

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline held at the Civic Offices, Havant on Friday 11 December 2009, commencing at 10.15am

Present: A list of those present is appended to these minutes.

Apologies:

Cllr Roger Elkins	-	Arun District Council
Cllr F Carpenter	-	New Forest District Council
Andy Ramsbottom	-	Poole Harbour Commissioners
Dr David Harlow	-	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr R Lawton	-	Bournemouth Borough Council
Lyall Cairns	-	Havant, Portsmouth and Gosport Councils Coastal Partnership

1. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2009 be approved subject to Minute 2.6 being amended to read:

“National Assessment of Flood Risk and Long-Term Investment Strategy

The Environment Agency advised members that the two reports were available electronically and that hyperlinks would be emailed to members.”

2. Research Programme

The Group received a report from the Chairperson of the SCOPAC Research Sub-Group setting out progress made on the following current and proposed SCOPAC projects:

- 1.1) CIRIA Beach Management Manual
- 1.2) ACCESS (Adapting to Climate Change Along England's Southern Shorelines).

The Chairperson of the SCOPAC Research Sub-Group provided an update on the programmes progress and informed members that it was due to be completed late next year. At the Southern Coastal Group it had been agreed to email a list of “hotspots” to officers in December, which would provide them with an opportunity to forward on any relevant comments they had concerning the sites.

- 1.3) Sediment Tracer Studies East Solent
- 1.4) South-East Strategic Monitoring Programme Annual Partners Meeting
- 2.1) Income Generation Opportunities and Funding of Research
- 2.2) Joseph Rowntree Bid
- 2.3) Rural Pathfinder Bid

Members were informed that the SCOPAC bid had been unsuccessful and Dr Robin McInnes, former chairman of the Southern Coastal Group, would be seeking clarification on the reasons it was not approved.

Alison Baptiste of the Environment Agency explained that while SCOPAC's bid was very strong it didn't directly help communities adapt to coastal change. Officers from Local Authorities that had successfully bid for funding agreed to share experiences and ideas with SCOPAC in order to disseminate good practice.

2.4) Research Group Structure

Members were informed that officers from the Southern Coastal Group had been invited to join the research group.

RESOLVED That

- 1) The report be noted;
- 2) Any officers wishing to join the SCOPAC Research Sub-Group contact Samantha Cope.

3. **Report of the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group**

The Group received a report from the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group setting out recent developments and progress made on the following subjects:

3.1) Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme: Phase 3, 2011/2016

Members support for the programme was noted.

3.2) Proposal for New Training Initiatives

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group explained that there were two strands to the new training initiatives. The first one involved holding training workshops for officers to improve knowledge of practical issues and encourage the development of new engineers.

The second part of the new initiative involved providing members with the chance to visit local sites. It was felt that members would benefit from becoming familiar with putting policy into practice and receiving practical knowledge on local issues.

Members welcomed the new initiatives and also expressed an interest in new members receiving inductions to SCOPAC. It was felt that it would be useful if officers explained current coastal issues to new members and provided information on the services SCOPAC provided.

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group informed members that organisation of field trips would commence soon and that inductions for new members would be investigated.

3.3) SCOPAC Meeting Participation by Members

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group requested that members contact him if they wished to make a presentation regarding a local coastal issue. Councillor Jenny Wride of Havant Borough Council agreed to provide a short presentation at the next SCOPAC meeting.

3.4) SMP Progress

The Environment Agency informed members that the North Solent plan is due to go to consultation on February 1 2010.

3.5) Coordination of Medium Term Plan

The Environment Agency emphasised the fact that there were insufficient funds to deliver all the plans and highlighted the significant under expenditure that had occurred by some operating authorities on the South Coast.

3.6) Flood and Water Management Act

3.7) The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group informed members of the need for the coastal groups to prepare a formal response to the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009).

The Environment Agency stated that SCOPAC needed to reach a conclusion on its Marine Plan boundaries and inform Defra.

3.8) Funding Arrangements for Coastal Groups

RESOLVED That

- 1) The report be noted;
- 2) The proposal for a coordinated application for funding of the SCOPAC / Southern Coastal Group region of the network of regional coastal monitoring programmes be made by New Forest District Council on behalf of the Coastal Group be approved;
- 3) The proposal for development of new officer and member training initiatives be approved;
- 4) The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group investigates methods of carrying out new member inductions;
- 5) The proposal to introduce the local issues presentation by members and officers for a trial period be approved;
- 6) Councillor Jenny Wride of Havant Borough Council be invited to make a presentation at the next meeting of SCOPAC.

4. National Erosion Risk Mapping Presentation

SCOPAC members received a presentation on “National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping” by Alison Baptiste of the Environment Agency which explained the scope and aims of the project. Members were interested to note the work carried out and the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group presented a response highlighting further issues for consideration. Alison Baptiste and Stacia Miller then answered member’s questions on the project.

RESOLVED: That Alison Baptiste be thanked for providing an interesting and informative presentation.

5. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline be held on Friday 12 March 2010, commencing at 10.15am.

The meeting commenced at 10.15am and concluded at 12.40pm.

Date of next meeting: Friday 12th March 2010

STANDING CONERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

11TH DECEMBER 2009 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Cllr Jenny Wride – Vice-chairman of SCOPAC

Professor Andy Bradbury – Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Bournemouth Borough Council
Mr S Hills

Chichester District Council
Cllr R O'Brien
Mr D Lowsley

Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Mr J Davis

Christchurch Borough Council
Mr S Woolard

Dorset County Council
Mr K Buchan

Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr D Airey
Mr A Brown

Environment Agency
Ms A Baptiste
Ms S Miller
Mr T Kermode
Mr N Watson

Fareham Borough Council
Mr S Mills

Gosport Borough Council
Cllr B Forder

Hampshire County Council
Cllr A Rice T.D.
Mr S Blyth

Havant and Portsmouth Councils Coastal
Partnership
Mr M Hosey

Isle of Wight Council
Cllr C Welsford
Cllr S Dyer

New Forest District Council
Dr Sam Cope

Purbeck District Council
Cllr A Starr
Mr M Goater

Raymond Brown Construction
Mr J Canning

Solent Protection Society
Mr A Inder

Southampton City Council
Cllr M Jones
Ms B Maguire

University of Portsmouth
Dr M Bray

West Dorset District Council
Cllr Mrs Penfold
Mr P Perkins

Westminster Dredging
Mr B White

Worthing Borough Council
Mr B Curtis

OBSERVERS

Mr G Momber - HWTMA
Mr D Green – R.F.D.C.
Mike Bateman – R.F.D.C.
Dr J Taussik – R.F.D.C.