relocate paths due to private / farm land issues.</p> <p><u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Costs to relocate footpaths is an issue as well as relocating over farmland.</p>
E4 17 East of Upchurch to east Lower	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	<p><u>NFU</u> – objection due to loss of agricultural land. Exact realignment details are needed.</p> <p><u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable</p>

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
Halstow				mitigation should be included in the SMP. <u>Kent County Council</u> – Heritage features need mitigation, i.e. monitoring and recording.
E4 18 Barksore Marshes	MR	NAI	NAI	<u>NFU</u> – objection due to loss of agricultural land. <u>Kent County Council</u> – Heritage features need mitigation, i.e. monitoring and recording. Compensatory habitat will be required. The northern section of the marshes may be contaminated. <i>MS – HTL in epoch 1 has been proposed to help manage any contamination issues.</i> NP asked CO about the EA perspective regarding sustainability of defences. <i>CO – stated that if defences are not sustainable in the future the justification of defending the frontage will have to be looked at in the long run.</i>
E4 19 Funton to Raspberry Hill	NAI	NAI	NAI	<u>NFU</u> – objection due to loss of agricultural land. <u>Kent Ramblers</u> – objection due to possible loss of paths. <u>Kent County Council</u> – Object unless Heritage features mitigated, i.e. monitoring and recording. <i>Harry Moulard –</i> The road is already impassable due to flooding on very high tides therefore under NAI the road would have to be abandoned. If the road was lost, the 2 mile journey along this coastal road would turn into a 10 mile journey. <i>CO – It would be up to the Highways Agency to relocate the road.</i> <i>Ian Lewis – The Highways Agency have been contacted but no response has been given thus far.</i>
E4 20 Chetney Marshes	MR	MR	MR	<u>NFU</u> – objection due to loss of agricultural land. Friends of North Kent Marshes – raised an interest due to location of compensatory habitat.

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
				<p><u>RSPB</u> – Seaward end of Chetney is not as designated as the rest of the marsh. Compensation habitat will be required along with appropriate management.</p> <p><u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Would be happy with a realignment here.</p>
E4 21 Kingsferry Bridge to Milton Creek	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comments - Policies Agreed.
E4 22 Milton Creek	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comments - Policies Agreed.
E4 23 Murston Pits to Faversham	HTL	MR with localised HTL	MR with localised HTL	<p><u>NFU</u> – Possible objection to policy in epochs 2 and 3 due to loss of land.</p> <p><u>Kent Ramblers</u> – Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP.</p> <p><u>Kent County Council</u> – Heritage features, e.g. Gunpowder Works, need mitigation, i.e. monitoring and recording.</p> <p>Extensive areas of freshwater habitat here which would need to be managed through the AA.</p> <p><u>Kent Wildlife Trust</u> – Happy with these policies.</p>
E4 24 Faversham to Nagden	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comments - Policies Agreed.
E4 25 Shell Ness to Sayes Court	MR	MR	MR	<p><u>NFU</u> – Strong objection due to large amount of land lost and scale of MR. The frontage consists of a large area of low-lying agricultural (arable and livestock) and environmentally designated land which is very vulnerable.</p> <p><u>Kent County Council</u> – Objection due to loss of heritage features (early aircraft</p>

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
				<p>industry location) and degradation of the landscape as a whole. Any loss of features would require mitigation i.e. monitoring and recording.</p> <p>Kent Ramblers - Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP.</p>
E4 26 Sayes Court to north Elmley Island	MR	MR	MR	<p>NFU – Strong objection due to potential for large amount of land lost. Level of objection dependant scale of MR. The frontage consists of a large area of low-lying agricultural (arable and livestock) and environmentally designated land which is very vulnerable.</p> <p>Kent County Council – Objection due to loss of heritage features (early aircraft industry location) and degradation of the landscape as a whole. Any loss of features would require mitigation i.e. monitoring and recording.</p> <p>Kent Ramblers - Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP.</p> <p>Kent County Council – Objection due to loss of unknown heritage features and degradation of the landscape as a whole. Any loss of features would require mitigation i.e. monitoring and recording.</p> <p>RSPB & Friends of North Kent Marshes – Area is very important for breeding birds. Therefore the RSPB would be very concerned with the scale of MR. It will be very difficult and time consuming to mitigate / compensate for loss of habitat.</p> <p>Kent County Council – The cost of mitigation of heritage features with MR in a large area would be huge.</p> <p>Kent Wildlife Trust – The effect of sea level rise on defences and sustainability must be considered.</p> <p>RSPB – Swale is accreting and therefore is not as susceptible to sea level rise.</p> <p>Natural England – Swale is accreting in the west, and eroding elsewhere. We must also consider the loss of intertidal habitat with coastal squeeze.</p> <p>MS – MR could mean only a small change in defence position and not necessarily a large change.</p>

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
				<p><u>Friends of North Kent Marshes</u> – Could we state that the MR should be ‘small scale’ in the SMP? <i>Detailed analysis needs to be undertaken first regarding a realignment position.</i></p>
E4 27 North Elmley Island to Kingsferry Bridge	HTL	MR	MR	<p>NFU – possible objection to MR in 2nd and 3rd epochs due to loss of agricultural land.</p> <p>Kent County Council – Objection due to loss of unknown heritage features and degradation of the landscape as a whole. Any loss of features would require mitigation i.e. monitoring and recording.</p> <p>Kent Ramblers - Footpaths will need to be realigned; therefore suitable mitigation should be included in the SMP.</p>
E4 28 Kingsferry Bridge to Rushenden	HTL	MR	MR	<p>NFU – possible objection to MR in 2nd and 3rd epochs due to loss of agricultural land.</p> <p>Kent County Council – Objection due to loss of unknown heritage features and degradation of the landscape as a whole. Any loss of features would require mitigation i.e. monitoring and recording.</p>
E4 29 Rushenden to Sheerness	HTL	HTL	HTL	No comments - Policies Agreed.
E4 30 Medway Islands	NAI with monitoring	NAI with monitoring	NAI with monitoring	<p>Kent County Council – Objection due to loss of heritage features and degradation of the landscape as a whole. Any loss of features would require mitigation i.e. monitoring and recording.</p> <p>Medway Ports – Raised concern as they manage a form of defences around the dredging disposal islands. NAI should not preclude the practical operation of these dredging sites.</p> <p><u>Harry Moulard</u> – There are deposits of trace dredging in the area, but more work should be done on the possibility of ‘salting’ the islands with more dredging as some are eroding at a fast rate. This may serve two purposes, one as a disposal site and two to help maintain the islands. Can we advise that work needs to be done to maintain the</p>

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP - Summary Sheet of Comments from KSF 3				
(HTL – Hold the Line, ATL – Advance the Line, MR – Managed Realignment, NAI – No Active Intervention)				
Policy Unit	Epoch 1 0-20 Years	Epoch 2 20-50 Years	Epoch 3 50-100 Years	Comments
				islands in the SMP? <i>NP – No, this is not in the remit of the SMP.</i>

Additional Comments and Questions:

What is the driver for NAI?

Economics, environmental reasons

Landowners will not find NAI acceptable due to loss of land, no compensation available and loss of properties.

Steve McFarland – HTL does not mean the coastline will look the same as it does now, it is very difficult to predict how the coast will look in the future but likely to see a loss of intertidal area and beaches in many locations.

Detailed information on impacts on the estuary, and indeed parts of the open coast do not exist as yet, the SMP will need to highlight the other work / studies that need to be undertaken, reasons why defending may not be sustainable in the future and areas where change may occur.

Mark Smith – The economic assessment in the SMP is only a rough assessment, more detailed economics are included at Strategy level.

Kent Ramblers – Sea levels have been increasing over the past 500 years and we have been able to keep it at bay, why should we stop defending now?

NP – Coastal squeeze will become more of a problem as sea levels rise, defences will become more vulnerable to wave attack, become more expensive and technically difficult to maintain as sea level rise becomes more rapid.

The final plan should be based on the latest maps, e.g. there is now a second bridge over the Medway in this location which does not show on the current map.

The new LNG facility in MU E4 01 is also missing on the map.

Is HTL proposed for protection of Socio/Economic reasons?

Is MR proposed to relieve coastal squeeze?

Note that MR is not a fixed line. MR allows the flexibility of the line of defence, standard of protection of the defence is determined by what is being protected and can change.

B6 Other Materials

South East Coastal Group,

C/o Military Road, Canterbury

Kent, CT1 1YW

www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

Dear

Following my letter of November 2005, I am writing with an update on the two Shoreline Management Plans for Kent that are currently being undertaken (The Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan and the Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan).

In November, we asked if you could help us by completing a questionnaire regarding your opinions of the current situation along the sections of coastline where these plans are being developed. We also asked that you provide us with any relevant data or site specific information you might have relating to your coastline which may influence the way in which it is managed in the future.

An excellent range of responses were received, allowing us to begin the process of identifying what assets at the coastline are important and why. This information has been compiled into a series of tables (the Issues and Objectives Tables), the latest versions of which can be viewed on the South East Coastal Group website: www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk.

The initial versions of the Issues and Objectives tables were reviewed by the Key Stakeholder Group (a group of people and organisations who are providing representation for a range of interests along the coastline). The Key Stakeholders attended a special meeting on February 8th 2006, where they received presentations on Shoreline Management Plans and climate change implications. Following the presentations the Key Stakeholders, through discussion groups, provided further comments on the Issues and Objectives tables. Copies of the presentations to the Key Stakeholders and the minutes of the meeting are on the SECG website.

Next, the Elected Members (Councillors representing each of the affected local authorities and the Environment Agency's Regional Flood Defence Committee) attended a Forum held on March 6th. At this meeting, they were introduced to the Shoreline Management Plan process, and were invited to provide any further feedback for the development of the Issues tables. At this stage, it is the role of the Elected Members to agree the Issues tables contents prior to next stage of the process being undertaken.

The Next Stage.

The next stage is to **prioritise** the features that are listed within the Issues and Objectives tables. This task will be carried out at the next Key Stakeholders Forum, to be held on May 4th 2006, and the results agreed at the next Elected Members Forum, to be held on June 8th 2006.

In the meantime, all relevant information for the plans will be available on the South East Coastal Group website for your information.

If you have any queries or questions, please contact me at christina.bell@canterbury.gov.uk or 01227 862575. Alternatively, contact the relevant Steering Group/Elected member you wish to speak to, details of these people are attached.

Yours Sincerely,

Steve McFarland

South East Coastal Group (Chair)

B7 Consultation Report

Consultation with stakeholders (i.e. Client Steering Group, Elected Members, Key Stakeholders and other stakeholders) has occurred throughout the development of the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). Stakeholder membership lists and the full programme of stakeholder engagement can be found in Sections B1 and B2 of this present Appendix.

This Consultation Report describes the public consultation process, undertaken to inform the public of the SMP and to give the public an opportunity to comment on the SMP policies. Section B7.1 describes the public consultation methodology employed and Section B7.2 details the comments received and the Client Steering Response to these comments.

Public Consultation took place between the 14th May 2007 and the 7th September 2007.

B7.1 PUBLIC CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

The public consultation methodology was agreed at the sixth Client Steering Group Meeting (CSG6) held on 28th February 2007 in Canterbury. After discussing the various approaches that could be adopted at each stage, the Client Steering Group (CSG) agreed the appropriate consultation approach and agreed dates. The CSG agreed the format and content of all consultation materials.

Approaches adopted are discussed below and include:

- the use of the South East Coastal Group website;
- PowerPoint presentations;
- press notices;
- press briefings;
- letters to the extended stakeholder group;
- briefing packs;
- summary leaflets;
- posters;
- hard copies of the SMP documents;
- CD-ROMs of the SMP documents;
- consultation response forms; and,
- public and stakeholder meetings.

At the outset of the consultation, the CSG agreed that the following items/activities were not required to be undertaken.

- ¹letter drops to individual households (expensive and unnecessary if other methods are employed);

¹ Some authorities carried out letter drops to parts of the coastline where properties were considered to be directly affected by the SMP proposed policies. This includes north coast of the Isle of Sheppey, Shellness, Faversham Road (Seasalter) and affected parts of the Thanet coast.

- a central hot line for stakeholders to call (resource intensive);
- static display boards in local libraries or local authority offices (use of a PowerPoint presentation would be more cost effective); and,
- pre-arranged public meetings (decision on public meetings to be taken once consultation is underway to gauge where and when they would be most useful i.e. with those communities / individuals most affected).

B7.1.1 Websites

A page on the website of the South East Coastal Group Website (<http://www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk/>) was devoted to the public consultation of both the Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2. Canterbury City Council (CCC) acted as administrators for this. The full consultation document, including all appendices and maps, was available in electronic format on the website. Halcrow produced a consultation response form which was available to download or complete online. The CSG agreed that the consultation form should be similar to that used in previous SMPs with sections for name, contact details etc. A copy of the consultation response form is included in Annex B1.

B7.1.2 PowerPoint Presentation for Public Meetings/ Displays

A PowerPoint presentation was produced electronically by Canterbury City Council and Halcrow for the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP and circulated to the CSG. The presentation had two parts:

(i) A standard introduction to explain the purpose of/ need for SMPs, SMP background, what the policies mean, and the problems that could occur to our coasts over 100 years under existing policies such as hold the line.

(ii) A second section that could be run separately and which explained the policies for each management unit consecutively. This second section highlighted the policy, key drivers for the policy and key impacts. For exhibitions, local officers edited the second part of the presentation to focus on relevant areas. The second section was run automatically in lieu of display boards.

B7.1.3 Press Notices / Press Briefings

The Environment Agency were responsible for drafting and placing the press notices in local newspapers. Individual local authorities were responsible for news items on the SMP in their council residents magazines. A copy of a press notice is included in Annex B1.

Articles explaining the SMP and consultation appeared in Local Authority magazines of Swale Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Thanet Council and Dover Council.

B7.1.4 Letters to the Extended Stakeholder Group

A standard letter was drafted by Halcrow and sent out to the stakeholders group (350 stakeholders), along with consultation response forms, to promote the shoreline management plans, highlight the start of consultation, deliver consultation information and invite affected parties to prompt meetings. A copy of the stakeholder letter is included in Annex B1.

B7.1.5 Briefing Packs

Briefing packs were produced for the press and for Local Authorities. Copies of each are included in Annex B1.

Press Briefing Pack

Two levels of press briefing pack were produced and issued to the CSG, who circulated the material to the Local Authority Teams and Environment Agency Project Teams responsible for each SMP. One level was focussed at the county press, while the other was focussed at the local press. Each briefing pack had three parts:

- (i) an introduction to explain the background of climate change, sea level rise and coastal change, the purpose of SMPs and the problems that could occur along our coasts over the next 100 years under existing policies such as hold the line;
- (ii) a section that explains the policies proposed for each policy unit; and,
- (iii) a section that explains how to get involved, comment, on the SMP and where to access the full SMP public consultation material.

Local Authority Briefing Pack

Local Authority Briefing Packs had three parts:

- (i) an introduction to explain the background of climate change, sea level rise and coastal change, the purpose of SMPs, and the changes that could occur along our coasts over the next 100 years under existing policies such as hold the line;
- (ii) a section that explains the main contentious issues/ policies/ policy units; and,
- (iii) a section that explains the policies per policy unit.

B7.1.6 Summary leaflets

Two summary A3 folded leaflets were produced in colour to cover the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review and the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP. The CSG and EMF reviewed and agreed the draft text before the leaflets were finalised. The CSG agreed that these summary leaflets should follow the format of the South Foreland to Beachy Head SMP. Rather than each leaflet dealing with exclusively open coast and estuary frontages, the leaflets were organised to reflect stakeholder interests and local authorities:

- Leaflet 1 – Medway Estuary and Swale, plus the northern coast of the Isle of Sheppey. This covered the Medway, Tonbridge and Malling and the Swale; and,
- Leaflet 2 – The entire open coast frontage from the Isle of Grain to South Foreland.

Approximately 1000 copies of each leaflet were distributed to each Local Authority and the Environment Agency. Leaflets were placed in Local Authority offices, Environment Agency offices and local libraries. Kent County Council sent leaflets to a number of stakeholders (which included members of the Kent Coastal Network and coastal local boards / neighbourhood forums), listed in Annex B1. Consultation leaflets were also mailed directly to affected residents along the Swale frontage and hand delivered to affected parties on Faversham Road, Seasalter.

B7.1.7 Posters

A poster was drafted by Halcrow, agreed with the CSG and a read-only version made available on the South East Coastal Group website. These posters were made available for any party to post in suitable locations to engage with their peers and the public. A copy of the poster is included in Annex B1.

B7.1.7 Hard Copies of the Draft SMP Document

Printed versions of the consultation document and supporting appendices were available for inspection at the following locations:

- Medway District Council offices at Strood;
- Swale Borough Council offices at Sittingbourne;
- Canterbury City Council offices at Canterbury
- Thanet District Council at Margate
- Dover District Council at Dover
- Kent County Council offices at Maidstone; and,
- Environment Agency office in Addington.

B7.1.8 CD-ROMs of the Draft SMP Document

Copies of the consultation document and supporting appendices were also produced on CD-ROM and were available to view in a number of libraries, as well as the following Local Authority offices and Environment Agency offices:

- Medway District Council offices at Strood;
- Swale Borough Council offices at Sittingbourne;
- Canterbury City Council offices at Canterbury
- Thanet District Council at Margate
- Dover District Council at Dover
- Kent County Council offices at Maidstone; and,
- Environment Agency office in Addington.

B7.1.9 Public / Stakeholder Meetings

Focussed face to face meetings were proposed for affected parties only e.g. residents with properties affected, farmers with land affected, environmental, heritage and recreation interest groups. The CSG agreed that these meetings would only be undertaken if stakeholder response indicated that they were required. If deemed necessary, meetings would then be set up with those communities or individuals most affected.

In response to the publication of the draft plan and at the request of stakeholders, meetings were also organised with the National Farmer's Union (NFU) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Meeting minutes from the NFU meeting in August 2007 are included in Annex B1.

Date	Venue	Main area covered
26 th April 2007	Chislet Parish Council	North East Kent esp Wantsum Channel
21 st June 2007	NFU Swale	Swale
9 th July 2007	Council Chamber, Swale House, Sittingbourne	Medway Estuary / Swale Estuary
12 th July 2007	Leysdown Parish Hall, Leysdown	Isle of Sheppey
19 th July 2007	River Stour (Kent) IDB	Reculver to Minnis Bay and Sandwich Bay Estate (north) to Sandown Castle (Remains Of)
19 th July 2007	Queen Elizabeth School, Faversham	Swale Estuary
27 th July 2007	St Alphege Hall, Seasalter	Faversham Road
22 nd August 2007	Canterbury City Council, Military Road Office	Agricultural Impacts and the assessment of Agricultural impacts throughout both the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP and Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2
	Faversham Road (Water Ski Club)	
	RSPB London	Impacts of policies on habitats – open coast

Personal visits were made to residential properties in Faversham Road affected by managed realignment as requested.

B7.1.11 Co-ordination of Responses

E-mails, consultation response forms and written responses were directed to Canterbury City Council (CCC) for both the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2. A designated email address was set up solely for consultation responses for both SMPs (smp@canterbury.gov.uk).

B7.2 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

B7.2.1 Form of Responses

73 responses were received from residents, businesses, Parish Councils and other organisations. Responses were received in a variety of forms:

- letters;
- consultation response forms (hand written and electronic);
- e-mails; and,

Comments and questions arising from meetings were also noted.

B7.2.2 Method of Analysis

All comments and responses received were recorded as detailed below:

- upon receipt from Canterbury City Council, each response was given a unique reference number;
- details of each response were entered into a Consultation Response Register (e.g. date, name, contact details, area of interest, comment and if any revision may be required);
- each response was considered in turn and an acknowledgement of receipt of the response or if necessary, a detailed reply was sent to the responder; and,
- responses were categorised into the following themes – support for policies proposed; objections; environmental issues; economic issues; compensation issues; defences; consultation process; relationship with other plans / policy; policy unit specific issues and other issues.

B7.2.3 Responses

B7.2.4 Support

Comments were received expressing support for individual policies and / or the SMP as a whole:

'The South East England Regional Assembly broadly welcomes the proposed preferred policies in the North and East Kent SMPs. The documents represent a clear framework to address the management of coastal flood risk for the next 100 years through the application of four distinct policy options.'
South East England Regional Assembly

'The North Kent Rivers CFMP is currently undergoing policy appraisal. We will be taking the proposed SMP policies into account when deriving policies for the CFMP to ensure the policies are complementary. We will continue to liaise closely with the SMP teams.' **North Kent Rivers CFMP Project Manager, Environment Agency**

'All looks eminently sensible.' **Medway Valley Countryside Partnership**

'The Members of Faversham Town council welcomed the information that was contained in the Consultation Plan Summary andnotify that they fully support the policies as identified therein.'
Faversham Town Council

Client Steering Group Response

The CSG would like to acknowledge and welcome the support given for the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP.

B7.2.5 Objection

Comments were received relating to objections to policies along specific frontages:

'Under the planned management changes it is anticipated that in the course of time salt water will invade the marshland currently surrounding Sandbanks Farm (Faversham), polluting the watercourses with saline water and thus destroying our fruit production business which is entirely dependent on the supply of fresh water. This supposition is based upon the water levels following the 1953 floods when the area in question was invaded with salt water. The current value at today's prices of crops grown by this company at Sandbanks Farm amounts to 4.5 million pounds, this figure is anticipated to increase in the future without taking inflation into account. This Company objects strongly to the proposals.' **Edward Vinson Limited.**

'Policy Units (E4 25 and E4 26) have the potential to result in major losses of agricultural land, which would directly effect our business and we would object to the proposals for each of these units.' **F D Attwood and Partners**

'We strongly disagree with and have very grave concerns with the scale of the managed realignment proposed in these SMP's.' **Friends of the North Kent Marshes**

'The Board express their objection to the majority of the proposals that involve Managed Realignment, whether it is now or in the future. The seawall may be financially unviable to continue to spend millions of pounds increasing its standard, but surely some protection to National and International Sites of Conservation or high quality farmland is better than losing these areas to the sea.' **Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board**

Client Steering Group Response

To react to stakeholder feedback and to ensure that the consultation of the SMP was effective, indicative managed realignment extents were identified and mapped for consideration. These indicative realignment extents were chosen after considering a number of factors. Theoretically the maximum extent of any realignment is limited by the extent of the floodplain. However, in reality there are a number of other constraints which mean the actual extent of any realignment is likely to be less than this. Within the present SMP, indicative realignment extents have been identified using the available information. The example extents identified have been chosen after considering:

- The provision of a more sustainable alignment;
- The avoidance of built assets, infrastructure and internationally designated habitats where practicable;
- The provision of more economic, shorter and sheltered defences, incorporating high land where possible;
- The creation of intertidal habitat; and,
- The potential effects on coastal dynamics.

However, we would like to reassure people that the indicative realignment extents along any frontage where Managed Realignment has been proposed are not fixed and will be revised following further more detailed studies at Strategy Study level, before any realignment scheme is undertaken. Details relating to groundwater and saline intrusion will also be taken into consideration at this time. A timetable of further studies to assess managed realignment extents will be included in the SMP Action Plan.

Words will be added to the implications table for policy unit 4a 07A (Faversham Creek to the Sportsman Pub), in the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP, relating to the issue of saline intrusion of the watercourse in this area, as a result of the managed realignment policy.

In response to comments regarding losses of agricultural land within the SMP area with managed realignment policies, please refer to the minutes of a meeting held with the National Farmers Union on the 22nd August 2007, included in Annex B1 of this report.

With regard to the financial viability of defences, a more detailed economic appraisal, incorporating an in depth cost benefit analysis, will be undertaken at the Strategy Study level.

B7.2.6 Environmental Issues

Comments concerning environmental issues reflected heavily in responses and ranged from environmental issues connected with managed realignment policies, the perceived relative value of environmental assets, coastal squeeze and how the SMP complies with habitats regulations:

'We welcome the approach which has been taken in the two Shoreline Management Plans, and would support the adoption of managed realignment as the preferred option in those locations where there are not clear and immediate reasons to hold the current defensive line. You should note that we have no objection in principle to managed retreat being the preferred option where this would affect our nature reserves, nor where it would affect Local Wildlife Sites or other areas or habitats of importance for nature conservation. However, it is critically important to ensure that the process of realignment is managed in a way which: Maintains and enhances biodiversity and maintains and enhances opportunities for people to have contact with the natural environment.' **Kent Wildlife Trust**

'I believe that managed realignment should be applied in all suitable areas to expand marshland wildlife and act as a sponge to reduce future flooding.' **Wildlife Sailing**

'From Lafarge's point of view, investment in wildlife is in many respects similar to investment in any other property: it is all money paid out to secure and enhance a valuable asset. To destroy a wildlife asset by allowing or encouraging flooding (Managed Realignment), while maintaining flood defences to protect a conventional built asset, may accord with a public perception of commonsense, but is by no means an axiomatic choice. It may, indeed, be the best choice, but the SMP fails to justify it. It is therefore recommended that the SMP should not merely presume that built assets (houses, shops, factories etc) should be protected via Hold the Line or Advance the Line – i.e. protection strategies, but should justify such a choice in the light of the fact that many wildlife assets represent at least as large monetary investments as many houses, and arguably can represent equal or greater public benefit. As such, there could be instances where the balance favours continued protection of a wildlife site, but sacrifice of some built development.' **Lafarge**

'Where Coastal squeeze is identified as being an issue for international sites, information should be included as to how big losses will be over what time period – does accretion elsewhere mean that there will be no net loss within the SPA, or is compensatory habitat required?' **RSPB**

'The RSPB is seriously concerned that the Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) as currently drafted could not be fully implemented and comply with the provisions of the Habitats Regulations due to damage to both intertidal and freshwater habitats as a result of policies. If damaging policies are to be pursued, the tests in the Habitats Regulations for there to be no less damaging alternatives and the damage to be in the overriding public interest must be met. The RSPB is concerned that these tests are not met for all damaging policy units, and that sufficient compensatory habitat will be difficult to provide. Whilst the RSPB would not wish to see freshwater habitat protected at all costs, but opportunities for realignment over non-designated land should be taken first, and losses to European sites fully justified. The SMPs should treat internationally designated and non-designated land differently. Opportunities to realign over non-designated land should be taken first, as this will result as a genuine increase in biodiversity resource, rather than converting one important habitat to another. The RSPB is concerned that the loss of so much internationally designated freshwater habitat, particularly in the Medway where there is very little opportunity to create compensatory habitat, will mean that the SPA will no longer function in the same way as it does now. This is not to say that freshwater habitat should be retained at all costs, but that the impact on the SPA should be

recognised, assessed and justified fully in terms of the tests in the Habitats Regulations. The SMP would be less damaging if fewer policy units proposed realignment, or if a different realignment line were chosen to avoid damaging effects, or if managed realignment were delayed until the later epochs when sea level rise and coastal squeeze issues would become more pressing.' **RSPB**

The Friends of the North Kent Marshes are gravely concerned that the damage to both intertidal and freshwater habitats contained within these draft proposals would mean that the SMP's could not be implemented **and** comply with the Habitats Directive - Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994. If these damaging proposals are to be implemented then the tests in the Habitats Regulations for there to be no less damaging alternatives and the damage to be in the overriding public interest **must** be met. Friends of the North Kent Marshes are gravely concerned that these tests are not met for all damaging draft proposals, and that sufficient compensatory habitat will be difficult to provide. Therefore opportunities for realignment over non-designated land should be taken first, and any losses to European sites fully justified..... Realignment over non designated land will provide an ideal opportunity to create **more**, not less, room for wildlife, a **genuine** increase in biodiversity resource, rather than converting one important habitat to another and upsetting the delicate, intricate balance of the ecological function of the estuary..... We are alarmed that the importance of the freshwater habitat within these draft documents has **NOT** been valued highly enough.... We strongly disagree with and have very grave concerns with the scale of the managed realignment proposed in these SMP's.'

Friends of the North Kent Marshes

'Natural England welcomes and supports the managed realignment opportunities, which have been identified in this plan. Managed realignment is a positive step towards creating more naturally functioning and sustainable coastlines, whilst providing targeted flood risk management, climate change resilience and biodiversity creation opportunities.....we recognise that some of the proposed realignments will be across internationally designated freshwater sites. Natural England advises that when managed realignment proposals reach the strategy level, there should be a detailed study and prioritisation of the location of any realignment. This process is to ensure that particularly valuable freshwater habitats aren't lost and those that are lost are adequately compensated for, in terms of their botanical, bird and invertebrate interest.' **Natural England**

'The board has witnessed the natural creation of (intertidal) habitat over the last 30 years....proving that the natural tidal processes are creating a new habitat. The majority of the North Kent Marshes are / have an established habitat already; therefore (with managed realignment) we will be losing one type of habitat and replacing it with another. Who are we to say which type of habitat is more preferential? There are concerns especially among residents of the Isle of Sheppey that encouraging more marshy areas onto and around the island could be encouraging the proliferation of the mosquito, especially increasing the risk of the malaria mosquito because of the slightly warmer climate.' **Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board**

Client Steering Group Response

The SMP is a high-level policy setting document only. Policies have been chosen on the basis of the number of objectives achieved across a number of social, technical and environmental themes, including property, recreation, infrastructure, heritage, nature conservation etc. In this way, the selection of policy endeavours to take equal account of all relevant features in identifying the best solutions.

The SMP does not determine the exact nature (scale) of how policies would be implemented. However, to react to stakeholder feedback and to ensure that the consultation of the SMP was effective, indicative managed realignment extents were identified and mapped for consideration (see CSG comment in section B7.2.5). We would reassure people that the indicative realignment extents along any frontage where Managed Realignment has been proposed are not fixed and will be reviewed following further studies at Strategy Study level, before any realignment scheme is undertaken. A timetable of further studies to assess managed realignment extents will be included in the SMP Action Plan.

These indicative extents were used to develop the draft Appropriate Assessment (AA) by the Environment Agency and Natural England on behalf of the coastal group. A final version of this AA will be developed taking these comments into consideration where the extent of the freshwater impact of Managed Realignment policies will be reassessed and may be refined. The final AA will then be issued to the Secretary of State (Defra) who will decide if any more work is required and give their agreement to the AA before the SMP is finalised. The Secretary of State will have the final decision as to the methodology and content of the AA.

The SMP recognises that compensatory freshwater habitat needs to be secured before it is lost and therefore makes recommendations in the Action Plan that further studies will be required to investigate mitigation measures for loss of designated freshwater habitat. The Regional Habitat Creation Programme (RHCP) for the South East will identify areas for habitat creation. The Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) another high level strategic planning document similar to SMPs will identify policies for sustainable flood risk management within the river catchments and will aid identification of areas for habitat creation. The Greater Thames Coastal Habitat Management Plan (CHaMP), will investigate gains and losses of habitat and inform the next revision of the SMP and any strategies produced subsequently.

It should be noted, that devolvement of the SMP has involved input from a number of interested bodies, including the RSPB, Kent Wildlife Trust, and the Friends of the North Kent Marshes and others, and has the support of Natural England. Additionally, during the public consultation period, a meeting was held with the RSPB to discuss their concerns relating to these environmental issues. The CSG would like to reassure and reiterate to people that all consultees will again be invited to be involved in any subsequent studies.

B7.2.7 Economic Issues

Comments concerning the economic assessment process:

'Further work should be undertaken on the economic comparisons between creating new freshwater marsh to replace land lost to brackish marsh by reason of facilitating tidal flooding, and between either solution and the economic value of retaining minor groups of built development.' **Lafarge**

'Out of date figures for land values based on 2004 statistics have been used....more current figures are available...and should be used. A further issue is the arbitrary 35% discount in value to allow for subsidies. In 2005 all EU subsidies were decoupled and play no part in current land values...Clearly no correction factor should be applied and the full current land values used for assessing economic viability. At this stage it is difficult on economic grounds to justify the policies being put forward because the economic detail is not supplied.' **F D Attwood and Partners**

Canterbury City Council questions the accuracy of the economic benefits for sections of the coastline where the coastal defences protect graded clay slopes. Successive coastal defence strategy plans have shown strong positive benefit cost ratios which are at odds with the "not economically viable" statements in the SMP.

Client Steering Group Response

Further, more detailed, economic assessments will be undertaken at Strategy level. The economic assessment carried out within the SMP has been undertaken in full accordance with the procedures set out in Defra's SMP Guidance (Defra, 2006) and Defra's economic appraisal guidance (Flood and Coastal Defence project Appraisal guidance 3, FCDPAG3). This follows the Treasury 'Green Book', which provides the Government's guidance on economic appraisals. Defra has advised that FCDPAG3 Guidance on economic appraisal is planned for review in the future but the revised document will not be available for sometime yet.

With regard to land values, in both the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP2, we have used up to date figures issued by Defra in December 2006. The SMP team have identified that the Savills information referred to in the SMP guidance is not available and will recommend the guidance is revised to include another Defra approved source that is continually up to date.

Correspondence between Defra and the Chair of the South East Coastal Group has concluded that due to changes in the approach to UK agricultural subsidies, the use of the multiplier factor specified in FCDPAG3 guidance, for calculating land values, may now mean that the appropriate value of agricultural land for project appraisal purposes is being underestimated. The more recent publication of the Flood Hazard Research Centre FHRC (Middlesex University) 'The benefits of flood and coastal risk management: A handbook of assessment techniques (2005)' has reviewed this area considering the evaluation of land lost to agriculture on a similar basis to FCDPAG3. This recommends that for all agricultural land use values from 2005, 'land loss should be assumed to be equivalent to 65% of prevailing land values'. A multiplier of 65% has, therefore, been used in both SMPs.

A sensitivity analysis has been undertaken with regards to increasing land values, where land values were doubled. This analysis has been incorporated into Appendix H. Separate meetings have also

taken place with the NFU concerning this matter. See minutes included in Annex B1 in the Consultation report.

The CSG would like to restate that policies have not been derived based solely on the economics. Policies have been chosen on the basis of the number of objectives achieved across a number of social, technical and environmental themes. A socio-economic analysis is carried out after the policy has been identified to assess economic viability. Defra reiterate that the selection of an SMP policy should not be hindered by any economic evaluation. It should be recognised, therefore, that the justification for a particular policy is not necessarily dependant on economic viability as impacts on other benefits may be considered more important.

B7.2.8 Compensation Issues

Comments concerning the lack of compensation to land and property owners, through potential loss of assets under the proposed policies:

'In the documents reviewed, little or no mention has been found on how impacted communities will be compensated and relocated. We believe that no policies on managed realignment should be recommended or finalised until Defra has provided definitive guidance on:(a) compensation rights for private home and land owners; (b) what support (financial or non-financial) will provided to those who want to relocate but cannot because of property blight; and(c) the continued investment and provision of services and infrastructure in those areas that may eventually be lost to sea.' **CPRE Kent**

'The idea of identifying possible areas for substantial MR or NAI and then building the economic case after causing great public and private concern is deeply flawed as a process. Underpinning the SMP process should be a clear commitment by the EA and Government that if the public purse is served by changing coastal defences than part of the saving should go to recompense property owners.' **F D Attwood and Partners**

'The process for compensating landowners and property owners is not clear. While it is understood that this is a national issue that will be the subject of future guidance from Defra, it would be helpful for the SMP to clearly identify as best it can the availability and process for seeking such compensation.' **Swale Borough Council**

Homeowners (Faversham Road) should be given a piece of land on the new shoreline in compensation for their loss. **Mr Rae**

Faversham Road Residents Association summed up the feelings of many people who are potentially affected by the SMP policies. They expressed anger, depression and unfairness that they were not liable for any form of help or compensation under current guidelines.

Client Steering Group Response

The SMP (Main document - Section 4.3.1) explains that where policies may result in an increased risk to property and assets, whether due to coastal erosion or flooding, the effect on property owners should be managed through exit strategies. These will need to address the removal of buildings and other facilities well in advance of any loss. The plans for relocation of people also need to be established, as does the basis on which mitigation should be funded. However, mitigation measures do not fall solely upon national and local government, and should not be read as such within this plan. Business and commercial enterprises will need to establish the measures that they need to take to address the changes that will take place in the future. This includes providers of services and utilities, which will need to make provision for this long-term change when upgrading or replacing existing facilities in the shorter term. They should also consider how they will relocate facilities that will be lost to erosion or flooding, and the need to provide for relocated communities. Other parties needing to consider mitigation measures will be the local highways authorities and bodies responsible for local amenities (including churches, golf clubs etc).

Private land and property owners will need to consider how they will deal with changes to the shoreline that affects their property. Since flood and coastal defence legislation in England and Wales

is permissive, it does not mean a right to protection against coastal flooding or erosion. Similarly, there is no provision for compensation from central funds to offset any loss suffered by property and landowners.

As the SMP is a non-statutory policy document for coastal defence planning, it is unable to provide solutions to issues such as compensation. The suggestions that compensation should be paid to those who lose assets due to flooding or erosion may appear to provide a solution, but the costs of such a measure would be high (financial and lost opportunities) and must therefore be properly evaluated against other demands upon taxpayer's money. The budget allocated for flood and coastal defence management in England and Wales is a proportion of the full national budget. As such, if compensation were introduced, decisions would have to be made regarding whether it should be provided at the expense of defence scheme implementation elsewhere (if taken from the existing flood/erosion budget), or if it should be funded from a different area of the national budget (e.g. education, health, police, etc).

Defra, however, recognise that the compensation issue has a direct major affect on the landowners and are investigating the best ways to help people adapt to situations where property is exposed to greater flooding and erosion. This work is underway and will clarify the way forward in this situation. Please see: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/policy/strategy/sd2.htm>

The current position on compensation is stated in Section 4 of the Defra Guidance Note on Managed Realignment: Land Purchase, Compensation and Payment for Alternative Beneficial Land Use. This can be viewed at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/policy/mrcomp/mrcomp.htm#3.4%20Financial>

B7.2.9 Defences

Comments concerning the funding of defences, defence ownership and responsibilities and defence options:

'The overriding principle in these SMPs appears to be that urban areas are to be protected at all costs and rural areas should have a presumption of expendability regardless of social, economic or environmental value.' **CPRE Kent**

'Minster-on-Sea Parish council has grave concern that only the urban developments appear to be given priority for protection. If this plan is allowed in this form, the true identity of the Isle of Sheppey will be lost forever.' **Minster-on-Sea Parish Council**

'I favour the maximum protection of the coastline. A laid-back attitude to losing land to the sea may not look so wise to future generations.' **J Coulter**

'An issue that has been raised through our public meetings is how could landowners progress their own coastal protection works....Details of how to undertake this work should be included within the text of the SMP.' **Swale Borough Council**

'The requirement for maintenance of existing defences also needs to be examined as a part of the SMP. A lack of maintenance, while making savings in the short term, would be offset by the potential of much greater costs in the future. The integrity of existing defences must therefore be maintained, which in turn requires a programme of maintenance that has sufficient funding to meet the requirements of the SMP.' **Swale Borough Council**

'What is the point of promoting a new realignment policy that will probably have no funding in the future? What is the cost of maintaining the existing flood defences compared to building new ones? New structures would need maintaining in a similar fashion to the existing ones, therefore, will financial funding be provided, or is there a risk in the future this would be removed? Would the Environment Agency consider letting the landowners repair or improve their own sections of sea wall?' **Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board**

Faversham Road Residents Association request that funding to undertake sea defence and beach maintenance works (groyne repairs and beach recharge) at Faversham Road is made available in line with the 2004 Coastal Defence Strategy Plan, (which is also consistent with the Hold the Line Strategy in the first epoch).

Client Steering Group Response

The SMP is a non-statutory policy document for coastal defence management planning. It takes account of other existing planning initiatives and legislative requirements, and is intended to inform wider strategic planning. It does not set policy for anything other than coastal defence management. The SMP does not comment on funding for flood protection and coastal defence measures. Whilst the selection of the preferred plan considers the affordability of each policy, its adoption by the authorities does not represent a commitment to fund its implementation (see Section 1.1.1 in the main SMP document).

The second round of SMPs now look at flood and erosion risk management over the next 100 years rather than 50 years, to develop more sustainable long-term policies, rather than short-term reactive policies. The SMP therefore, promotes management policies for a coastline into the 22nd century, which achieve long-term objectives without committing to unsustainable defence practices. It is, however, recognised that due to present-day objectives and acceptance, wholesale changes to existing defence management may not be appropriate in the very short-term. Consequently, the SMP essentially provides a 'route map' for decision makers to move from the present situation towards the future. It is recognised that there will always be uncertainty associated with considering the long-term, both in terms of extrapolating information and making predictions regarding coastal risks, future legislative requirements, opportunities and constraints. The main guiding principle therefore, is that the SMP needs to define a long-term sustainable plan, even though that may change with time.

Maximum protection of the coastline will be unsustainable and uneconomic in the future, as sea levels rise:

- hard defended areas will become headlands;
- intertidal areas (e.g. beaches, mudflats, saltmarshes) in front of defences will be lost to increased erosion;
- flooding and erosion risks will increase; and,
- there will be a need for more substantial and expensive defences.

Adoption of Managed Realignment policies instead of Hold the Line will therefore, provide more sustainable and cost effective coastal flood and erosion management in the future by:

- reducing flood risk to the hinterland by absorbing tidal and wave energy;
- improving the natural functioning of the coast / estuary;
- increasing the natural flood and storm buffering capacity;
- reducing the effects of coastal squeeze;
- managing the effects of sea level rise; and,
- creating intertidal habitat.

As stated previously (Section B7.2.7), the SMP is not purely economically driven; policies have been selected on the basis of the number of objectives achieved across a number of social, technical and environmental themes, including property, recreation, infrastructure, heritage, landscape, nature conservation etc. In this way, the selection of policy takes equal account of all relevant features in identifying the best solutions. Further, more detailed, economic assessments, incorporating cost benefit analysis of defence options, however, will be undertaken at Strategy level.

Details on how landowners can progress their own coastal protection works is beyond the scope of the SMP. However, Defra's position on the maintenance of uneconomic sea flood defences can be viewed at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/policy/uncseadef.htm>

Information from the Environment Agency on how owners and occupiers of land adjacent to defences can progress their own coastal protection works can be viewed at:

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO0407BMFL-e-e.pdf?lang= e>

and

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood/1217883/1217968/?version=1&lang=_e

B7.2.10 Consultation Process

Comments were raised concerning the consultation process with stakeholders:

'CPRE Kent would like to know what efforts the elected members made to contact and consult with their most vulnerable constituents (who are mainly in rural semi-rural areas) early on the SMP process before the consultation document was released.' **CPRE Kent**

Julian Brazier MP was concerned that the consultation period was run over the holiday period and was too short.

Ian and Christina Wood felt the consultation process was unfair and did not involve local people at an earlier (options appraisal) stage especially give the dramatic impact on peoples lives who are affected by proposed changes in policy. News of the SMP processes has left them depressed and anxious. **Christine Yates** agrees.

The **Seasalter Chalet Owners Association** feel there were given inadequate opportunity to express their views.

Client Steering Group Response

Development of the SMP has been led by the Client Steering Group (CSG) comprising members of the South East Coastal Group which include technical officers and representatives from councils and other organisations. In addition, stakeholders have been involved throughout the development of the plan. Initial contact was made with over 190 stakeholder organisations at the Initial Stakeholder Engagement stage. From these, 60 Key Stakeholder organisations have been involved in Key Stakeholder Forums at key decision points throughout the SMP development. Elected Members representing each of the operating authorities throughout the SMP area have also been regularly involved in assisting with the development of the SMP. A full list of stakeholders can be found in Section B2 and the programme of stakeholder engagement, undertaken throughout the development of the SMP, is included in Section B1 of this Appendix.

A strategy for the public consultation was extensively discussed with and agreed to by the Project Steering Group, Council Elected Members and Key Stakeholders, in order to reach as many stakeholders and members of the public as possible (see Section B7.1).

The public consultation ran from 14th May 2007 to 7th September 2007 and the approach adopted included:

- issuing press notices in local papers and council magazines;
- issuing press releases for local parish magazines and newsletters;
- writing to the 190 stakeholder groups representing parties across North and East Kent to notify them of the public consultation;
- use of the South East Coastal Group website. The full SMP documentation and consultation response form was available to review and download at www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk;

- the production of a leaflet summarising the SMP process and proposed policies. This was issued to all identified consultees and was also available at Local Authority offices, at the Environment Agency office at Addington and libraries throughout the study area;
- hard copies of the Draft SMP Document (both the Main Document and the Supporting Appendices) were on deposit in Local Authority offices, the Environment Agency office at Addington and libraries throughout the study area; and,
- public meetings that have been held when requested.

The SMP public consultation took place over a 3 month period between 14th May 2007 and 7th September 2007, which followed the recommendations included in Defra SMP Guidance. The consultation period chosen was from May to September to allow for holidays and to reach people with holiday homes. A degree of flexibility has been provided with regards to the deadline for responses, to allow those responses received after the deadline to be considered.

The CSG would like to reiterate that all comments made are very important and will be taken into consideration. The CSG would also like to reassure people that further consultation will also take place at Strategy Study levels, where more detailed appraisal of how policies will be implemented will be undertaken.

B7.2.11 Relationship with other Plans / Policy

Comments concerning where the relationship of the SMP and other plans / policy:

'We would like to see a clear statement of how coastal flood management policy decisions in the SMP relates to Human Rights legislation.' **CPRE Kent**

'It is not clear why the SMP options are limited to four options and the CFMP has six and how are they linked?' **CPRE Kent**

'The SMP documents do not clearly show the hierarchy and interaction of flood management and spatial planning documents..... If SMP policies represent a coarse resolution that will be examined in more detail during the CFMP, this needs to be communicated more clearly to avoid undue public anxiety.' **CPRE Kent**

'The relationship between the SMPs and Development Plan Documents is not entirely clear, and it is not explained how the SMPs may be used as a tool to target funding for required measures, although this is crucial for the delivery of Development Plan Documents.' **South East Regional Assembly.**

'What, if any, measures have/are been considered in relation to the long-term Thames Gateway development proposals, which we understand will have a long-term impact on tidal patterns and levels along the entire North Kent coastline. We suggest that the SMP should make due consideration for this event, and provision be made to review the policy accordingly as and when the likely knock on effects become known.' **Faversham Creek Consortium management group (FCC).**

'The North Kent Rivers CFMP is currently undergoing policy appraisal. We will be taking the proposed SMP policies into account when deriving policies for the CFMP to ensure the policies are complementary. We will continue to liaise closely with the SMP teams.' **North Kent Rivers CFMP Project Manager, Environment Agency**

'Natural England advises that any future revisions of the SMP or even detailed further studies carried out at either the Strategy or Scheme level, take into consideration the findings of the finalised Greater Thames CHaMP.' **Natural England**

Client Steering Group Response

The policy decisions presented in the SMP have been thoroughly appraised and are based upon best scientific knowledge and adhere to Defra policy guidance. Defra's position with regards to the maintenance of uneconomic defences and Human Rights legislation can be viewed at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fcd/policy/unecseadef.htm>

Under the Government Making Space for Water programme, a document has been produced as part of the Adaptation Tools Project, regarding adapting to changing coastlines and rivers. This document has developed a portfolio of possible options that could be implemented to progress future SMPs and

examines elements such as sustainability, well being and human rights. This document can be viewed at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/policy/strategy/sd2.htm>

Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) provide a similar level of strategic planning as SMP's. Both plans are non-statutory, however, SMPs identify broad policies for sustainable coastal flooding and erosion risk management, while CFMPs identify broad policies for sustainable flood risk management within river catchments. Links between SMPs and CFMPs are important where there needs to be integrated management of river and coastal flooding and, for example, where a CFMP could identify potential areas for habitat creation as mitigation for habitat lost at the coast.

As identified in the comment by CPRE Kent, the SMP is limited to only four potential management options, while CFMPs have six:

SMP Policy Options

- No Active Intervention;
- Hold the line;
- Advance the Line; and,
- Managed Realignment.

CFMP Policy Options

- No Active Intervention;
- Reduce the existing flood risk management actions;
- Continue with the existing or alternate actions to manage flood risk at the current level;
- Take further action to sustain the current level of flood risk into the future;
- Take further action to reduce flood risk; and,
- Take action to increase the frequency of flooding to deliver benefits locally or elsewhere.

SMP policy options are tailored to shoreline flood and erosion risk management, where policies focus on the defence line, i.e. policy options are chosen to either hold, advance or realign the position of the defence line or do nothing. CFMP policy options are relevant to fluvial flood risk management only, where policies concentrate on determining whether flood risk should increase, decrease or remain the same.

Shoreline Management Plans and Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) are both high level documents that provide large-scale assessments of the risks associated with coastal processes for a specified length of coastline, and flood risks for a specified river catchment, and present policy frameworks to reduce these risks. As such, they sit at the top of a hierarchy of plans that proceeds from SMPs to Strategy Plans to specific scheme designs:

- **Shoreline Management Plans** – aim to identify policies to manage coastal flood and erosion risks, deliver a wide ranging assessment of risks, opportunities, limits and areas of uncertainty.

- **Strategies** – aim to identify appropriate schemes to put the policies into practice, identify the preferred approach, including economic and environmental decisions.
- **Schemes** – aim to identify the type of work to put the preferred scheme into practice, compares different options for putting the preferred scheme into practice.

The policies set out in the SMP can not be implemented through coastal defence management alone. There is a need for spatial planning to adopt the policies, and understand their consequences, such that risk areas are avoided by development, and future changes in policy are facilitated. The SMP is accompanied by an Action Plan which aims to:

- facilitate implementation of the SMP policies;
- identify and/or promote studies to further/improve understanding where this is required;
- to resolve policy and/or implementation;
- set out sources of funding for achieving the plan, where appropriate;
- promote use of the SMP recommendations in spatial planning by informing and supporting the planning system;
- identify procedures for the management of the SMP until its next review; and,
- establish a framework to monitor progress against the action plan and initiate future SMP review.

The Action Plan is the responsibility of the operating authorities and the South East Coastal Group. Each Local Authority is accountable for ensuring that the SMP policies are appropriately reflected in the relevant planning documents (e.g. Regional Plans, Local Development Frameworks) and that they are communicated across the council directorates.

Text will be added to the Main SMP document to clearly explain where the SMP sits in relation to Strategies and Schemes and how the SMP is used to inform spatial planning.

The SMP has taken into consideration policies from other relevant plans and strategies and has liaised closely with these studies throughout the production of the SMP to ensure consistency, share information and make certain that proposed policies are complimentary with policies in adjacent plans. Team members delivering these plans and strategies have been part of the SMP stakeholder process throughout the production of the SMP and members of the Client Steering Group are also familiar with these other plans.

The SMP is a document subject to regular reviews to take account of developments in both process understanding and policies as well as developments in ongoing work such as TE2100. Reviews of the SMP are anticipated to be carried out on a 5 – 10 year basis, although this timescale will be driven by the availability of new information and advances in the understanding of the estuaries. In addition to further studies identified in the Action Plan, other studies, such as the Greater Thames CHaMP and the Medway and Swale CFMP, will be used to inform the next SMP revision.

B7.2.12 Other Comments

'Dealing with more extreme sea-level rise projections may be the subject of a higher level policy review by Defra to influence future reviews of both SMPs. However, we urge members of the South East Coastal Partnership to bear in mind the increasing likelihood of major sea level rise when considering coastal development projects with an expected lifespan greater than 50 years and the likely costs and environmental implications for protecting them. Based on the current consensus on sea-level rise, CPRE Kent supports the use of figures that broadly equate to the pessimistic 'High Emissions' scenario than the 'Low Emissions'. However, we would welcome debate on adaptation options for more severe sea level rise scenarios.' **CPRE Kent**

'When considering a preferred policy for a given reach, how are the knock-on effects on other reaches assessed?' **CPRE Kent**

'The Borough Council considers that the document should carry much more weight and have future funding allocated directly to the delivery of the SMP.' **Swale Borough Council**

'The SMP should provide a clearer definition of risks, and the probability of those risks, along the coastline.' **Swale Borough Council**

'There is a Government Policy of providing mitigation sites for the new developments within the floodplain, but these areas may be lost to the sea with the EAs new policy of managed realignment. So was this considered? Creating new mitigation sites would also mean losing more agricultural land...It seems that growing food is again one of the Government's priorities, therefore, what is the point of losing some of Kent's best farmland to the sea?....The Government's targets for increasing the number of houses in the Thames Gateway area and having the area of seawall reduced means new houses would be closer to the risk of flooding.' **Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board**

The **Faversham Road Residents Association** believe the policy decisions (for Faversham Road) are based on weak processes, patchy use of data and insufficient adherence to procedural guidance... contrary to the principles of national and regional governance.

Andrew Whitehouse supports the NAI policies on soft cliff frontages due to the benefits to invertebrates.

Client Steering Group Response

Natural changes in the coast, together with the expected implications of climate change and a rise in sea levels, are a significant challenge to managing the shoreline in the future. Defra (2006) SMP Guidance therefore, highlights one of the main objectives of an SMP as ensuring that shoreline management policies take account of current Government climate change guidelines associated with flood and coastal defence. Therefore, the Defra (2006) interim policy guidance of updated sea level rise predictions and indicative sensitivity range estimates has been used in the Sensitivity Testing (Appendix H) in this SMP.

Defra SMP policy appraisal guidance has been followed which includes the identification and appraisal of policy scenarios along the shoreline as a whole, as well as for individual units. Policy appraisal has

taken into consideration the sediment linkages and interdependencies along both shorelines of the Medway and Swale estuaries using information provided in the Baseline Process Understanding report (Appendix C). Policies have also been appraised on the basis of the number of objectives achieved across a number of social, technical and environmental themes, including property, areas identified for development, agriculture, recreation, infrastructure, heritage, landscape, nature conservation etc. In this way, the selection of policy takes equal account of all relevant features in identifying the best solutions.

In studies of a dynamic coastline there are always going to be uncertainties, particularly when predicting future change. Policy setting therefore has been based on the best knowledge at the time of policy development. Risks such as sea level rise and increased storminess have been acknowledged in the Sensitivity Analysis report (Appendix H). A baseline assessment of risks from coastal erosion or flooding to feature was undertaken during development the SMP. The predicted shoreline change for No Active Intervention, using available / estimated erosion rates and 1 in 200 year flood mapping from the Environment Agency, was used as the baseline against which features were identified as being at 'risk' from flooding or erosion. In the case of flooding risks, it was assumed that should flood defences be breached, the whole floodplain would be at 'risk'. Erosion risks were quantified over three defined future points in time: year 20, year 50 and year 100. Where there are existing defences, their residual life was used to inform the timing of possible flood or erosion risk.

However, further studies will revisit and examine these risks in more detail. For example, as part of the Government's Making Space for Water programme, a National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping project is being undertaken to map predicted erosion risk around England and Wales. This is due to be completed by the end of 2008 and any impacts on the SMP will be taken into account at the next SMP review.

The SMP and other shoreline management plans around England and Wales have to work within Treasury Guidance and therefore are unable to affect the apportioning of Government funds. The CSG will however, forward the comment from Swale Borough Council, regarding funds being allocated to implement the SMP policies, to Defra.

B7.2.13 Policy Unit Specific Issues

The following responses are related to the individual Shoreline Management Plan Policy Units:

4A 01 – Allhallows-on-Sea to Grain

RSPB note that coastal squeeze is identified as being an issue for this policy unit with loss of intertidal area under hold the line in the short term and loss of freshwater / brackish habitat in the medium to long term under the managed realignment policy. They are concerned that due to land levels managed realignment would not result in intertidal habitat gain and could result in erosion of the present intertidal area. There needs to be further more detailed studies as to how the realignment would be managed. The freshwater marshes will require compensation if realignment proceeds.

Natural England recommend that it will be necessary to flag up the need to investigate compensation requirements in the first epoch as any compensatory habitat (for the freshwater marshes lost to realignment) must be functional before any realignment occurs.

Client Steering Group Response

No change to policy but recognise that the policy and its extents will be subject to detail study to determine its achievability. The Appropriate assessment were report further on habitat issues.

4A 02 – Garrison Point to Minister

No comments

Client Steering Group Response

None

4A 03 – Minster Town

RSPB would like to see the no active intervention area extended to the non-urban area allowing the local authority the opportunity to ensure the enhancement of the Sheppey Cliffs and Foreshore SSSI.

Minster-on-Sea Parish Council agrees with the Hold the Line Policy and wants the beach to be maintained.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate Assessment will deal with habitat issues and Swale Council will seek to maintain the beach subject to funding being available. The beach will be monitored to highlight any erosive trends which may require action.

4A 04 – Minster Slopes to Warden Bay

RSPB strongly support NAI as the cliff erosions is a major source of fine sediment to the estuary mudflats.

Mr Davey and Ms Purkiss would support a coastal defence programme along this section of the shoreline and are sure that other residents would agree if they knew of the plan. They consider that the loss of the shoreline to erosion would be devastating for wildlife and for residents including old and unique buildings.

Minster-on-Sea Parish Council objects to the No Active Intervention policy. The defences at Warden Bay should be extended along the whole of the coastline.

Mr and Mrs Fenwick consider that promoting the attraction of this natural area ignores the dangerous (life threatening) state of the cliffs. They therefore do not believe that the cliffs should be preserved as is and should be reinforced (defended).

Client Steering Group Response

Introducing defences here would be uneconomical and would damage the SSSI. The NAI is a continuation of existing policy. Swale Council to consider how best to engage with property owners at risk and determine any implications for planning policy to minimise chance of further development in areas at risk.

4a05 Warden Bay to Leysdown-on-Sea

Natural England do not question the recommended policy but wonder if the policy is better described as no active intervention rather than managed realignment.

Client Steering Group Response

The rock revetment delays the slope erosion and will require future minor maintenance work to replace dislodged rocks and manage outflanking - hence best describes as managed realignment.

4A 06 – Leysdown-on-Sea to Shell Ness

The **RSPB** are very concerned about the managed realignment proposal as it would lead to a loss of the freshwater part of the Swale National Nature Reserve which is part of the Swale SPA. They advocate phased realignment with impacts on the freshwater marshes deferred to later years.

Natural England recommend that it will be necessary to flag up the need to investigate compensation requirements in the first epoch as any compensatory habitat (for the freshwater marshes lost to realignment) must be functional before any realignment occurs.

Client Steering Group Response

No change to policy but recognise that the policy and its extents will be subject to detail study to determine its achievability. The Appropriate assessment will report further on habitat issues. This policy could impact at an early stage on land and property owners and early attempts should be made to engage with residents in particular on future management recommendations.

4A 07 – Faversham Creek to Seasalter (latterly subdivided to 4A 07a – Faversham Creek to Sportsman and 4A 07b – Sportsman to Seasalter)

See also questions and answers from public meeting held at Faversham Road, 27th July 2007.

There were widespread objections to the proposed SMP policy for Faversham Creek to Seasalter with the policy to move to managed realignment sometime between year 20 and year 50 receiving particular criticism. The views of residents were compiled by the **Faversham Road Residents Association (FRRA)**, a group whose formation was triggered by the publishing of the draft SMP policies.

FRRA summarise their response under three main points. They believe that the proposals for Faversham Road:

Fails to acknowledge the importance of this stretch of coastline and marshland to people who live and visit the area

Fails to recognise the true historical, cultural and economic importance of the area, and:

Threatens the well-being of people who live in Faversham Road.

A petition in support of the FRRA's three main points was signed by **1,502 signatories** including local people and visitors to the area.

Mr Bowman who has a property on Faversham Road felt that "The treatment of this section of coastline as a single entity is fundamentally flawed.... with a logical division (into two units) a few hundred metres west of the Sportsman. He does not challenge the SMP policy for the west section but feels that the proposal to realign at the east side in 20 years was wrong.

Mike Patterson, Canterbury City Council also felt the treatment of the coast as a single entity was wrong and noted that a more detailed economic analysis undertaken by City Council officers indicated that there was economic justification to continue to hold the line for the whole of the second epoch east of the Sportsman. Mr Bowman's economic analysis also concluded that hold the line in the east until at least year 50 was a better option.

Julian Brazier MP called for the subdivision of the coastline at the Sportsman and fully supported the responses of Canterbury City Council and the Faversham Road Residents Association.

Rebecca Reynolds of the Environment Agency ChaMPs notes the importance of the marshes as a fluvial sink and requests that the SMP identifies the need to establish the impact of realignment on this function in a detailed strategy study. **Mr May** agrees and considers that more widespread flooding may occur from streams if the marshes are allowed to be flooded by the sea.

Client Steering Group Response

During the discussions on the consultation process it became apparent that a more reasonable approach to setting policy for this unit may be to subdivide it at the Sportsman pub and reassess the policy choices separately for the east and west sections. The section between Faversham Creek and the Sportsman comprises mainly agricultural land protected by a substantial seawall. The beach is relatively stable but the timber groynes are failing resulting in beach levels dropping locally to expose the lower levels of the seawall. Faversham Road runs directly behind the beach / seawall between the Sportsman and Seasalter and there are residential and holiday properties along the roadside. Sections of the road and properties are well defended by a substantial seawall (Sportsman to Red Sluice). East of Red Sluice, properties are protected only by a narrow shingle beach. The main flood defences take the form of a clay embankment running along the rear (landward side) of the road and properties. The marshland to the rear of the defences is designated freshwater marsh (SPA / Ramsar) of high ecological value. The CSG asked Halcrow to reassess the coastal management policies separately for the east and west sections of the Faversham Creek to Seasalter policy unit. The reassessment did support the views of the majority of the consultees that the two subsections should be treated separately and the CSG agreed that the SMP should be amended to show this subdivision.

The remainder of the consultation responses are dealt with under the two subunits separately.

4A 07a – Faversham Creek to Sportsman

Mr and Mrs Hague are concerned regarding the loss of the public footpath from Seasalter to Faversham Creek (Saxon Shoreline) and feels it is at odds with Government Policy to improve public access to the coast.

Mr Vinson whose company operates a farm at Sandbanks specialising in high quality soft fruits notes that the value of crops produced is around £4.5 million per annum. The crops are irrigated using water from the ditches in the marshland around Sandbanks farm. He is concerned that managed realignment will lead to saline intrusion polluting the watercourses and destroying the business and objects to the proposed realignment.

The **RSPB** advocates that the non-designated land at Nagden and Cleve is realigned as soon as possible, rather than having a policy of hold the line for the first epoch. However studies are required into whether realignment would result in the erosion of Castle Coote.

David Jeffery of the Graveney Rural Environment Action Team (GREAT) noted that the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government and the Business Enterprise and Regulatory Forum overturned a decision by Swale Council to refuse planning permission for the London Array sub-station. This was on the basis that national policies on sustainable development and renewable energy outweighed the effects on the landscape, local environment and local villagers. Mr Jeffery questions that if the area between Faversham Creek to Seasalter is of such national importance to the renewable and sustainable energy sector, why is the SMP recommending realignment in the medium term.

Mr K. Attwood objects to realignment in 2nd and 3rd epochs as it potentially results in major loss of agricultural land that would adversely affect businesses.

Mr Jordan of the **Seasalter Chalet Owners Association** points out that these chalets are probably the last remaining huts since dozens of similar structures have been destroyed by previous floods. The current chalets have been rebuilt to raise them above beach level thereby protecting them from the surge tides. They are aware of the flood risks but object to the plan to realign after 20 years. Because the chalets are few in number, are close to London and are in a prime location for enjoying the beach, those that have been sold, have attracted high prices such that the value of the whole site is currently in excess of £4 million. Loss of property without compensation is causing worry to those who have invested money in them. They call for a minimum period of maintenance of 50 years.

Graveney and Goodnestone Parish Council welcome the plan but feel that there are a large number of issues that need to be investigated further and discussed with local villagers before the plans are implemented. They are keen to be involved in these further discussions as part of the strategy plan development. They welcome the opportunity for the marshes to return to their natural habitat but have severe reservations on a number of issues that require further clarification or study. The following needs to be considered: (i) compensation for properties (all of which were built with planning permission), (ii) suitable protection for the London Array electric substation, (iii) any impacts from the Thames Barrier, (iv) justification of the money required to build a new defence at the railway when minimal maintenance on the current line is all that is required, (v) clarification as to what improving means in the context of maintaining and improving defences (as given in the definition of hold the line) when it appears that decades of neglect have led to the loss of the groynes (more money should be spent on maintenance), (vi) floodplains should not be considered as areas for housing development and brownfield sites should be used in preference, (vii) concerns about future food shortages as the population expands, we are less able to import cheap food (recent news reports refer to this), (viii) importance of local transport routes and (ix) whether local councils will refuse planning permission for new build in this area (area potentially subject to realignment) and how alterations or redevelopment of existing property will be treated.

The NFU general comments refer to this section of coastline and are dealt with in the general comments section.

Client Steering Group Response

RSPB views that this management unit should be realigned as soon as possible were noted. However comments from other consultees regarding saltwater ingress to adjacent areas, the unknown impacts on the wider land drainage network and the impact on coastal processes elsewhere underline the need to develop a better and more detailed understanding of the opportunities and risks associated with realignment at this site. Further it was noted that the current seawall was in generally good condition and with minor maintenance on the frontage it should be viable for many years to come. There are therefore no defence maintenance issues that would lead to an early requirement to change the defence line and in the short term there is no strong requirement to recreate intertidal habitat at this location. However in the medium term the requirement for intertidal habitat creation is likely to be stronger and it was agreed that there were distinct advantages in investigating the realignment opportunities and risks at an early stage. Landowners and other interested parties should be engaged in this debate at an early stage so that all the necessary questions on habitat creation, water supplies, land drainage, archaeological impacts and compensation issues to land owners are addressed in advance of final decisions on the management of this piece of shoreline are taken. Because the current seawall / beach defences does have a finite life it would not be advisable to defer the debate

on the realignment proposals until the second epoch. Subject to the results of the detailed investigations and with the agreement of landowners, realignment could commence in the first epoch but the stated SMP policy remains as Hold the Line in the first epoch moving to Managed Realignment in the second and third epochs.

Questions on the loss of public footpaths, the impact of proposals to upgrade the Thames Barrier, local authority planning policy, compensation for land or property (chalets) lost are dealt with in the general questions section. The request from the Seasalter Chalet Owners Association to increase the time for which hold the line was the policy to a minimum 50 years was rejected on the basis that the chalets are in a vulnerable site in advance of the seawall bund and it may not be sustainable to protect them in view of sea level rise and foreshore erosion. There is a need to engage with the Chalet Owners Association and a commitment that the forthcoming strategy will deal with the issue of the risks to the chalets and how they should be managed in future years. With regard to the proposal for the electric substation for the London Array, this should ideally be build outside the floodplain. If this is not possible then local flood defence to this site will be required and their provision and maintenance will be the responsibility of the developer / National Grid.

4A 07b – Sportsman to Seasalter

Mr Rae accepts that *“if sea level does rise beyond the height of the beach that it (Faversham Road) cannot be saved but until then it deserves all the care that it can.* He also feels that 20 years is too short a time frame for protection.

Mr May sees a major distinction between natural flooding and erosion (as a result of storms) and wilfully neglecting defences and deliberately flooding land. **Mrs May** questions the accuracy of the assumptions on flood risk now and in the future.

Mrs Jones feels that the realignment proposals are not the best way of dealing with sea level rise and points to the environmental / landscape losses as well as the loss of property and business with no compensation.

Mrs Myers believes that the predicted sea level rises are insufficient to justify flooding Seasalter and feels destruction of property without compensation is akin to breach in Human Rights. *If the proposal is an easement for Thames barrier then say so and pay compensation.* Personal financial losses to Mr and Mrs Myers are high and they question why there were not told of these plans when they bought their house 2 years previously.

Mr and Mrs Hague (Waldens of Seasalter) operate a business at Seasalter. They point out the site has been well protected with defences to the front and rear and they have invested large sums of money in their business and residential property and feel their human rights are being ignored. They also are concerned about lack of compensation for losses and consider that the proposal to cease maintenance of defences does not take the true value of the area into account or the risk to life.

Mrs Eastwood is concerned that properties should and could be protected for longer and feels property loss without compensation is unreasonable. **Mrs and Mr Wood** also would expect compensation for property loss under a realignment scenario.

Mr and Mrs Wood were aware of a flood risk but understood it to be low and they are concerned that no data was provided to back up the government figures on sea level rises. Their property was only built in 1999 and if the flood risk was high, why was planning permission granted? They would like to see the beach and groynes maintained for 50 years and thereafter a new seawall built on the beach if it is required.

Mr and Mrs Downs feel that the importance of the coastline here has not been recognised and feel that holding the line over the medium term is a better solution to the problems here. **Mr and Mrs Albin** agree and feel that there is considerable potential to develop the area for tourism and environmental enhancement taking advantage of the beach and the marshes.

Steve Rivers, Kent Highways noted that whilst Faversham Road was not a primary route it was an important secondary link for homes, business and agricultural land (as long as they are protected from coastal erosion / flooding). It also noted it was of strategic importance as a diversion route when the Thanet Way was closed and part of National Cycle Route 1. Accepts that if lost would have to find an alternative diversion but would prefer to hold in the medium term.

Mr Dorian, Mr and Mrs Dutnall, Mrs Vincent, Mr West, Mr May and Mr Ranson all draw attention to the importance of the Faversham Road as a diversion route when the Thanet Way is closed.

Mr and Mrs Knight are angry that the proposals blighted their property and felt that there was more than coastal defence issues behind the proposals and **Mrs Vincent** was appalled at the news of the proposed realignment and asks what compensation they will receive. **Mr and Mrs Albin** feel that not only will they suffer blight but they will ultimately be left homeless.

Mr Laming felt that money wasted by Government should be used to help defend the coastline from the sea. **Mr and Mrs Russell** agree that funds should be found to defend the coastline from flooding and **Mr and Mrs Ranson** feel that with a rising population the need for housing, agricultural food production and habitat protection means that we should defend all low lying areas as they will become increasingly precious.

Mrs Travers-Spencer agreed that the grass bund between red sluice and Blue Anchor should be moved back to the railway line on the basis that it currently allows water to build up to some depth on Faversham Road. Seawater would be able to disperse onto the marshes and less damage would be caused to properties. **Mrs Wade** agrees and points out that the Seasalter marshes were formerly saltwater marshes as indicated by the presence of salt pans.

Mr Lewis who owns a holiday property notes that his property has survived with only minor storm damage since 1934. His property is located in an area where the beach is high and is accreting. He is aware of the risks from the sea and he accepts and has always been aware that the property may be lost although he doesn't feel it is likely to happen in the near future based on his experience.

Mr Poole, Mr West & Mr and Mrs Puce objects to the recommended policy to abandon the upkeep of the defences at Faversham Road and Mr West suggests it would be cheaper to hold the existing line rather than form a new line of defence.

The Seasalter Sailing Club object to the realignment proposals on the basis of economics, transport links, loss of businesses, tourism, homes and losses to the environment.

Mr and Mrs Hitches call for the maintenance and improvement works identified in the 2004 Coastal Defence Strategy to be undertaken and would like to see details of the Environment Agencies annual maintenance expenditure for this section of the coast. They request a more detailed cost benefit appraisal be carried out and that the SMP is frequently reviewed to cope with coastal changes which happen in reality rather than those which are merely predicted.

Christine Yates would like to see the detailed cost comparisons of various options for managing the coast and the reasons why other options have been rejected. She questions if subtext exists which is not being made public. She asks the following questions: (i) is there a plan to create a new green field building site behind the new defence line?, (ii) does managed realignment at Faversham Road create a post economic benefit elsewhere?, (iii) what plans are there to assist residents with the knock on effects of these proposals?, (iv) will the minimal intervention of dumping shingle in the 20 year “hold the line” period be actually undertaken?, (v) has the defined position of the (defence) line changed (defined in the SMP as the clay bund)?

The **RSPB** note that the Environment Agency has identified Seasalter as one of the few places in North Kent where there is a plentiful supply of freshwater for wetland creation. The RSPB feel it is more important to exploit the freshwater resource rather than convert this area to intertidal habitat. However RSPB also note that rising sea levels and seepage under the wall will increase such that the current defences may be no longer able to protect the freshwater habitat. When this happens the balance may tip in the favour of realignment but the hold the line should be the policy for as long as (reasonably) possible. Realignment should not extend beyond the railway line so that some freshwater habitat remains and there can be interaction between the freshwater and newly created intertidal habitats.

Natural England recommend that it will be necessary to flag up the need to investigate (habitat) compensation requirements in the first epoch as any compensatory habitat (for the freshwater marshes lost to realignment) must be functional before any realignment occurs.

The **Faversham Road Residents Association** seek an amendment to the hold the line policy to include the second epoch (20 to 50 years) and that managed realignment should proceed only in the third epoch with the caveat that the policy may change should the evidence warrant it. FRRRA also request that the operating authority partner residents, property owners and business owners in developing a vision for the area that covers issues of social justice and well being as well as environmental, historic and economic concerns.

Mike Patterson, Canterbury City Council considers that to promote a policy of realignment that could see properties abandoned in twenty years is wrong until the detailed studies required to justify the policy beyond doubt are undertaken. Economic analysis undertaken by the Council's engineers suggests that the economic justification for realignment only stacks up during the third epoch and he requests a deferral of the realignment recommendation to the third epoch.

Client Steering Group Response

The arguments that hold the line should be the policy for this section of the coastline for the short and medium term are accepted by the CSG. The policy for the second epoch (20 to 50 years) has therefore been changed from managed realignment to hold the line. The basis for this change was the economic arguments put forward by Canterbury City Council and Mr Bowman, the arguments on the importance of the local road as a diversion route (as confirmed by Kent Highways) and the desire to prolong the period of time for which the Seasalter Marshes SPA / RAMSAR site is preserved as a viable freshwater habitat. The Consultant has reviewed its recommendations on the basis of the feedback from the consultation and confirmed that the change is in line with the SMP guidance.

The Faversham Creek to Whitstable Harbour Strategy (2004) did set out in some detail the realignment options together with cost comparisons with various hold the line scenarios. Recommendations on long term policy was hampered to a large degree on the lack of information on the environmental pros and cons of realigning across designated freshwater marshes to create intertidal habitats. The SMP has not been able to resolve this particular issue and more detailed studies of habitat protection requirements in the area around the Swale Estuary are required. Any designated freshwater marshes lost to realignment are required to be compensated for by recreating freshwater marsh elsewhere. The capacity to recreate this compensatory freshwater marsh needs investigating. The Environment Agency will lead a study of the habitat requirements in the area and this together with detailed information on other aspects of the coastal management will help to clarify the limitations that should be placed on any proposed realignment scheme. It is worth noting however that it has been generally accepted that should sea level rise by the levels suggested by Government advisors, it may be unsustainable to protect the freshwater marshes particularly those areas closest to the shoreline because of more frequent saltwater inundation during storms or through seepage.

Potential for loss of private property along Faversham Road under proposals to move to managed realignment in the second epoch has attracted much criticism from local residents and their representatives. Those properties which are situated to the east of the subunit between red sluice and the Blue Anchor are located in advance of the clay bund which forms the main flood defence and are protected solely by the shingle beach and some groynes. The beach height generally rises from east to west so that the protection provided against flooding, erosion and wave impact likewise increases from east to west. The most vulnerable sites are likely to experience flooding every five to ten years on average although rises in sea level and foreshore erosion may make this more frequent. Much depends on the size of the shingle beach. The less vulnerable properties at the west end should withstand more severe storms (although the risk increases with time) however this depends on the beach remaining stable and benefiting from occasional recharges / general maintenance.

The more detailed economic assessment undertaken by the City Council for this section of coastline identified that money spent on maintaining and improving the beach would produce a positive cost benefit for the first two epochs. This is despite anticipated costs of storm damage increasing with time. However, within the third epoch the study concludes the costs (including the residual damages), are likely to outweigh the benefits.

As previously mentioned, the CSG accepted the points made through consultation and the request from the Faversham Road Residents association and others to extend the period of hold the line to the end of the second epoch. It does need to be emphasised however that a policy of hold the line does not mean that flooding or other storm damage will not occur and indeed it is felt that the risks may well increase with time.

The request from some residents to build a seawall in advance of the properties on Faversham Road was also considered. Whilst it is possible to build such a wall it is not without problems. The wall would likely have to be built in the mobile beach and this would destabilise the beach through reflected wave energy; it would also enhance foreshore erosion. The beach would then need to be built wider and higher to negate this consequence of the wall. The cost of the wall and the beach would be prohibitively expensive and the new sea defence works would encroach on the designated intertidal area. In all probability the proposed construction of this seawall would draw a legal challenge from English Nature which they would be required to do under present law. The option of a new seawall in front of the Faversham Road properties including the legal implications, coastal process implications, economics and technical viability should be assessed in detail as part of the strategy review.

As regards questions of data accuracy particularly on sea level rise predictions, foreshore erosion and the future stability of the beach there are uncertainties which could affect the timing for introducing realignment policies. On sea level rise, the data used is that required by Government based on the best scientific advice from the IPCC. Actual levels of change may be higher or lower and the consequences of any changes will be reviewed in subsequent SMPs and strategy studies. A monitoring programme is now in place for this section of coastline and as time progresses it is anticipated that better data will be available on both foreshore erosion and beach stability. This will also be used in subsequent reviews.

Removal of the bund wall to the rear of the properties would reduce the problem of floodwater ponding between the rear of the beach and the bund wall. However it would also allow seawater onto the marshes and impact on the freshwater habitats. The particulars of the operation of the sluice which drains water from flooded properties onto the marshes should be reviewed by the relevant authorities – Environment Agency / English Nature.

There is no direct link to funding and the SMP recommended policies. Any works or studies required to delivery hold the line or other policies are subject to prioritisation either nationally in the case of large capital schemes or within the Kent Area in the case of maintenance. The periodic recharge of the beach at Faversham Road and other minor work is a maintenance issue and is therefore a decision for the operating authority (the local Environment Agency in this case) to make taking account of their financial commitments elsewhere.

Finally, all data and supporting reports used by the Consultant to come to the recommendations in the SMP are public documents and are / or will be available on the website as they are completed. The recommendations are made solely on the policy unit itself although the recommended policies for neighbouring or interconnected policy units are cross-checked to ensure they are coherent.

4A 08 – Seasalter to Whitstable Town (Golf Course)

The RSPB note that the intertidal area is part of the Swale SPA, and there needs to be an assessment of the area of intertidal habitat which will be lost and how this is offset against realignment gains elsewhere.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue.

4A 09 – Whitstable Town (Golf Course) to Whitstable Harbour (East)

The **RSPB** note that parts of the intertidal area is part of the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA, and there needs to be an assessment of the area of intertidal habitat which will be lost and how this is offset against realignment gains elsewhere.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue.

4A 10 – Whitstable Harbour (east) to Swalecliffe

The **RSPB** note that parts of the intertidal area is part of the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA, and there needs to be an assessment of the area of intertidal habitat which will be lost and how this is offset against realignment gains elsewhere.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue.

4A 11 – Swalecliffe to Herne Bay Breakwater

The **RSPB** note that parts of the intertidal area is part of the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA, and there needs to be an assessment of the area of intertidal habitat which will be lost and how this is offset against realignment gains elsewhere.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue.

4A 12 – Herne Bay Breakwater to Bishopstone Manor

The **RSPB** note that parts of the intertidal area is part of the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA, and there needs to be an assessment of the area of intertidal habitat which will be lost and how this is offset against realignment gains elsewhere.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue.

4A 13 – Reculver Country Park

RSPB supports NAI as it maintains the SPA interest.

Ms Mount believes the policy should be realignment due to possible outflanking of the floodplain (Reculver to Minnis Bay)

Client Steering Group Response

It may be necessary to opt for realignment in place of no active intervention in the third epoch to prevent outflanking. This depends on the exact policy in place for 4a14 and should be kept under review. No change.

4A 14 – Reculver Towers to Minnis Bay

The **RSPB** strongly supports managed realignment in this area and would like the policy to be brought forward to the first epoch on the basis that intertidal habitat creation here would compensate for losses elsewhere. They recommend the use of regulated tidal exchange due to the relative high exposure of the area to waves and erosion.

Jonathan Tapp objected to realignment on the basis of high agricultural productivity of the land including food and biofuels, the economic impact of agricultural businesses and local jobs, loss of habitat (barn owls, marsh harriers), lack of compensation mechanism for the land lost. He also questions the economics used to support the policy.

Natural England recommend that it will be necessary to flag up the need to investigate compensation requirements in the first epoch as any compensatory habitat (for the freshwater marshes lost to realignment) must be functional before any realignment occurs.

Conversely, **the River Stour (Kent) IDB**, question the appropriateness of the proposed policy for the second and third epochs for this shoreline. There is concern that the secondary defences would be extremely expensive and difficult to construct as a result of the poor ground conditions. The IDB believe that the policy for the second epoch should be hold the line which will give time to thoroughly study the options. They are worried that by designating the policy as managed realignment in the second epoch, it would prejudice the maintenance works required in the first epoch.

The NFU Ash & Thanet & Swingfield & Elham Branches, consider that the SMP does not take account of large increases in wheat and basic food prices and does not account for the adverse impact of importing food from abroad on climate change. They are concerned at the devaluation of land which is used to secure business loans and destabilise businesses. There are concerns about irrigation and saline intrusion into watercourses and into the accuracy of the economic assessments given the broad assumptions which are made.

JRS Tapp objects to the description of the land as undeveloped and notes that they are in fact extremely productive arable land. It is madness to consider returning this to the sea at a time when fuels, food and plastics from sustainable sources will be required.

Manston Parish Council whilst they do not have a coastal boundary they are concerned that realignment may have serious (unplanned flooding) consequences far inland.

Nick Tapp feels it would be negligent not to maintain the current defences. Impacts would include disruption to road and rail traffic, saline intrusion into marshes and farms around Chislet, loss of the recreational fishery, abandonment of agricultural land in the realigned area and loss of a well-used public right of way.

Martin Tapp does not object to the principle to realignment in the second and third epochs provided that the case is proven, the engineering solution is financially viable and adequate compensation is paid to landowners and businesses affected. The case he considers is not proven financially or technically particularly when considering the extent of works required to provide suitable foundations and the likely need to maintain to some degree the existing defences as well as the retreated line. Mr Tapp therefore strongly objects to realignment at this stage.

Client Steering Group Response

The option to realign should be investigated in detail building upon the information in the 1998 strategy and taking account of the potential pitfalls identified in the consultation. In terms of the SPA RAMSAR and habitat creation opportunities the case to realign within the second epoch (or earlier by agreement) appears to be strong (landward side not international designation) but the site is more exposed than other sites inland and investigations need to be undertaken to determine what habitat recreation is possible given the exposed location. The impact on other coastal areas and land adjacent to the realignment needs to be considered fully in particular how sand transport pathways would be affected. Questions relating to the true value of productive agricultural land and the wisdom of allowing it to revert to intertidal habitat need to be debated nationally. An early strategy review is recommended but no changes to the policy are proposed at this stage.

4A 15 – Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea

RSPB support NAI in areas where it will be allowed to continue but feels that net intertidal losses may occur to coastal squeeze which will require compensation.

Mr Whittingham is concerned that between Birchington and Westgate-on-Sea the cliffs are currently undefended for around 250 metres. This threatens the coast road, the consequences of this loss being traffic diverted onto a busy dual carriageway.

Thanet Council are concerned that the general erosion rates used in the study carried too much uncertainty. Unlike most other parts of the coastline there was no detailed erosion rate studies published. Thanet Council commissioned Brian D'Olier to prepare a detailed report on erosion rates for the Thanet coast.

Client Steering Group Response

The erosion rates for the Thanet chalk cliffs presented by Brian D'Olier on behalf of Thanet Council were presented to the consultant for verification. The erosion rates were agreed to be the best available data for the Thanet coast and the maps and supporting data were amended to reflect these changes.

There has been no further information on the need to protect the road for strategic purposes from Kent Highways and therefore no change is proposed. An early broad assessment of the impacts of erosion and flooding along the Thanet coastline is required to establish those areas where maintaining defences are likely to be economically viable.

4A 16 – Margate

RSPB accepts HTL but feel that SPA intertidal rocky shore losses will occur and should be calculated in the Appropriate Assessment.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue.

4A 17 – Cliftonville

RSPB support NAI in areas where it will be allowed to continue but feels that net intertidal losses may occur to coastal squeeze that will require compensation.

Client Steering Group The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue. **Response**

4A 18 – White Ness to Ramsgate

Mrs Martin and neighbours and also Mr and Mrs Renwick and Mrs Hooper feel that the gap in the defences between King Edward VI Park and Dumpton Gap should be defended to prevent the sea eating away at the white cliffs and to stop cliff falls.

Client Steering Group Response

There does not appear to be an economic case for extending defences as requested and there would likely be objections based on damage to the unprotected cliffs to any works. An early broad assessment of the impacts of erosion and flooding along the Thanet coastline is required to establish those areas where maintaining defences are likely to be economically viable.

4A 19 – Ramsgate Harbour

RSPB accepts HTL but feel that SPA impacts on the SAC should be addressed in the Appropriate Assessment.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue.

4A 20 - Ramsgate Harbour (west) to north of the River Stour

RSPB support NAI in areas where it will be allowed to continue but would like to see the Appropriate assessment calculate whether accretion will keep pace with sea level rise such that no intertidal area is lost.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue.

4A 21 – South of the River Stour to Sandwich Bay Estate (north)

RSPB support NAI in areas where it will be allowed to continue but would like to see the Appropriate assessment calculate whether accretion will keep pace with sea level rise such that no intertidal area is lost.

Sandwich Town Council find the statement “The long term policy here is to protect the town of Sandwich and limit large scale flood inundation under a policy of No Active Intervention to be totally unacceptable and contradictory. They are not convinced that the dunes are accreting sufficiently to provide protection from a tidal surge. Want measures to be taken to contain a tidal surge up the River Stour.

The Sandwich Society echo the previous comments and disagree with the SMP assumption that natural accretion is sufficient to provide flood defence to the town of Sandwich.

Mr Gooden, Vice Chair of the Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners feels that not enough is being done to manage flood risk in Sandwich and finds the SMPs totally unacceptable for not adequately addressing future flood risks. He feels we need to invest in new and improved defences. He is also sceptical as regards the ability of the coastal group member authorities to deal with the risks.

Client Steering Group Response

The CSG consider that there has been some confusion caused as a result of the overlaps between the SMP, the coastal defence strategy and the catchment flood management plan. All these documents were at various stages in preparation at the same time. The catchment flood management

plan deals with flood risk inland (including tidal flooding). Although the SMP does not specifically cover the tidal flooding to Sandwich the policies have been checked to ensure they are consistent with plan for inland flood risk management. The existing text in the SMP should be amended to note the links with the CFMP. It also needs to underline that intervention would be supported in the event that the accretion did not keep pace with sea level rise.

4A 22 – Sandwich Bay Estate (north) to Sandown Castle (remains of)

RSPB accepts HTL but feel that intertidal losses will occur and should be calculated in the Appropriate Assessment.

Dr Eddy supports the proposal.

The River Stour (Kent) IDB supports the proposal hold the line along this section of shoreline.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with this issue.

4A 23 – Sandown Castle (remains of) to Oldstairs Bay

RSPB ask if the SSSI cliffs designation is affected by the hold the line policy.

Dr Eddy supports the proposal but is concerned about proposals to dredge the Goodwin Sands as it would make the hold the line policy more expensive.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate assessment will deal with the habitats issue. As regards the Goodwin Sands whilst this is outside the scope of the SMP it is important that the operating authorities (Dover Council and Environment Agency) engage with the dredging consents process to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the shoreline.

4A 24 – Oldstairs Bay to St Margaret's Bay

RSPB support NAI as it will maintain the cliff habitat of the Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC.

Client Steering Group Response

None

4A 25 – St Margaret's Bay

RSPB feel that the impact of the hold the line policy on the Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC should be addressed in the Appropriate Assessment

The Friends of North Deal / Local FP Secretary for Ramblers Association are concerned about the failure to repair the defences at the old rifle range leading to collapse of a footpath and a threat to the SSSI and the golf club house above the cliff.

Client Steering Group Response

The Appropriate Assessment will deal with the habitats issue. The issues around Oldstairs Bay are associated with defence maintenance rather than policy and are being investigated by Dover Council as part of its coastal management responsibilities.

E4 26 – South Foreland

RSPB support NAI as it will maintain the cliff habitat of the Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC.

Client Steering Group Response

None

B7.2.13 Implementation of the SMP

All comments received through the public consultation process have been thoroughly reviewed and considered by the CSG. The CSG has endeavoured to answer the issues raised in this document, however answers to some issues lie outside of the remit of the SMP. Where this is the case, the CSG have provided links to information and / or forwarded these concerns to the appropriate bodies for consideration.

Defra require an SMP to be in place to inform future decisions on shoreline management and the requirement for the SMP at this stage is to present policies in accordance with current legislation and policy. Following consideration of comments, in no instance has a case been identified to justify a change in any of the SMP policies presented in the original consultation draft. Alterations and additions to other sections of the SMP have been made, where necessary, in response to comments received.

An Action Plan will be included with the final document which will outline the steps required to ensure the SMP recommendations are taken forward in the intermediate term, both in planning and coastal defence, and identifies the need to initiate further studies, actions and monitoring to facilitate the implementation of the longer-term plan. Some actions may require decisions to be made at government level.

The final document will be made publicly available and will also inform planning committees.

Annex B1

Annex B1.1 Consultation Response Form

SMP CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please indicate which Shoreline Management Plan you wish to comment on (tick box):

Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)	
Isle of Grain to South foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP)	



Your views and comments will play an important part in the development of the SMP for both the north Kent coastline and estuaries.

If you have any comments on the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP or the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review, please complete this form and return it to: **South East Coastal Group, C/o Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW** or email: smp@canterbury.gov.uk by the **7th September 2007**. An electronic version of the form can also be found at www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk which can be submitted direct via email.

Contact details – Comments received may be incorporated into the SMPs although personal details will not be published but may be kept on file.

1. Name (and organisation)

2. Contact details (address, telephone number, email)

3. Comments (If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet and feel free to attach any supporting information to this form)

Annex B1.2 Press Notice**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATION OF DRAFT PLAN (Incl. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT)****ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004****(SI 2004 1633 Regulation 13 2)**

The South East Coastal Group gives notice that the Consultation Drafts of the following Shoreline Management Plans covering North and East Kent have been prepared and are available for consultation:

Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan**Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan 1st Review**

The Shoreline Management Plan gives an overview of the coastal flood and erosion risk around the North and East Kent Coasts and sets out our preferred plan for sustainable management of coastal defence over the next 100 years.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the SMP consultation process.
An Environmental Report is included in each plan.

The Coastal Group invites the public and the consultees to express their opinion on the relevant documents. Members of the public may inspect (**inspection is free**) the relevant documents online at www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk or at the following Offices:

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP

Environment Agency (Lead)	Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington
Medway District Council	Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester
Swale Borough Council	Swale House East Street, Sittingbourne
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent County Council	Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review

Canterbury City Council (Lead)	Military Road, Canterbury
Dover District Council	White Cliffs Business Park, Dover
Thanet District Council	Cecil Street, Margate
Kent County Council	Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone
Medway District Council	Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester
Swale Borough Council	Swale House East Street, Sittingbourne
Environment Agency	Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington

Consultation commences on 14th May 2007. Forms are available online at the website above or via the organisations listed above for providing formal feedback on the draft plans. Opinions on the relevant documents must be sent to the following address by 7th September 2007:

South East Coastal Group, c/o Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury. CT1 1YW

Annex B1.3 Stakeholder Letter**Date XXXX**

Dear

Draft Plan Consultation for the:**Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)
Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Review**

The Medway Estuary and Swale SMP and Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review are currently undergoing a public consultation, and as you have been previously involved in their stakeholder engagement process, we would welcome your views and comments.

Please find enclosed copies of the Draft Plan Summary Leaflets and Consultation Response Forms for your information and use. Please feel free to distribute the materials to colleagues, members or other parties who you believe may be interested in the plans. Additional Consultation Response Forms, leaflets and SMP Posters are available to download at www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk for your use. The full plans are also accessible to review online at this address. In addition, hard copies of the full plans are available to view at the following locations:

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP

Environment Agency	Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington, West Malling
Medway District Council	Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester
Swale Borough Council	Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent County Council	Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP

Canterbury City Council	Military Road, Canterbury
Dover District Council	White Cliffs Business Park, Dover
Thanet District Council	Cecil Street, Margate
Kent County Council	Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone
Medway District Council	Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester
Swale Borough Council	Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne

If you have any comments on the above plans, please complete a Consultation Response Form (enclosed) and return it to: **South East Coastal Group, C/o Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW** or email: smp@canterbury.gov.uk by the **7th September 2007**. An electronic version of the form can also be found at www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk which can be submitted direct via email.

Thank you in anticipation of your response.

Yours sincerely

Annex B1.4 Press Briefing Pack**Medway Estuary & Swale Shoreline Management Plan****Isle of Grain to south Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review****BRIEFING PACK (Press)*****What is a Shoreline Management Plan?***

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a high-level, non-statutory, policy document planning the future management of the coastline and coastal defences. It promotes management policies into the 22nd century that achieve long-term objectives without committing future generations to unsustainable practices.

The South East Coastal Group have been developing two Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) that cover the shorelines and estuaries of North and East Kent **(1) The Medway Estuary and Swale SMP; (2) The Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review.**

Why do we need Shoreline Management Plans?**The Changing Coastline**

The coastline is undergoing constant change from the natural processes of waves, tides and winds. The amount of change depends on the driving forces, such as storms and sea level rise, and constraints imposed by geology and degree of human intervention.

Whilst these changes continue, social, economic and environmental pressures are increasing in coastal areas. Development on the coast and within estuaries drives a need for protection against coastal flooding and erosion. Building coastal defences is increasingly expensive and places stress on coastal recreation features and natural habitats that are often nationally or internationally important.

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Much of the present shoreline of the English Channel has been shaped by sea level rise following the last ice age. New studies show that sea level rise is rapidly increasing again due to climate change. This will result in significant changes to the coast, such as:

Greater frequency of storms;

Increased wave heights;

Increased erosion;

Increasing rainfall; and,

Increasing fluvial flows.

Increasing sea levels mean that coastal defences have to be larger, costing more money to maintain and making the consequence of a failure of defences more catastrophic to the people and places they protect. These defences frequently prevent the movement of coastal habitats which can cause a problem caused 'Coastal Squeeze' where important wildlife habitat is lost under rising water.

What does this mean?

The coastline is changing and it will not stay as it is. If we continue to defend into the future as we have done in the past, the result will be:

Hard defended areas becoming headlands;

Loss of intertidal areas and beaches in front of defences;

Increased stress on the shoreline, where beaches are lost and the coastline is more exposed to storms;

Increased flooding and erosion hazards; and,

The need for more substantial and expensive defences.

This means we need a 100 year plan to co-ordinate how the coast is managed and take the opportunity to get the best out of it.

North Kent Shoreline Management Plans

The two north Kent SMPs will set the policy for managing the coast. The Plans will identify how the estuary and coastal shorelines would be best managed over time to avoid negative effects (increased erosion and flooding affecting people, property and the coastal environment) and maximise the beneficial affects (better beaches, better habitats, flood and coastal protection) of coastal management.

We will be consulting on the draft Shoreline Management Plans for North Kent between the 14th May and 7th September 2007.

How to Get Involved

If you live near to, or have an interest in, the Medway Estuary, Swale or northeast Kent coast, we invite you to review the policies and would welcome your views.

Hard copies of the full Consultation Shoreline Management Plans and Supporting Appendices are available for review at the following locations:

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP

Environment Agency

Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington

Medway District Council

Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester

Swale Borough Council

Swale House East Street, Sittingbourne

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling

Kent County Council

Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review

Canterbury City Council	Military Road, Canterbury
Dover District Council	White Cliffs Business Park, Dover
Thanet District Council	Cecil Street, Margate
Kent County Council	Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone
Medway District Council	Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester
Swale Borough Council	Swale House East Street, Sittingbourne
Environment Agency	Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington

The full SMP Document and Consultation Response Forms are also available to view and download on the South East Coastal Group's website: www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

Summary leaflets of the plan and Consultation Response Forms will be available in council offices and main libraries in the two SMP areas.

You may post your comments to: South East Coastal group. c/o Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW. or email: smp@canterbury.gov.uk

Please submit all feedback by the **7th September 2007**.

Annex B1.5 Local Authority Briefing Pack**Medway Estuary & Swale Shoreline Management Plan****BRIEFING PACK (Local Authority)****Part 1*****What is a Shoreline Management Plan?***

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a high-level, non-statutory, policy document planning the future management of the coastline and coastal defences. It promotes management policies into the 22nd century that achieve long-term objectives without committing future generations to unsustainable practices.

The South East Coastal Group have been developing two Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) that cover the shorelines and estuaries of North and East Kent:

- 1. Medway Estuary and Swale SMP; and**
- 2. Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review.**

The objectives of the SMP are:

- to define, in general terms, the risks to people and the developed, natural and historic environment within the SMP area over the next century;
- to identify the preferred policies for managing those risks;
- to identify the consequences of implementing the preferred policies;
- to set out procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the SMP policies;
- to inform planners developers and others of the risks identified within the SMP and preferred SMP policies when considering future land use change and development of the shoreline;
- to comply with international and national nature conservation legislation and biodiversity obligations; and,
- to highlight areas where knowledge gaps exist.

Why do we need a Shoreline Management Plan?

The Changing Coastline

The coastline is undergoing constant change from the natural processes of waves, tides and winds. The amount of change depends on the driving forces, such as storms and sea level rise, and constraints imposed by geology and degree of human intervention.

Whilst these changes continue, social, economic and environmental pressures are increasing in coastal areas. Development on the coast and within estuaries drives a need for protection against coastal flooding and erosion. Building coastal defences is increasingly expensive and places stress on coastal recreation features and natural habitats that are often nationally or internationally important.

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Much of the present shoreline of the English Channel has been shaped by sea level rise following the last ice age. Approximately c.10,000 years ago flooding of the English Channel started as sea levels rose. At that time the channel was only a river but, within 2000 years, the entire English Channel had become a sea. For the last 8000 years sea level rise has continued, but at a much slower pace.

Recent studies show that sea level rise is rapidly increasing again due to climate change. This will result in significant changes to the coast, such as:

Greater frequency of storms;

Increased wave heights;

Increased erosion;

Increasing rainfall; and

Increasing fluvial flows.

Increasing sea levels mean that coastal defences have to be larger, costing more money to maintain and making the consequence of a failure of defences more catastrophic to the people and places they protect.

These defences frequently prevent the movement of coastal habitats which can cause a problem caused 'Coastal Squeeze' where important wildlife habitat is lost under rising water.

The SMP aims to provide a plan for addressing these changes in the best way possible for all interests.

What does this mean?

The coastline is changing and it will not stay as it is. If we continue to defend into the future as we have done in the past, the result will be:

Hard defended areas becoming headlands;

Loss of intertidal areas and beaches in front of defences;

Increased stress on the shoreline, where beaches are lost and the coastline is more exposed to storms;

Increased flooding and erosion hazards; and,

The need for more substantial and expensive defences.

This means we need a 100 year plan to co-ordinate how the coast is managed and take the opportunity to get the best out of it. The Plan will identify how the coastline would be best managed over time in order to prevent the loss of beaches and to best protect the people in coastal communities.

Medway Estuary & Swale Shoreline Management Plan

BRIEFING PACK (Local Authority)

Part 2

Local Authority Involvement

Development of the SMP has been led by a Client Steering Group comprising relevant members of the South East Coastal Group, technical officers and representatives from Local Authorities, the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.

SMP development has also been assisted by regular involvement of members representing each of the operating authorities (the councils and the Environment Agency), through an Elected Members Forum (EMF). This group comprised elected members from each of the councils (generally the relevant Cabinet Portfolio holder) and a representative from the Regional Flood Defence Committee. The EMF members have attended meetings with a remit to 'inform and comment on' the developing stages of the SMP thereby providing some degree of input into policy development, by those who will ultimately be adopting the policies. The EMF has met at key stages, providing a review and informal approval of development and outputs.

The SMP process has also involved approximately 60 stakeholder organisations at key decision points, through the formation of a Key Stakeholder Forum (KSF). Meetings with the KSF have been held to help identify and understand the issues, to review the objectives and set direction for appropriate management scenarios.

Shoreline Management Policies

The Plan will set the policy for managing the coast. There are four main policies available:

Hold the Line – Maintain the existing defence line;

Advance the Line – Build new defences seaward of the existing defence line;

Managed Realignment – Allow the shoreline to change with management to control or limit movement (*NOTE: only indicative extents are indicated in the SMP, exact extents will be the subject of future further study*); and,

No Active Intervention – A decision not to invest in providing or maintaining defences

The coastline of the SMP has been broken up into geographical areas, called 'Policy Units,' based on assessments of coastal processes and socio-economic issues.

The plan works over three different time periods 0-20 years, 20-50 years and 50-100 years and assesses the best policies for each unit for each time period. The Plan makes sure that the policies are coordinated and complementary over the whole coastline to avoid negative effects (increased erosion and flooding affecting people, property and the coastal environment) and maximise the beneficial affects (better beaches, better habitats, flood and coastal protection) of coastal management.

Possible contentious issues within the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP

Where Managed Realignment or No Active Intervention will potentially result in the **loss of property**:

E4 16: Ham Green to East of Upchurch – potential loss of 1 property and greenhouses in the long term (50-100 years) under a policy of **No Active Intervention**;

E4 05: Hoo Marina to Lower Upnor – loss of Scheduled Monument in the long term under a policy of **No Active Intervention**;

E4 25: Shell Ness to Sayes Court - loss of approximately 26 properties at Shell Ness under a policy of **Managed Realignment**; and,

E4 30: Medway Islands – loss of 2 Scheduled Monuments under a policy of **No Active Intervention**.

Where Managed Realignment / No Active Intervention will potentially result in the **loss of agricultural land**:

E4 04: Kingsnorth Power Station to Cockham Wood;

E4 08: North Halling to Snodland;

E4 09: Snodland to Allington Lock;

E4 10: Allington Lock to North Wouldham;

E4 11: Wouldham Marshes;

E4 15: Motney Hill to Ham Green;

E4 16: Ham Green to East of Upchurch;

E4 17: East of Upchurch to Lower Halstow;

E4 18: Barksore Marshes;

E4 20: Chetney Marshes;

E4 23: Murston Pits to Faversham;

E4 25: Shell Ness to Sayes Court;

E4 26: Sayes Court to North Elmley Island;

E4 27: North Elmley island to Kingsferry Bridge; and,

E4 28: Kingsferry Bridge to Rushenden.

Summary of Policy Units (Medway Estuary and Swale)

The following sections summarise the justification and impacts of the management plan.

E4 01 Grain Tower to Colemouth Creek

Grain Tower marks the eastern limit of the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP frontage and the boundary with the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP. The majority of the shoreline is dominated by nationally important industry (e.g. Grain Power Station and Thamesport Container Terminal) and is fronted by internationally designated intertidal habitat. The long term policy is to **Hold the Line** in order to protect the commercial and industrial assets as well as the associated infrastructure. Under this policy some localised coastal squeeze impacts will be experienced in later epochs. However, these will be countered by habitat growth within the middle reaches of the Medway estuary.

E4 02 Colemouth Creek to Bee Ness Jetty

Nationally important infrastructure (road, railway, pipelines and electricity cables), associated with industry on the Isle of Grain, runs close to the shoreline. The residential communities of Lower Stoke and Middle Stoke lie on higher land. A large area of saltmarsh (Stoke Saltings) has developed between Colemouth Creek and the Bee Ness Jetty and the intertidal area and some sections of freshwater habitat are internationally designated for their ecological importance. In this policy unit, the area of estuary habitats is increasing and this is important for the international designations. The long-term policy is **Managed Realignment with Localised Hold the Line**. This will allow the shoreline to realign to a more natural system where possible, but will continue to provide appropriate flood and erosion defence to most of the hinterland. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 03 Kingsnorth Power Station

The Power Station and associated infrastructure dominating this unit is protected by flood embankments along the majority of the frontage. Jetties from the power station stretch out into the estuary and extend over a number of small islands. The mudflats and saltmarsh along the frontage, including Oakham Marsh Island, are internationally designated. The plan in the long term is to **Hold the Line** to protect the power station and reduce flood risk to other low lying areas. Although, habitats will be affected by coastal squeeze in later years this will be balanced by habitat growth in other parts of the estuary.

E4 04 Power Station to Cockham Wood

The hinterland contains low-lying agricultural land. The coastal grazing marsh, mudflats and saltmarsh are internationally designated. A marina and small residential community are located to the far west of the frontage south of Hoo St Werburg. The long-term plan is **Managed Realignment with Localised Hold the Line**. This will allow the shoreline to realign to a more natural system where possible, benefiting coastal habitats in some locations. This policy will continue to provide coastal defence to the Kingsnorth Power Station, Hoo Marina, residential communities and some areas of backing low-lying land. Shoreline footpaths (including the Saxon Shore Way) may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 05 Hoo Marina to Lower Upnor

This undeveloped coastline runs in front of the ecologically important Cockham Wood, geologically important cliffs and archaeologically important Cockham Wood Fort Scheduled Monument. The coastline in this unit is not currently managed. The long-term plan is to continue with **No Active Intervention** to maintain landscape value of the frontage by allowing continued natural erosion and rollback of the shoreline. It is considered unsustainable and uneconomic to protect the heritage feature

in the long term. Sea level rise will eventually threaten the Saxon Shore coastal footpath; however, there is an alternative route to the Saxon Shore Way that extends inland along this frontage.

E4 06 Lower Upnor to Medway Bridge

This coastline includes a dense urban area extending onto the shore, comprising of the residential areas of Lower Upnor, Frindsbury and Strood, the commercial and industrial area of the Medway City Estate and regionally important strategic links. The eastern section of frontage is less densely urbanised and is made up of smaller residential areas interspersed with recreational and nationally important heritage features. The long term plan is to **Hold the Line** to ensure continued protection to property and infrastructure from flooding and erosion. Under this policy some coastal habitats will be affected by coastal squeeze in later years. However, these will be balanced by habitat growth within other parts of the estuary.

E4 07 Medway Bridge to North Halling

The railway track follows the shoreline all along this frontage. The railway line separates the residential communities of Cuxton and North Halling from the narrow Medway channel and restricts the size of the floodplain. The long term plan is to **Hold the Line** to continue protecting the property and infrastructure from flooding and erosion. Under this policy the channel may deepen and erosion may become more prevalent as sea levels rise and fluvial flows increase over time. Larger more expensive defences may be required in the long term.

E4 08 North Halling to Snodland

The meandering narrow Medway channel is bordered by the residential communities of Halling and Snodland and pockets of freshwater habitat. The railway line, which is set-back from the river bank, crosses the floodplain. The long term plan is **Managed Realignment with Localised Hold the Line**. This will allow the shoreline to realign to a more natural system where possible, but will continue to provide flood defence to the residential communities of Halling and Snodland and some of the hinterland. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 09 Snodland to Allington Lock

This coastline contains designated freshwater lakes (Leybourne Lakes) south of Snodland and urban communities along the remaining frontage towards Allington Lock. The railway line runs across the floodplain and along the shoreline near the historic village of Aylesford. The estuary channel narrows considerably towards Allington Lock. The short term policy (0-20 years) is to **Hold the Line** to continue protecting the freshwater habitats, built assets and flood risk areas. The long-term plan (20-100 years) is **Managed Realignment with Localised Hold the Line**. This will allow the shoreline to realign to a more natural system where possible, but will continue to provide flood defence to the urban communities and highly important assets. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 10 Allington Lock to North Wouldham

This shoreline contains the historic settlement of Aylesford to the south and areas of agricultural land and freshwater habitats interspersed with small settlements to the north. The estuary channel is narrow along the whole frontage. Outline planning consent has been granted for a housing and community development (Peters Village) and a new Medway River crossing west of Peters Pit. The short term plan (0-20 years) is to **Hold the Line** by continuing to protect the environmental habitats,

agricultural land, property and flood risk areas. The long-term plan (20-100 years) is **Managed Realignment with localised Hold the Line**. This will allow the shoreline to realign to a more natural system where possible, but will continue to provide flood defence to the urban communities and highly important assets. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 11 Wouldham Marshes

Wouldham Marshes is a low-lying area of agricultural land that rises to higher land and is located between the village of Wouldham and the Medway Bridge. A small number of properties are located on the higher ground. The whole frontage is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In the long term a policy of **Managed Realignment** is recommended to allow the coastline to realign to a more natural system, whilst continuing to provide defence to the Medway Bridge, the village of Wouldham and isolated properties. Overall, the landscape value will be maintained. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 12 Medway Bridge to West St Mary's Island

This shoreline is dominated by the dense urban areas of Rochester and Chatham that extend onto the shore. The residential and commercial frontages are interspersed with a number of river crossings and strategic links between the Medway Towns, Frindsbury and Strood, reflecting that these historic towns have been important major crossing points across the Medway since Iron Age and Roman times. The frontage is of considerable commercial importance (e.g. Medway Port and the potential Thames Gateway regeneration area at Rochester Riverside) and is of significant international heritage importance attracting large visitor numbers (e.g. Chatham Historic Dockyard). The long term plan is to **Hold the Line**. This will continue to protect urban communities and heritage assets from flooding and erosion. Under this policy some habitats will be affected by coastal squeeze, however, these will be balanced by habitat growth in other parts of the estuary.

E4 13 St Mary's Island to The Strand

The shoreline is dominated by the expanding residential area of St Mary's Island and the residential, commercial and recreational areas at Gillingham. The narrow intertidal mudflats along the eastern shoreline of St Mary's Island are nationally designated, whilst the intertidal mudflat and saltmarshes along The Strand are internationally designated. The long term plan is **Hold the Line** to continue protection of these developments from flooding and erosion. Habitats will be affected by coastal squeeze in later years, however, these will be balanced by habitat growth in other parts of the estuary.

E4 14 The Strand to West Motney Hill

The important recreation area incorporating Riverside Country Park, Motney Hill and Berengrave Local Nature Reserve, is backed by rising land along the majority of this shoreline. Intertidal mudflat and saltmarshes are internationally designated for their ecological importance. The short term plan (0-20 years) is to **Hold the Line** to continue protecting these recreational areas from flooding and erosion. The long term plan (20-100 years) is to implement a policy of **Managed Realignment** to allow the shoreline to realign to a more natural system. Shoreline footpaths (including the Saxon Shore Way) may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 15 Motney Hill to Ham Green

This shoreline includes Motney Hill, Otterham and the western and northern edge of the Upchurch peninsular. Part of the shoreline is an RSPB Reserve. Small residential communities at Otterham,

Upchurch and Ham Green are interspersed with agricultural land and freshwater marsh. Intertidal areas adjacent to the shoreline and freshwater habitat at Motney Hill and Horsham Marsh are nationally and internationally designated for their ecological importance. The long term plan is **Managed Realignment with Localised Hold the Line**. This will allow the coastline to realign to a more natural system where possible, but will continue to provide flood defence to assets and low-lying land. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 16 Ham Green to East of Upchurch

The high land between Ham Green and east of Upchurch contains Grade 1 agricultural land and isolated properties. Intertidal saltmarsh and mudflat habitats are nationally and internationally designated for their ecological importance. The long term policy for this unit is **No Active Intervention** to allow natural erosion of the frontage. It is considered unsustainable and uneconomic to continue to protect the shoreline in the long term. Reactivation of soft cliffs will provide an additional supply of sediment to the estuary system. Erosion will eventually affect the Saxon Shore Way Coastal Path and reduce the integrity of one property along this frontage.

E4 17 East of Upchurch to East Lower Halstow

The shoreline comprises agricultural land, locally important nature conservation sites and the historically important village of Lower Halstow. Intertidal habitats are nationally and internationally designated for their ecological importance. The recommended long term plan is **Managed Realignment with Localised Hold the Line**. This will allow the coastline to realign to a more natural system where possible, but will continue to provide flood defence to assets and low-lying land. Shoreline footpaths (including the Saxon Shore Way) may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 18 Barksore Marshes

Barksore Marshes is a peninsular of agricultural land and freshwater grazing marsh with no property. The majority of marshes and intertidal habitats are nationally and internationally designated for their ecological value. Most of the frontage is low-lying with the exception of an area of higher land located to the south. The area is important for its landscape value. In the short term (0-20 years) the plan is to implement a policy of **Managed Realignment**. This will ensure that freshwater habitat is appropriately managed before a **No Active Intervention** policy is implemented in the long term (20-100 years). This policy will allow the shoreline to realign to a more natural system. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 19 Funton to Raspberry Hill

The shoreline includes a small local road, backed by orchards. Intertidal habitats are nationally and internationally designated for their ecological importance. The long term policy is **No Active Intervention** to allow natural erosion of the frontage. The road will be increasingly affected by flooding and erosion.

E4 20 Chetney Marshes

Chetney Marshes is a large peninsular of low lying agricultural marsh that extends into the Medway estuary. The Swale runs along its eastern shoreline. The marshes are considered to be one of the most important wildfowl breeding areas in Kent. Intertidal habitat and some coastal grazing marsh are nationally and internationally designated for their ecological importance. The area is locally important

for attracting bird watchers and walkers. The whole area is important for its landscape. The long-term plan is **Managed Realignment** to allow the coastline to realign to a more natural system, but will continue to provide flood defence to the low-lying areas. Shoreline footpaths (including the Saxon Shore Way) may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 21 Kingsferry Bridge to Milton Creek

The Kingsferry Bridge and rail link to the Isle of Sheppey mark the northern limit of the frontage. Industrial and commercial assets are on the low-lying floodplain. Substantial developments have been proposed at Ridham Dock and Kemsley Fields. Coastal grazing marsh and intertidal habitats are of national and international ecological importance. The Saxon Shore Way follows the shoreline along most of this frontage. The long term plan is to minimise flood risk and protect developments, low-lying hinterland and ecological assets, by implementing a policy of **Hold the Line**. Although intertidal habitats may be affected by coastal squeeze in later years. This will be balanced by habitat growth in other parts of the estuary.

E4 22 Milton Creek

Milton Creek runs from Sittingbourne towards the Swale. A number of regionally important commercial and industrial assets are located close to the shoreline. The Saxon Shore Way and the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway run along parts of the Creek. Large residential and commercial areas are also located on the floodplain. Milton Creek is a local Site of Nature Conservation Interest and parts are internationally designated. The long term plan is **Hold the Line** to continue protecting the urban developments and low-lying floodplain.

E4 23 Murston Pits to Faversham

This long frontage runs along the southern shore of the Swale, and incorporates Conyer and Oare Creeks and the north-west section of Faversham Creek. The large expanse of floodplain, made up of agricultural land and grazing marsh, rises to high land in the south. A small number of properties are located on higher land and in the communities of Conyer and Oare. The intertidal and freshwater habitats are nationally and internationally designated. The area is locally important for attracting visitors to the Saxon Shore Way, which runs along the shoreline; and to a number of nature reserves and bird watching sites. Areas along the frontage are also important for their heritage and landscape value. In the short term (0-20 years) the plan is **Hold the Line** to protect the environmental and property and the low-lying floodplain. The long-term plan (20-100 years) is **Managed Realignment with Localised Hold the Line**. This will allow the coastline to realign to a more natural system where possible, but will continue to provide flood defence to residential communities and the remaining floodplain. Shoreline footpaths (including the Saxon Shore Way) may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 24 Faversham to Nagden

Nagden marks the eastern landward limit of the Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan, and the boundary with the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP. The shoreline runs along the southern and eastern sections of Faversham Creek. A large number of industrial, commercial, residential and heritage assets are located along Faversham Creek. Between Faversham and Nagden the character of the shoreline changes from urban to rural. The area is locally important for attracting visitors to the Conservation Area and historic town of Faversham. Intertidal habitats are internationally designated for their ecological importance. The long term plan is to **Hold the Line** to continue protecting the urban developments, historic assets and agricultural land.

E4 25 Shell Ness to Sayes Court

Shell Ness marks the boundary with the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP. The shoreline includes a sand and shell beach and spit, backed by nationally and internationally designated saltmarsh and low-lying coastal grazing marsh. The long term plan is to implement a policy of **Managed Realignment** to achieve a more natural system. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented. The spit will naturally roll back over time and the shoreline may slowly move landward, widening the estuary mouth.

E4 26 Sayes Court to North Elmley Island

The shoreline runs along the south of the Isle of Sheppey and forms part of the northern bank of the Swale. The large floodplain is made up of agricultural land and coastal grazing marsh. The intertidal habitats and freshwater marsh are internationally designated. The area is locally important for attracting visitors to the National Nature Reserve, the RSPB Reserve and Sayes Court Scheduled Monument. The long term plan is to implement a policy of **Managed Realignment** to allow the coastline to realign to a more natural system, whilst continuing to provide flood defence to the remaining floodplain. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 27 North Elmley Island to Kingsferry Bridge

The shoreline runs along the north eastern bank of the Swale, and the south-west of the Isle of Sheppey. The Kingsferry Bridge and rail link to the Isle of Sheppey mark the northern limit of the frontage. The low-lying floodplain is formed of agricultural land and coastal grazing marsh. The intertidal habitats and marshes are internationally designated. A small number of properties at Minster Marshes and two local roads are set back from the shoreline. Part of the frontage also forms part of the Swale National Nature Reserve and the RSPB Reserve. In the short term (0-20 years) the recommended plan is **Hold the Line** to protect the ecological assets, infrastructure and low-lying floodplain. The long-term plan (20-100 years) is **Managed Realignment** to allow the shoreline to realign to a more natural system and provide flood defence to infrastructure and the low-lying floodplain. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 28 Kingsferry Bridge to Rushenden

The Kingsferry Bridge and rail link to the Isle of Sheppey mark the southern limit of the frontage. An area of low-lying marsh leads to high land at Rushenden Dredging Disposal Site. Intertidal habitat and some marshland are internationally designated for their ecological importance. In the short term (0-20 years) the plan is to **Hold the Line** to continue protecting the low lying ecological assets and infrastructure. The recommended long-term (20-100 years) plan is to implement a policy of **Managed Realignment** to allow the shoreline to realign to a more natural system. This policy will also continue to provide flood defence to the low-lying floodplain, infrastructure and properties. Shoreline footpaths may need to be re-routed where Managed Realignment is implemented.

E4 29 Rushenden to Sheerness

Sheerness marks the western limit of the Isle of Sheppey and marks the border with the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP. This section of the shoreline comprises the urban areas of Rushenden, Queenborough and Sheerness. Intertidal habitats between Rushenden and north of Queenborough are internationally designated. The long term plan is **Hold the Line** to continue protecting the urban

developments. Habitats will be affected by coastal squeeze in later years however, this will be balanced by habitat growth in other parts of the estuary.

E4 30 Medway Islands

A number of saltmarsh islands are located in the middle estuary of the Medway. Hoo Saltmarsh Island is a dredging disposal site. Nationally significant Scheduled Monuments are located on Hoo Saltmarsh Island (Hoo Fort SM) and Darnet Ness (Darnet Fort SM). Nor Marsh Island forms part of Nor Marsh and Motney Hill RSPB Reserve. Island habitats are nationally and internationally designated for their ecological value. The long term policy is **No Active Intervention** to maintain the environmental and landscape value of the frontage by allowing natural erosion to continue and periodic inundation of the islands. It is considered unsustainable and uneconomic to protect the individual heritage features in the long term. An ongoing monitoring programme will be required to assess the future management needs of the islands. Habitats will be affected by coastal squeeze in later years, however, this will be balanced by habitat growth in other parts of the estuary.

Summary of Policy Units

(Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Policy units – Medway & Swale areas)

4b 01 Allhallows-on-Sea to Grain

This is a largely undeveloped low-lying area of international nature conservation importance. The recommended policy in the short term is to **Hold the Line**. In the medium and long term a policy of **Managed Realignment** is recommended. This will generate a naturally functioning coastline, reduce the impact of coastal squeeze and enhance the nature conservation value of the frontage.

4b 02 Garrison Point to Minster

A dense urban area dominated by the port and associated developments. The long term policy is to **Hold the Line**. This will protect the developments that extend to the shoreline edge throughout the frontage. However, in light of ongoing sea level rise the inter-tidal area will narrow and beaches will reduce unless they are artificially maintained.

4b 03 Minster Town

A dense urban area, developed to the edge of the low coastal slope, fronted by a shingle beach of amenity and tourism importance. A long term policy of **Hold the Line** is recommended. The policy will protect the frontage and prevent erosion of the seafront and its associated assets. However, in light of ongoing sea level rise the inter-tidal area will narrow and beaches will reduce unless they are artificially maintained.

4b 04 Minster Slopes to Warden Bay

An area of unprotected cliffs that are of national environmental and geological importance. The long term policy here is to allow natural cliff retreat under **No Active Intervention**. This policy will maintain the landscape and environmental quality of the frontage. However, there will be some loss of agricultural land and caravan parks and sections of the coastal footpath may need to be re-routed.

4b 05 Warden Bay to Leysdown-on-Sea

This unit covers the village of Warden Bay, and the low-lying areas of 'The Bay' and Leysdown-on-Sea. The short term plan is to recommend a combined policy of **Hold the Line** and **Managed Realignment**. In the medium and long term, the combined policy of **Hold the Line** and **Managed Realignment** will continue. Some inundation of the hinterland is anticipated at the Bay as the effectiveness of the toe defence at Warden reduces. This will allow the shoreline to respond naturally, reduce coastal squeeze and prevent uncontrolled flooding.

4b 06 Leysdown-on-Sea to Shell Ness

The frontage comprises a largely unmanaged sand and shell beach, which is backed by low-lying coastal grazing marsh. A policy of **Managed Realignment** is recommended. Although property and land losses are associated with this policy, this policy is considered to be sustainable in the long-term, on the basis that environmental and engineering benefits will be realised and that the flood risk will be managed.

4b 07 Faversham Creek to Seasalter

This is a largely undeveloped low-lying area of international nature conservation importance. The recommended policy in the short term is to **Hold the Line**. In the medium and long term (20-50 and 50-100 years), a policy of **Managed Realignment** is recommended. This will generate a naturally functioning coastline, reduce the impact of coastal squeeze and enhance the nature conservation value of the frontage.

Further Information

The draft SMP is to be consulted on for a three month period from 14th May 2007 to 7th September 2007.

Hard copies of the full Shoreline Management Plan and Supporting Appendices are available at the following locations:

Medway Estuary and Swale SMP

Environment Agency	Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington
Medway District Council	Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester
Swale Borough Council	Swale House East Street, Sittingbourne
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent County Council	Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone

Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP Review

Canterbury City Council	Military Road, Canterbury
Dover District Council	White Cliffs Business Park, Dover
Thanet District Council	Cecil Street, Margate
Kent County Council	Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone
Medway District Council	Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester
Swale Borough Council	Swale House East Street, Sittingbourne
Environment Agency	Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington

Documents are also available to view and download on the South East Coastal Group's website:
www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk

Annex B1.7 NFU Meeting (22nd August 2007) Minutes

Project	Medway Estuary and Swale SMP, Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP	Date	23 August 2007
Subject	NFU consultation meeting	Ref	
		Page	1 of 83

Venue Canterbury City Council, Military Road Office

Date held 22 August 2007

Present MS - Mark Smith – Environment Agency
 KM - Katharine Mathews – Environment Agency
 SM - Steve McFarland – Canterbury City Council
 NP - Nigel Pontee – Halcrow

JA - John Archer – NFU SE Regional Officer

KA - Kevin Atwood – NFU County Vice Chairman and farmer Seasalter – Faversham

RD - Richard Daw – Farmer in Sandwich Bay

JH - Jeff Holroyd – NFU Group Secretary for Swale

PD - Paul Dunn – Farmer in Lower Stour

MW - Mike Wellam – NFU Group Secretary for Isle of Thanet and Hythe

SM gave an overview of the work that had been undertaken so far to develop the SMPs. **Action**
 During consultation stage most comments had related to the losses of houses or agricultural land. The SMPs had been developed in line with Defra guidance for their production. The SMP had to respect certain constraints such as legally protected environments and coastal process sustainability etc. Another key aspect was ensuring that policies were robust in the light of uncertainties such as predictions about climate change and sea level rise.

MS stressed that the project team was keen to use the meeting to present information to the NFU so that they could make as full as possible contribution to the consultation process and make their views known.

JA said that the NFU recognised that balanced solutions were needed achieve sustainable flood risk management.

JA outlined general concerns of NFU:

1. Wanted to highlight importance of agricultural land – this was felt to be poorly recognised in the SMP process. Globally the amount of agricultural land in temperate climates was reducing. Agricultural land represents people's livelihoods. Loss of agricultural land was therefore a very emotive subject for
-

landowners.

2. That managed realignment for flood defence purposes used to 'get habitat creation by the backdoor'.
3. Compensation for loss of farmers land was critical – 'pay for what you take'
4. Concern that economic analysis was inaccurate using out of date land values and not accounting for the decoupling of subsidies. On the Paghams-East Head SMP, the NFU had been unable to get detailed calculations of cost benefit analysis used to justify 1500 ha managed realignment site.

KA said that the NFU believed that the value of agriculture was undervalued in the SMP because their had not been large numbers of farmers at the stakeholder meetings

MS outlined the approaches that had been adopted with regard to the above points:

1. Importance of Agricultural land

The stakeholder meetings had captured people's concerns about agricultural land and these had fed into the objectives that were used to choose the preferred SMP policy.

RD asked how agricultural land had been ranked.

NP explained the objective setting and appraisal work and said the NFU should look at this part of the SMP to see (i) that they were happy with the number of objectives relating to farming (ii) that the ranking accorded to each agricultural objective was reasonable. In terms of ranking, there were 4 levels from locally important features up to internationally important features. Policies were chosen on basis of achieving the highest number of high ranking objectives, not on basis of achieving particular objectives.

NFU

NP would send summary table of ranks for different objectives to NFU.

NP

PD said that it was unfair that flood plain which was originally farmland but had been built on, now was protected from managed realignment, whilst remaining farmland was earmarked for managed realignment for flood relief and habitat compensation to protect urban areas.

NP explained that Defra guidance required that certain legislative and market approaches were assumed to remain constant over the lifetime of the SMP. This was dealt with in the sensitivity analysis appendix of the SMP. NP advised the NFU to look at this and if they felt that the value of agricultural land should be acknowledged as increasing in the future they should make this point in their consultation response to the MSP and also to Defra. Ultimately Defra would have to approve any revised consideration of agricultural land.

NFU

2. Habitat creation

MS advised that certain habitats were protected under international law and therefore the protection of these sites into the future (100yrs) is a big driver for the SMP. Habitat Creation is one of the many issues and objectives of the SMP and is not given extra weighting. The issues & objectives tables are available for review in the SMP appendices on the website (CD issued to some attendees also).

KA asked how many areas of different habitat types will be lost across the SMP area?

MS said that the Swale was currently accreting and the work that had been done suggested that this would be likely to continue for the next 50 years (although this was subject to high levels of uncertainty). Coastal squeeze was therefore not an issue in the Swale.

KA clarified that the creation of habitat was not a key driver in the Swale.

MS said that the appropriate assessment that had been completed in draft in partnership with Natural England. To date the assessment has showed that the policies are viable although the scale of the indicative realignment extents may not be. The primary purpose of the SMP is to set Coastal policy and not to scale the effect of the policy although we have made efforts to do this to benefit interpretation. The schemes as defined at present were our best estimates based on knowledge at the present time. Further studies would be needed to refine their extent before any changes were made on the ground.

RD said that managed realignment was proposed in Sandwich Bay. What was the driver, for this if coastal squeeze and habitat loss were not important?

SM confirmed that in most open coast areas coastal squeeze was an issue.

KM clarified that the creation of habitats was not the only driver for choosing policies

KA clarified that if fresh water habitat was lost it would need to be compensated for?

MS said that in some cases a change to intertidal habitat might be viewed by English Nature as beneficial to the overall integrity of the site.

KA understood that this might be the case in some instances and that it would clearly depend on the exact proportions of habitats being effected. However, other land owners e.g. the RSPB and Kent Marshes Association may take a different view on the loss of freshwater habitat. KA stated that there the NFU were concerned that the proposed managed realignment extents were just the starting point, signalling the way for more and larger schemes in the future. KA clarified that if fresh water habitat were needed to be created on agricultural land then it would offer an opportunity to provide compensation to landowners. KA felt that most landowners would accept a loss of land if they were paid for its loss, although there were likely to be some landowners who would not contemplate any

changes to their estates.

3. Compensation

MS and NP explained that there was no automatic right to provide compensation to landowners where managed realignment or no active intervention were undertaken. However, if the land was required to undertake a habitat creation scheme then land may be purchased either by a flood defence operating authority or by a third party (e.g. a port). Agri-environment schemes were also possible where inter tidal habitat was created on farm land – although from landowners perspectives such payments were not felt to deliver enough benefits. There was general agreement that if compensation were clearly payable it would make the development of the SMP much more straightforward.

JA confirmed that NFU were lobbying nationally on the issue of compensation.

MS provide the NFU with the Environment Agency and Defra policy statements relating to managed realignment.

4. Economics

MS clarified the NFU concerns that the SMP had followed Defra guidance and had:

- (i) used latest Defra values on agricultural land (2005 uplifted for inflation @3%).
- (ii) discounted the land based on subsidies.

KA estimated that land values had increased by 40% over the last 3 years rather than the 9% due to inflation. KA accepted that the newer values for land could be used at the strategy level studies. RICS website had information of the latest land values.

NP will check the land valuation information used and check that the Savills source recommended by the SMP guidance is the same as the Defra source. If not then the Savills source will be used to comply with the Defra SMP guidance.

NFU will feed back the concerns over use of inflation and discounts for subsidies to Defra

The SMP project team led by SM on behalf of the SE coastal group will also feed these concerns back to Defra and will investigate the use of more up to date land valuations as required.

NFU

SM

NIP clarified that the role of the SMP was to highlight where flood and coastal erosion risk management policies needed to change in the future, before these things were looked at in more detail at strategy and scheme level. The level of economic studies done in the SMP was necessarily high level.

JH stressed that to farmers a loss of land was a loss of livelihood. JH thought that farmers would be happy if they were paid for their loss of land. JH said that where sea defences had always been provided, then people expected this to continue.

PD asked for clarification of the final sign off by the Elected Members Forum (EMF).

MS and SM said that the EMF sign off the SMP when they have fully considered all technical information and consultation feedback. They consider the acceptability of the SMP and any further work required based on comments received during the consultation period.

PD asked for clarification of the Sandwich Bay strategy. A previous study had been considering option of raising the flood embankments or building a barrier across the River Stour – what was the progress on this?

KM clarified that the previous study had been merged with the coastal study to form the Pegwell bay to Kingsdown Strategy.

KA said there were a number of specific issues relating to managed realignment on Sheppey but most of these were related to the issue of compensation. KA commented that the SMP process tended to highlight the uncertainties rather than the certainties. This was alarming to landowners. The issue of the exact extent of managed realignment was a case in point.

NP said that the SMP team had worked hard to define sensible extents for the managed realignment areas given the available information at this stage. NP accepted that in areas such as Sheppey the potential for managed realignment on low lying land was very large.

KA said the proposed managed realignment extents near Shellness were still very large and caused concern to the landowners in that area.

Author Nigel Pontee

Copy

Annex B1.8 Kent County Council: List of stakeholders who were sent public consultation leaflets.

Icklesham Parish Council/Rye Harbour Boat Owners Association
MYA
Access to Marine Conservation for All International (AMCAI)
Allhallows Yacht Club
Bayblast
Birchington Waterski and Wakeboarding Club
Bramley Associates
Britannia Aggregates Ltd/BMAPA
BTCV
Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
Canterbury and Coastal Kent
Canterbury Christ Church University College
Canterbury Information Centre
CARES Ltd
CEFAS
Centre for Enterprise and Business Development (Canterbury Christ Church University)
Chatham Maritime Trust
Christ Church University College, Fisheries GIS Unit
City of Rochester Society
CMS
Conyer Cruising Club
Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
Natural England
CPRE MCA
Crown Estate Manager, Cluttons
Cruising Association
dialogue matters
Dover Harbour Board
Dover Port
Dyas Farms 1988 Ltd
East Farleigh Cruising Club
East Kent Maritime Trust & Goodwins Joint Action Group
East Kent Yachting Association
Ecology Research group, Canterbury Christ Church University College
English Heritage
Eurotunnel
Faversham Creek Wardens
Folkestone & Dover Water Services Ltd
Friends of North Kent Marshes
Gillingham Marina
Greenwich Peninsular Ecology Park
Greenwich Wildlife Advisory Group
Groundwork

GroundWork Kent Thames-side
Groundwork Medway Swale
Guardian Marine Training Services
Herne Bay & Whitstable Water Safety Committee
Herne Bay Sailing Club
HM Coastguard
HM Coastguard, MCA
Hoo Marina
Hoo Marina Berth Holders Assoc.
Hoo Ness Yacht Club
Hundred Of Hoo Sailing Club
Icom (UK) Ltd
JAWS
JAWS jet ski club
Jet Ski World
Jet Works
Kent & Essex Sea Fisheries Committee
Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
Kent and Sussex FWAG
Kent Downs AONB
Kent Federation of Amenity Societies
Kent Field Club
Kent Fisheries Consultative Association
Kent Ornithological Society
Kent Police
Kent Wildfowling & Conservation Association
Kent Wildlife Trust
Kentish Stour Countryside Project
Kingfisher Angling Preservation Society
Kingsferry Boat Club
Lewis Ecology
London Port Health Authority
London Rivers Association
London Thames Gateway Forum
Lower Halstow Yacht Club
Lydden Valley Project
Margate Civic Society
MCA
Medway Cruising Club
Medway Motor Yacht Club
Medway Ports
Medway River Users Association
Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Medway Yacht Club
Medway Yachting Association
MOD

MSEP Chair
National Farmers Union - South East Region
National Trust
Natural History Museum
Network Rail
NFU
North Kent Yachting Association
North West Kent College
North West Kent Countryside Partnership
North West Kent Countryside Project
North West Kent CVS
Northfleet North Ward, Gravesham BC
Offshore Environmental Solutions Ltd (OESL)
Old Gaffers Association
Pegwell & District Association
Personal Watercraft Partnership
Pfizer Ltd
Port of London Authority
Queenborough Fishermen's Association
Queenborough Yacht Club
Railtrack Southern
Ramsgate Port
Ramsgate Society
River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board
River Stour Internal Drainage Board
RNLI - Gravesend
Rochester Cruising Club
Royal Engineer Yacht Club
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Royal Yachting Association
RSPB
RSPB North Kent Marshes
RYA
RYA Southeast
Rye Harbour
Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory
Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust
Sandwich Port & Haven Commissioners
Sandwich Port and Haven Council
Sandwich Town Council
SEE Regional Assembly
Sheppey Coastguard
Sheppey Yacht Club
Shoregate Wharf Sailing Club
South East England Development Agency
South East England Regional Assembly

Southern Water Services Ltd
Sport England
Sport England, South East Region
Strood Yacht Club
Sustainability Actions
Thames Angling Preservation Society
Thames Estuary Partnership
Thames Explorer Trust
Thames Gateway Kent
Thames Gateway London Partnership
Thames Landscape Strategy
Thames21
Thamesport
Thanet Coast Project
Thanet Nature Conservation Umbrella Group
The Churches Conservation Trust
Natural England
The National Trust
The River Stour Drainage Board
The Sandwich Project
The Varne Boat Club
Tourism South East
Tribal Voice Communications Ltd
University of Greenwich
University of Kent
Upnor Sailing Club
Upper & Lower Medway IDB
W.H. Mouland & Son / NFU
Warwick Energy Ltd
Kent Downs AONB Officer
White Cliffs Country Tourism Association
White Cliffs Countryside Project
Whitstable Fish Market
Whitstable Fishermen's Association
Whitstable Harbour
Whitstable Museum
Whitstable Society
Wilsonian Sailing Club
Kent Thameside Delivery Board
Port of London Authority
British Divers Marine Life Rescue
Environment Agency
Canterbury City Council
Kent County Council
University of Greenwich
Environment Agency

Swale BC
Medway Council
Kent Wildlife Trust
KCC Neighbourhood Forum (Thanet and Dover Districts)

Annex B1.8 Faversham Road Residents Meeting Notes (19th July 2007)

A1	Project	Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP review	A2	Date	30/07/07
	Subject	SMP Faversham Road Public Meeting	Ref		
	Venue	Faversham Rd Church hall	Pages		8
	Date Held	27/07/07			
	Present	<p>Steve McFarland – (CCC) Principal Engineer Christina Bell – (CCC) Engineering</p> <p>Viv Pritchard – (CCC), Head of Transport & Engineering</p> <p>Ted Edwards –(CCC) Engineering Manager</p> <p>Clive Older - Environment Agency Cllr Mike Sharp, Seasalter (CCC) Cllr Mike Harrison – (KCC) Cllr Mark Dance (KCC) Julian Brazier (MP) Canterbury</p>			

A3	Attendees	Carol De Grout	43 Faversham Rd
		Barry Barham	45 Faversham Rd
		Joan Willis	Seasalter Sailing Club
		Frank Avery	Seasalter Sailing Club
		Jeff Kiddh	Seasalter Sailing Club
		David Daltor	Seasalter chalet owners association
		Christopher Byers	36 Faversham Rd
		R. Mothcom	6 The Slavge
		David K Grant	282 Faversham Rd
		Joanne Grant	282 Faversham Rd
		Pauline Tye	Moggentye, Alan Rd
		J W Baxter	325 Faversham Rd
		Mr & Mrs L W Pitt	331 Faversham Rd
		Marie Woodger	156 Faversham Rd
		Robert Whiting	160 Faversham Rd
		David Steward	41 Kimberly Grove
		Colin Fuller	284 Faversham Rd
		Sandra Fuller	284 Faversham Rd
		Dorian Eldenson	287 Faversham Rd
		Brian Jull	Church Lane
		Alan Digby	Rosehaven, Church Lane
		Poole & Oakley	235 Faversham Rd
		Families	283 Faversham Rd
		Susan	281 Faversham Rd
		Steven Burroughs	279 Faversham Rd
		Jackie Kennedy	275 Faversham Rd
		C.R Hodge	275 Faversham Rd
		P a Stratford	303 Faversham Rd
		R W Edmonds	303 Faversham Rd
		J B Edmonds	25 Macdonald Parade
		B Dutnall	25 Macdonald Parade
		S Dutnall	212 Faversham Rd
V Marks	295 Faversham Rd		
Georgina Bavier	295 Faversham Rd		
Tracey Gardiner	291 Faversham Rd		
Maureen	289 Faversham Rd		
Eastwood	269 Faversham Rd		
Ron & Mary	269 Faversham Rd		
Wisdom	288 Faversham Rd		
Andrew Rae	288 Faversham Rd		
Jennifer	211 Faversham Rd		
David Albin	267 Faversham Rd		
Lynne Albin	218 Faversham Rd		
John Bates			
Elaine Kirkaldie			
Ian Wood			

(Names copied from hand written register, apologies for errors)

A4	Tina Wood	218 Faversham Rd
A5	Claire Goulding	220 Faversham Rd
A6	Anita May	224 Faversham Rd
A7	David May	224 Faversham Rd
A8	Sheila Hague	412 Faversham Rd
A9	John Hague	412 Faversham Rd
A10	Peter Hague	400 Faversham Rd
A11	Yvonne Hague	400 Faversham Rd
A12	David Russell	414 Faversham Rd
A13	Mark Richardson	29 Eden Rd
A14	Teresa	29 Eden Rd
A15	Richardson	53 Faversham Rd
A16	Paul Hudson	53 Faversham Rd
A17	Ann Hudson	16A Preston Parade
A18	Tony Cornwall-	210 Faversham Rd
A19	Jones	215 Faversham Rd
A20	Ernie West	215 Faversham Rd
	Derek Flint	117 Lucerne Drew
	Una McCabe	Sunshine Roberts Rd
	V. Perry	Sunshine Roberts Rd
	Nicola Brooker	42 Kinberly Grove
	Roger Brooker	Blue Anchor Pub
	Tony Adams	230 Faversham Rd
	Jim Lovitt	317 Faversham Rd
	Paul Lawrence	299 Faversham Rd
	Geoffrey Harding	233 Faversham Rd
	Colin Manington	233 Faversham Rd
	Chris Yates	292 Faversham Rd
	Tracey Morgan	44 Faversham Rd
	Robert Wade	221 Faversham Rd
	Amber Wade	221 Faversham Rd
	Alison Riches	Briar Rose Church Lane
	John Hamper	268 Faversham Rd
	Erik Puce	6 St Mary's Grove
	Lesley Wigh	30 St Mary's Grove
	P Docurd	2 Sandpiper Rd
	D	21 the Grange
	Cllr Paul Carmen	10 Chanotonbury
	Kathleen Dealings	10 Chanotonbury
	N Dulp	6 St Margaret's Close
	C Dulp	4 Freeman's Close
	J Brown	277 Faversham Rd
	Margaret and Jill	277 Faversham Rd
	Taylor	274 Faversham Rd
	Chris Atkinson	274 Faversham Rd
	Clair Atkinson	London
	Mike Downs	297 Faversham Rd
	Jackie Downs	293 Faversham Rd
	D Robertson	42 Faversham Rd
A21	Laming	42 Faversham Rd
	L Salty	
	Alan Sheath	
	Phyllis Sheath	

A22

Jason Morley	327 Faversham Rd
Laura Morley	327 Faversham Rd
Margaret Tyce	29 Eden Rd
Butcher	24 Eden Rd
Freda Vincent	239 Faversham Rd
P Custons	239 Faversham Rd
Custons	23 Faversham Rd
Pixell	319 Faversham Rd
K Bowlman	266 Faversham Rd
V Myers	266 Faversham Rd
M Myers	266 Faversham Rd
V Covil	272 Faversham Rd
Mr & Mrs Knight	11 Faversham Rd
Mr & Mrs Talbot	8 Eden Rd
S Gillham	9 Eden Rd
Frances Muchall	9 Eden Rd
John Muchall	24 Preston Parade
Val Albin	24 Preston Parade
Roy Albin	325 Faversham Rd
Baxter	

A23

A24

Introduction Introduction from Mike Harrison

Presentation

Presentation from Steve McFarland

- Responsibilities of SMP
 - Climate change, latest advice
 - Current risks, flood & erosion
 - Future risks (slideshow)
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- A25** Chris Atanson – Request to share data tidal storm data with residents for predictions of future events. How far does the data predate?
SM to report on evidence of sea level rise and the basis of assumptions used.
- A26** **Questions**
- Tony West – Tides are lower than last year does that not indicate a stable situation?
The time period is too short to conclude anything; we need a minimum of 18 ½ years.
Why don't we take the approach of the Dutch?
Advancement of the coast.
It was considered but ruled out on a basis of cost and environmental impact, the Dutch approach is changing to allow realignment where possible.
- Chris Yates – Is there a new risk to our coast from defence policies further “up coast”? E.g. Whitstable to Seasalter
No, there is marginal benefit from beach feed.
Why has the Whitstable scheme not been implemented in Seasalter?
Environment Agency has been unable to secure funding for the Faversham Road works identified in the 2004 strategy.
Is Seasalter a constructive/destructive beach?
Erosion by water-ski club but otherwise it is stable. It relies on continual recharge.
- Lou Sexty – North Norfolk is “horrendous” is this media hysteria?
It depends on the individual's perspective of property loss.
- Tony Jones – What is the main threat to Seasalter, wave height or sea level rise?
The combination of the two.
- Jim Baxter – Why have plans/schemes that have been proposed for this area never been implemented?
Environment Agency has been unable to secure funding for the Faversham Road works identified in the 2004 strategy.
- Frank Avery (Seasalter Sailing Club) – Will Seasalter be allowed to dilapidate, and a set back be allowed to the railway line?
We will not walk away and do nothing, but the details of implementation have not yet been considered.
Money spent on railway line should be spent on the seawall.
This will be reconsidered at the detail analysis stage which will be commissioned by the Environment Agency.
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- Why was planning permission granted 3years ago for new properties when proposal is now for a set back of

Presentation

Continuation of presentation

- Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), introduction
- What the SMP says for Faversham Road
- About the consultation process
- Next steps in the SMP
- Coastal Adaptation and Compensation

A27

A28		Questions asked to councillors, MP Julian Brazier and Council Officers
A29	Questions	<p>Jim Lovitt – (Blue Anchor Pub) – Why was SMP not bought up in local property searches sooner? The draft was only concluded at the end of April and then approved for consultation, for it to be included before would have been premature. Why is flood risk not more widely publicised? <i>Local searches will say that properties are within a sea flood plain. Additionally properties on the seaward side of the road are in a wave-overtopping zone.</i></p> <p>Lou Sexty – If scientific facts are now available, why is protection of property etc not a set policy of the government? The government have chosen not to follow a policy of defend all assets, preferring a policy of sustainable approaches to flood and erosion risks. Is feedback at this meeting likely to change policy etc with SMP? If the feedback changes the information used in the assessment, then yes. Otherwise the assessment process is quite rigid and is unlikely to change because it's unpopular.</p> <p><i>Mike Downs – Would it not be better to hold the line over 60years between Graveney and Sportsman pub and allow natural transport for maintenance?</i> Yes that would help properties but reality is that it may not be possible to realise this without changes in the National Policy. 50 years (instead of 20) would satisfy residents more, when will residents know what will be included within reviews? <i>This will be around the end of 2007 or early 2008.</i></p> <p>May –Residents would like to see advancement of sea defences; maintenance of clay build is not sufficient. Argued that agreement between government and residents will not happen unless this is achieved. Advancing the current defences would draw a legal challenge from Natural England due to their obligations under EU law. Further the seawall would need to be located above mean high water level, which is through existing gardens and costs would be such that it wouldn't be likely to get National funding.</p> <p>Robertson – Could old building material not be used if defence line was realigned to railway line to maintain properties along current shoreline? There are environmental issues regarding what can be placed on the foreshore and it would be difficult to keep the defence up to standard in the long-term.</p>

Chris Byres – Is sole reason for SMP proposals based

Claire Gaulding – Property search complaint
No legal challenges could be made in consultation process, therefore how can residents make any changes to policy?

We are awaiting the results of the Governments review of coastal adaptation, which arose from similar problems in N Norfolk.

Wants availability of SMP documents.

ACTION: *Cd's delivered to the Blue Anchor.*

Georgina Baker, homeowner – Do you have any info about damage to defences after 20 years of hold the line?

This depends on occurrence of storms.

What will the implications on the defences be and how quickly will this happen?

Depends on the occurrence of the storms, which are unpredictable.

Could people implement their own sea defence works?
E.g. groyne?

Yes, but you would need approvals due to possible effect on neighbours.

David - If/ when will repairs to groyne in Seasalter occur? Need for repair due to undermining of seawall in some places.

Environment Agency has been unable to secure funding for the Faversham Road works identified in the 2004 strategy

Chris Yakes – general question, all residents have heard about is policies proposed, we want to see how they will be reached.

The Environment Agency will address this in a detailed study.

Jim Baxter – Drainage pipes implemented by EA red sluice in the past to drain the roadside buildings – keeping floodwaters out. Please can keys be more available to open drainage pipes as current key holder lives on the Isle of Sheppey?

An agreement was reached that only the EA would operate the pipes, and they will only be opened when the tide drops due to impact of saline water on marshes.

Request for reps from Natural England to attend future meetings.

Resident – have no control over policy setting/ state of defences or environmental factors etc, so there is a strong need for discussion of compensatory factors?

ACTION: *Councillors will be investigating and pushing for this, currently waiting for study results.*

Will buildings be dismantled in 20years time and risk increased?

