

REPORT TO STANDING CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

DATE: TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN COASTAL GROUP

SUMMARY

The summer period has been one of considerable activity in the coastal risk management governance field, with a wide range of new government consultations, initiatives and responses required following the 'Making space for water' consultation and the implementation of the Environment Agency 'Strategic Overview (EASO) for flood and erosion risk management'. Both SCOPAC and the Southern Coastal Group have played an important role by participating in a range of discussions and workshops as well as responding in detail to key government consultation documents. In addition SCOPAC has been pro-active in promoting a range of publications and guidance which have benefitted from support from SCOPAC's research budget as well as from financial contributions by the Environment Agency.

2.1 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR SCOPAC FOR 2008/09

The last financial year has been a particularly active one for SCOPAC with the re-structuring of SCOPAC to form the new SCOPAC and its working partner coastal group, the 'Southern Coastal Group'. Over the last year SCOPAC has developed and adopted new Terms of Reference and a new Constitution, prepared a Business Plan and Action Plan, whilst at the same time continuing to deliver valuable research at a sub-regional level. A report setting out progress made in the last financial year is attached as Appendix 1. In addition the audited accounts for 2008/09 are also attached for the information of members.

Recommendation

To approve the annual report for 2008/09 and to note receipt of the end of year audited accounts.

2.2 FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE COASTAL GROUPS AND FUNDING INITIATIVES

At the meeting of SCOPAC held on 12 September 2008 the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group presented a detailed paper setting out the historical context of SCOPAC and the implications of the restructuring to form a new SCOPAC networking organisation working in close partnership with the Southern Coastal Group (formerly SCOPAC Officers' Working Group). The report highlighted the financial implications of the various changes and the fact that the restructuring had been strongly encouraged by the Environment Agency and Defra in order to accord with a national format for the new English Coastal Groups. Whilst SCOPAC was very happy with its previous structure, which had worked well over the last twenty or so years, the benefits of a uniform approach to the structure and constitution of coastal groups around the English coastline was also recognised.

SCOPAC and the Southern Coastal Group are very anxious to ensure that the new arrangements following implementation of the EASO are successful. However, it is also very clear that the smaller number of groups (reduced from 17 groups in England and Wales to seven in England) will impose a significant additional burden on the Chairmen of

the Groups in terms of workload and the time they need to devote to Coastal gGroup activities. As a result, discussions have been held with the Environment Agency with respect to a contribution from the Agency to reflect the workload arising from the new arrangements over and above the work that would be normally expected to be undertaken by the groups in the interests of their constituent authorities.

In January 2009 the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group prepared a report on the financial implications of the various changes and recommended, taking account of the proactive role that SCOPAC and the Southern Coastal Group play, a contribution of the order of £36,000 would be appropriate. It is clear that, without the support and goodwill being provided by Coastal Groups, the essential partnership between Defra, the Environment Agency and the Coastal Groups would not be successful in terms of implementing the EASO. During the course of the spring and summer ongoing discussions have been held with the Agency and, following a workshop held at the end of June, a list of tasks has been prepared which, in the opinion of the Coastal Group Chairmen, should be reimbursed by the Agency. It must be said that, in view of the volume of consultations, briefings and guidance being produced and the resulting meetings and workshops that chairmen are required to attend, this list is likely to continue to grow in the future.

It must be said that the views of the Agency and the Coastal Group chairmen differ in terms of the level of the financial contribution, although it is understood that the principle of contribution has been approved. It is recognised that there will be a number of core Coastal Group chairmen activities that will be standard across the country, but elsewhere some chairmen take on additional tasks to support the Environment Agency and Defra and there may well be other tasks for which Groups should also be reimbursed. It is anticipated that agreement will be reached by the end of September and the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group and the Chairman of the English Coastal Groups will provide updates on the situation at the meeting.

Research opportunities

In line with previous discussions and the approved SCOPAC Business Plan the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group has been examining opportunities for SCOPAC to participate in wider coastal-related research, which would have direct benefit to the SCOPAC coastline and its membership. As part of the review opportunities for participation in research at European and national levels has been examined; there being fewer opportunities available to access funds for research at the sub-regional and local levels. Any such activities would complement the research programme that SCOPAC is already undertaking following its Research Review approved at the meeting in February 2008.

At the European level there may be opportunities to participate in research commissioned directly by the European Commission, for example projects such as 'Ourcoast' (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/ourcoast.htm>) a three-year contract let by DG Environment to support and ensure the exchanges of experiences and best practice in coastal planning and management. This £1 million study is being led by scientists in the Netherlands and its sub-contractor the European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC). The chairman has highlighted to officials in DG Environment the potential interest of SCOPAC in participating in research of this kind in the future. More widely, programmes such as the LIFE Environment Programme (L'instrument Financier de l'Environnement) could provide opportunities for SCOPAC to work as a sub-contractor for a local authority or university, although the partnership application would have to be submitted by a legal entity such as a County, District or Unitary authority or an academic institution such as a university. It is believed that the contribution of SCOPAC to such European research

projects would be particularly beneficial because of SCOPAC's long track record in terms of stakeholder engagement. The European Commission insist that all research projects of this kind should demonstrate how they communicate with end-users and SCOPAC could provide an excellent model for delivery of that component of such projects. In terms of the Interreg Programme, again SCOPAC could participate, working with other suitable partners. The Environment Agency is currently seeking partners for an Interreg IVA project entitled 'Coastal communities 2150 and beyond', which is likely to examine:

- developing an approach to engage with coastal communities on climate change and the consequences of sea level rise;
- trial this approach within pilot communities chosen by the partnership;
- from the pilot studies develop community visions and action plans which will lay out how communities can plan for longer term sea level rise.
(see <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>)

The project, which is planned to be submitted to the European Commission for consideration in the spring, could provide an opportunity for SCOPAC to be involved at a European level but to the advantage of our particular part of the English coast as a study site. A further example of the kind of Interreg project that SCOPAC could become involved with is the 'Channel Arc Manche Integrated Strategy' (CAMIS-EMDI) project which was approved in June 2009 involving partners from both sides of the Channel who are examining the development and implementation of an integrated maritime policy for the Channel area, whilst fostering concrete co-operation between stakeholders and developing a framework for marine governance. Contacts made with the Regional Council of Upper Normandy following a technical workshop arranged by SCOPAC at Rouen last year has indicated that French partners would be interested in working with SCOPAC and comparing the approaches to coastal risk management on both sides of the Channel.

At a national level, the Marine Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund, a collaboration between Defra, The Crown Estate, CEFAS and English Heritage offers funding opportunities for research in the maritime, coastal processes and environmental fields. Elsewhere, following a recent call for proposals from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Foundation, an opportunity arose for SCOPAC, in partnership with the University of Cardiff, the Channel Coast Observatory and Coastal and Geotechnical Services to submit a bid for funding for a study examining 'Social justice and coastal climate change risks'. Social justice issues, for example relating to the implications for homeowners and businesses of changes in coastal defence policy (e.g. from 'hold the line' to 'no active intervention') is a subject that has not been explored in detail to date. Submitted by the Call deadline of 31st July, it is anticipated that there may be strong competition in terms of bids from this fund which will cover the full remit of climate change issues, not just on the coast. However, if successful, the £75,000 bid, supported by Havant Borough Council on behalf of SCOPAC and the partners, would allow examination of social justice issues along the SCOPAC coastline and elsewhere and provide the opportunity of raising the profile of SCOPAC through an important national study as well as funding a SCOPAC Conference.

A further proposal being submitted by SCOPAC is from the Defra 'Coastal Change Adaptation Pathfinder Fund'. This initiative, which forms part of Defra's emerging coastal change policy (see item 2.4) below, is seeking proposals from local authorities which can assist in highlighting and developing good practice in terms of adaptation to coastal change. The proposal by SCOPAC is to produce guidance and good practice publications, drawing on examples of adaptation along the SCOPAC coastline and elsewhere in England as well as drawing on international examples. Taking account of SCOPAC's record in the

production of high quality publications of this kind, that can be readily understood by both technical and non-technical users, it is very much hoped that the proposal will be approved. Defra will be considering submissions from the end of September 2009. If approved, it is intended that the study would be completed within one year, with the funding also providing the opportunity for a major conference to be arranged by SCOPAC to disseminate the results. Both of the above mentioned projects would be managed on behalf of SCOPAC by the current chairman of the Southern Coastal Group with financial services support from Havant Borough Council. The SCOPAC Research Sub-Group would also oversee the projects.

It is clear, therefore, that there are opportunities for SCOPAC to participate in highly relevant research at both the European and national levels alongside its own proactive research programme. Inevitably work of this kind involves a time commitment in terms of preparing bids, although, in some cases, if the bid is successful costs will be reimbursed for the expenditure incurred in the six month period prior to the submission of the bid. A second factor to consider is risk bearing in mind that when participating in partnerships one is reliant upon all partners completing the necessary work in order that reports can be submitted on time and within budget. Payments can be made within a reasonable timescale by the European Commission. If SCOPAC wishes to participate in such opportunities in the future it will need to liaise with a parent organisation who may be a local authority or an academic institution and sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding between project partners.

Recommendation

1. To note the opportunities that may be available for SCOPAC to participate in research at the European and national levels in the future.
2. To welcome the submission of proposals by SCOPAC and partners from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Defra 'Coastal Change Adaptation Pathfinder Fund'.

2.3 SCOPAC RESPONSE TO DRAFT FLOODS AND WATER BILL

Members may recall that Defra wrote to consultees in April 2009 inviting views on the draft Flood and Water Management Bill, which was published on 21 April with a consultation period ending on 24 July. The draft Bill, once enacted, will provide legislation covering all forms of flooding and shift the emphasis from building defences to managing risk. The draft Bill and associated consultation paper covered all the remaining legislation necessary to give full effect to the government's policy statements 'Making space for water' and 'Future water'.

The Bill will also implement some of the key recommendations made in Sir Michael Pitt's independent review into the summer 2007 floods, as promised, in the government's response last December. In consultation with the Chairman a letter was submitted on behalf of SCOPAC on 22 July and a copy is attached as Appendix 2. Furthermore, a copy of a more detailed reply submitted to Defra by the Chairman of the Coastal Groups is also attached.

Recommendation

To note the response to the consultation by Defra on the draft Floods and Water Management Bill 2009.

2.4 RESPONSE TO DEFRA COASTAL CHANGE CONSULTATION

Defra is inviting views on its new coastal change consultation, which looks at how coastal communities can successfully adapt to the impacts of coastal change. The consultation also provides details of a new Coastal Change Pathfinder Programme that Defra intends to establish. Bids are being invited from coastal local authorities interested in becoming coastal change pathfinders. Pathfinders would be able to explore some of the ideas and approaches set out in the consultation, for which funding of up to £11 million is available to support this work.

This consultation forms a key part of the government's wider programme of activities to support communities in adapting to flood and coastal erosion risk. It reflects the commitment made in the government's 'Making space for water' strategy to effective management of flood and erosion risk in a sustainable manner which is climate change proofed (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/coastal-change/index.htm>).

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group has been preparing a response on behalf of the English Coastal Groups and a copy of the draft response is attached as Appendix 3. The response letter includes both Defra's questions as well as the answers, therefore members should be able to see the thrust of Defra's consultation in relation to this important subject. Responses must be received with Defra by 25 September 2009. If there are any important additional issues that members wish to include in the response there will still be time to incorporate these by the deadline.

Recommendation

To consider the response to the Defra consultation on coastal change policy.

2.5 NEW UK CLIMATE PROJECTIONS 2009

New UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) published on 18 June, describe how the climate of the UK may change in the future. They are available via the adaptation pages of Defra's website (www.defra.gov.uk) and provide a powerful set of tools to help our understanding of the complex changes we can anticipate in our climate. Whilst there are a range of projections of future climate for any given variable, based on different emission scenarios and probability levels, the central estimates for the medium emission scenario are broadly similar to previous projections.

The Environment Agency is working on revised guidance to make best use of the additional material available from UKCP09 and expects to publish this in the autumn. In the meantime the Agency is advising that Defra's climate change guidance issued in 2006 remains fit for purpose. Publication of the new projects in themselves should not require the development of projects, plans or strategies to be slowed down or decisions to be deferred, although operating authorities will want to appreciate the full possibilities offered by UKCP09 in terms of reviewing and updating plans. A briefing note on the UKCIP projections is attached as Appendix 4.

Recommendation

Report for information.

2.6 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF FLOOD RISK AND LONG-TERM INVESTMENT STRATEGY

In June the Environment Agency published two new reports which set out its policies in terms of the national assessment of flood risk in England and in terms of future investment required for flood and coastal risk management. The reports identified that one in six homes in England are at risk of flooding and there will be a need to double the budget for building and maintaining flood defences to about £1 billion by the year 2035 as the impacts of climate change and sea level rise take place. A summary of these two reports is attached as Appendix 5. In effect, these documents explain England's current exposure to flood risk and the challenges that we must face in the future taking account of climate change, as well as the deterioration of assets.

Recommendation

Report for information.

2.7 COASTAL EROSION RISK MAPPING – PROGRESS REPORT

Three years ago the government made a commitment through 'Making space for water' to make more widely available public information relating to coastal erosion risk management. Over the intervening period coastal erosion maps have been developed by consultants working for Defra who have arranged a number of workshops around the country liaising with operating authorities. A summary of progress to date on the erosion mapping programme is attached to this report as Appendix 6.

It is now intended that the coastal erosion maps will be rolled out in parallel with the shoreline management plan round 2 programme. More details on the SMP programme is provided in the following report (agenda item 2.8 and Appendix 7). In order to facilitate the roll out of the maps the Environment Agency has appointed a Coastal Engagement Officer Team which will be available to assist local authorities in addressing issues arising from the publication of the maps. During July a Coastal Engagement Project Governance Board was established by the Environment Agency, which has the overall aim of directing and supporting the work of the Southern Region Coastal Engagement Team. The Environment Agency recognises the essential input that coastal management partners can provide to direct the Agency's engagement resource particularly within the local authorities. Representatives on the Governance Board include the Chairman of the Regional Flood Defence Committee, representatives from the Southern and South-Eastern Coastal Groups and officers from the Environment Agency.

Recommendation

To note progress with the roll out of the coastal erosion risk maps and the Coastal Engagement initiative.

2.8 SECOND GENERATION SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS – UPDATE

For the information of members as update is provided as Appendix 7 on progress with the second generation of shoreline management plans. The map provided illustrates the roll-out of the 22 plans covering the coastline of England and Wales, whilst the table provides a progress report on the various plans, information on the lead authority and arrangements for plan review. Members will note that SMPs are expected to be completed by the end of 2010, with anticipated approval of the plans for Hurst Spit to Durlleston Head in June 2010, the North Solent Shoreline (Selsey Bill to Hurst Spit) also in June 2010 and the plan for the Isle of Wight by December 2010.

Recommendation

Report for information.

2.9 FLOOD AND COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT – EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Through the ‘Making space for water’ consultation the issue of external contributions to flood and coastal risk management was raised. Consultees were invited to suggest ways in which additional contributions could be provided to support the ever increasing demands on the national budget. As a result Defra published in June a paper on external contributions which is attached to this report as Appendix 8. Clearly, with both ever increasing pressure on public expenditure as well as the pressures arising from climate and coastal change, it will be necessary to seek contributions where possible to support the national programme. Members are invited to note the policy principles that will be applied in the future in terms of external contributions to schemes.

Recommendation

To note the Environment Agency report on external contributions to flood and coastal erosion risk management.

2.10 SOLENT FORUM – SOMAP PROJECT

SCOPAC works in close partnership with the Solent Forum which wishes to draw SCOPAC’s attention to the ‘Towards Solent Marine Planning (SoMaP)’ project.

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, the new Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will establish marine plans for some or all of England, commencing 2010. At this stage the scale and geographical boundaries for such plans are unclear. The Towards SoMaP project, which commenced in February 2009, aims to achieve **only the first steps** of the marine planning process, where it seeks to examine different sectoral planning policies within the Solent to help inform the MMO and those with an interest in the potential development of a marine plan.

The Towards SoMaP project will (broadly):

- Set out the generic aims and objectives of such a Marine Plan, as set out by the Defra Marine Planning Implementation Team
- Scope with stakeholders the case for a Marine Plan at a sub-regional level such as the Solent
- Scope with stakeholders the methodology and scheme of management for a Solent Marine Plan

The Towards SoMaP project will detail:

- The relationship with other plans
- Information requirements (make some start on sourcing and mapping of data)
- Consultation arrangements and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The outcomes of the project will illustrate how the existing management frameworks (statutory and non-statutory plans) might operate within a Solent Marine Plan.

In terms of progress to date, the project officers have recently completed the first stage of the project, planning and research. Two reports, which reflect the work carried out during the first stage of the project, have recently been published on the Solent Forum website along with other information about SoMaP, which can be retrieved by accessing the following link: <http://www.solentforum.org/forum/SoMaP/>.

The project is progressing towards scoping a potential marine plan with stakeholders and the collation of policy data from all sectors operating in the Solent. It will begin by looking closely within the pilot case study areas. The three case study areas selected include:

- **Hamble Estuary** – this provides a complete estuary case study of a geomorphologically typical Solent estuary with many land sea planning interactions. The Hamble Estuary is ultimately managed by HCC, has an Estuary Management Plan, has a streamlined consents process, has coastal squeeze issues, and is a key water based recreation centre.
- **Boating Movements** – this theme was selected as the Solent is very densely used by ships and boats. This case study will test how marine planning will relate to navigation, safety and recreational water use, including ferries, commercial shipping, navy and fishing fleet. It will not specifically examine boat docking/berthing or fishing.
- **Coastal Squeeze** – this is a big issue for the Solent as the low lying coastline is particularly affected by sea level rise. Habitats and coastal livelihoods will be displaced over the next 100 years by sea level rise. The Solent and IOW SMPs are dealing with this. This project will examine how robust a Solent Marine Planning System would be to plan for the realignment of displaced coastal land (as agreed in SMPs) and the further requirement to plan for the loss of inland sites used for realignment. This case study will not be specifically looking at flood risk or the requirement to defend sites.

If you have any queries or would like to know more about the project please contact Karen McHugh at the Solent Forum by email solentforum@hants.gov.uk or phone 01962 846027.

Recommendation

Report for information.

2.11 PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

2.11.1 Non-technical guide to coastal risk management

Over this summer period SCOPAC has continued its proactive role in terms of preparation and dissemination of advice and guidance relating to coastal risk management, with the support of the Environment Agency and advice from Defra. Key publications have included the new 'Non-technical guide to coastal risk management' which was launched in the House of Commons on Wednesday 22 April. The event was attended by approximately 60 key figures in the field of coastal risk management and was hosted by Andrew Turner, MP. For the information of members, a copy of the press release for the event is attached as Appendix 9.

Complimentary copies of the guide were sent out to all Members of Parliament with coastal constituencies, together with key agencies and organisations and other coastal groups. The publication of the guide, which was supported by a financial contribution from the Environment Agency, is also being used for awareness-raising and training purposes including University degree and MSc courses as well as training for the Environment Agency's coastal engagement officers. Sales of the guide are being handled by the Isle of Wight Coastal Visitors' Centre on behalf of SCOPAC and information is provided on our website.

2.11.2 'Delivering sustainable coastal risk management – how the Environment Agency and local authorities are working together in South-East England'

The Environment Agency has supported the development by SCOPAC of an information leaflet which illustrates how the Agency and local authorities through coastal groups are working together to help deliver the Environment Agency's strategic overview. A copy of the leaflet is attached as Appendix 10. The guidance leaflet is intended to assist those wishing to understand the new joint-working arrangements between Defra, the Environment Agency and coastal groups and illustrates how joint-working is being achieved at the national, regional and sub-regional levels. The leaflet has been posted on the SCOPAC and Southern Coastal Group websites and is available for other coastal groups to adapt to suit their local situations.

2.11.3 Coastal Risk Management Strategic Planning Map

SCOPAC members may recall that, in 2003, we produced a map of south-east England which illustrated the extent of shoreline management plans and strategy studies for the SCOPAC coastline. With financial support from the Environment Agency a new web-based map is being developed, which will allow visitors to Coastal Group websites to click on various sections on the map to establish the current status of plans and strategies. By clicking on the SMP symbols visitors will be directed straight into the SMP websites whilst, for the strategy studies, a drop-down box will provide the latest position on the particular strategy concerned. The map illustrates how in the South-east of England there is almost complete coverage of the coastline in terms of strategies completed, in progress or in prospect. It is hoped that, if this model can be introduced successfully to the websites in South-east and Southern England, it can provide a model for other parts of the country. A paper copy of the map, which is still being finalised, will be circulated at the meeting.

2.12 PLANNING POLICY CONSULTATION – A NEW PLANNING POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT AND COASTAL CHANGE

In August 2009 the Department for Communities and Local Government launched a new draft policy which sets out a planning framework for the continuing economic and social viability of coastal communities. The policy aims to strike the right balance between economic prosperity and reducing the consequences of coastal change on communities. The purpose of the consultation is to obtain stakeholders' views and comments on the new draft planning policy on managing the impacts of physical changes to the coast on development. Coastal change, as exacerbated by climate change, has implications for development on the coast and is, therefore, a major consideration for spatial planning in shaping places that are resilient to climate change. Coasts have changed continuously through history but climate change is speeding up change, increasing risks from coastal erosion and flooding.

Strong planning policy to manage coastal flooding is already in place (Planning Policy Statement 25). However, currently planning decisions in relation to coastal erosion risks are made with reference to Planning Policy Guidance Note 20 (PPG20). PPG20, published in 1992, adopts a strong precautionary approach, restricting any development in areas at risk of coastal erosion. This means that even appropriate development that would support the economy and viability of the community is unable to go ahead.

The consultation forms part of a wider package of actions to deliver sustainable coastal risk management. It is linked to the consultation on 'Coastal change policy' issued by Defra for consultation on 15 June, which sets out ideas on how coastal communities can successfully adapt to the impacts of climate change, and the government's role in supporting this.

In order to engage with key stakeholders Communities and Local Government will be holding events during the consultation period to discuss the draft PPS and the accompanying guidance.

It is anticipated that responses will be made to the consultation by the Local Government Association and the Coastal Groups.

Recommendation

To note the launch of the consultation by Communities and Local Government on development and coastal change.

2.13 MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS BILL – UPDATE

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill, currently in Parliament due to receive Royal Assent in the autumn, will place a duty on Natural England to create a continuous route around the whole of the English coast, which it plans to complete within ten years. Natural England are working closely with the Environment Agency and Coastal Groups on developing the approach to implementing the new coastal access arrangements as set out in the Bill. The full report of the coastal access audit and the maps are available on Natural England's website at www.naturalengland.gov.uk.

The government intends to set up a new Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to deliver many of its objectives for the marine environment. The new organisation will be a centre of marine expertise providing a consistent and unified approach, deliver improved co-ordination of information and data and reduce administrative burdens. The integration proposed would provide benefits from joined-up delivery and economies of scale that could not be realised by placing these functions in separate organisations.

The Bill will create a strategic marine planning system that will clarify the government's marine objectives and priorities for the future, and direct decision-makers and users towards more efficient, sustainable use and protection of our marine resources. The first stage of this marine planning system should be the creation of a Marine Policy Statement to create a more integrated approach to marine management and setting both short and longer term objectives for sustainable use of the marine environment. It is then intended that the second stage will be the creation of a series of Marine Plans, which will implement the Policy Statement in specific areas, using information about spatial uses and needs in those areas.

Current arrangements for co-ordinating arrangements in busy estuaries and other coastal zones can be complex and at times, inconsistent. There is no single overall piece of coastal

legislation or management mechanism in the UK. On land local authorities have a key responsibility for planning and, at sea, management mainly falls to central government departments who have traditionally followed a sectoral approach to managing activities in the marine area. It has long been thought that, if the government are to look at the coast in a more sustainable way, it should aim to improve co-ordination between the mechanisms and communication between all those with an interest in coastal areas. This is becoming more important as the proposals for a new system of marine planning are developed. It is essential, therefore, to ensure there is coherence between these proposals and the different policies and management processes at sea and in coastal areas. SCOPAC has long argued for joined-up thinking between the shoreline and the marine environment and it is very much hoped that this will be achieved under the new arrangements, although the detail of how this can be taken forward is yet to be revealed.

Recommendation

Report for information.

2.14 SOUTH-EAST REGION COASTAL STUDY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The Government Office for the South-East (GOSE) commissioned consultants Scott Wilson to undertake a study of coastal management in the South-East Region of England with the aim of ultimately supporting and informing the delivery of Defra's new policy on coastal change. The policy aimed to address the gap in knowledge of the range of activities that are currently being undertaken on the coast in the south-east region. The purpose was to address any gaps before defining the most appropriate course of action for the Region. The specific objectives of the study were to provide:

- A list of key stakeholders working on the coastal agenda in the South-East Region;
- An analysis of gaps and overlaps in roles and responsibilities of key public sector bodies in the south-east coast;
- An analysis of the current policy framework for the south-east coast and the identification of national policies potentially causing conflicts on the ground;
- An impact assessment of three key policies:
 - South-East Plan;
 - Draft Marine Bill;
 - Access to the coast.

The project was undertaken through documents and webpage review, stakeholder analysis policy and impact analysis and stakeholder interviews in the south-east. A copy of the Executive Summary (attached as Appendix 11) highlights a number of concerns relating to institutional issues and lack of integration of policies affecting the coast. In view of the findings is it possible that GOSE may wish to arrange a conference or workshop to which it is believed that SCOPAC could make a valuable contribution.

Recommendation

Report for information.

2.15 STRATEGIC MONITORING PROGRAMME ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Each year an Annual General Meeting is held which provides a review of progress with the Regional Strategic Monitoring Programme activities over the last year. The annual meeting is designed to inform all those who participate within the strategic monitoring programme with the latest information on their particular frontages. Each year the costs of the meeting are funded by a different Coastal Group and for this year it is the turn of SCOPAC. The cost of providing the venue and all necessary arrangements is £1,000. Approval is sought for this expenditure from SCOPAC's revenue budget.

Recommendation

The sum of £1,000 for hosting the 2009 strategic monitoring programme annual general meeting be approved.

2.16 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN COASTAL GROUP

The purpose of this report is to advise SCOPAC of the outcome of a special meeting held to consider the appointment of the new chairman of the Southern Coastal Group. The current chairman, Dr Robin McInnes OBE, has held the post since 1995 and, as agreed previously, would stand down from 30 September 2009. At a special meeting of the Southern Coastal Group it was agreed unanimously, following careful consideration of applications, that:

- Professor Andrew Bradbury from New Forest District Council be appointed Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group from 1 October 2009;
- Mr Tim Kermode from the Environment Agency and Mr Lyall Cairns from Havant Borough Council be appointed Vice-Chairmen;
- Dr Samantha Cope be appointed Chairman of SCOPAC's Research Sub-Group.

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group will continue to keep SCOPAC fully informed of current events in the coastal risk management field, research and the activities of the southern coastal group. The chairman of southern coastal group will provide a key point of contact between the chairman of SCOPAC and southern coastal group and SCOPAC and southern coastal group members and officers.

The current chairman of the Southern Coastal Group would like to thank elected members and officers for their considerable assistance and support over many years and extends very best wishes to SCOPAC for the future. He would also like to acknowledge the considerable support and assistance received from Mr David Green of Arun District Council who has retired since the last meeting and who has made an invaluable contribution to SCOPAC and its Technical Officers' Group since its formation in 1986.

Recommendation

1. The appointment of Professor Andrew Bradbury as Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group and Mr Tim Kermode and My Lyall Cairns as vice-chairmen be noted.
2. The appointment of Dr Samantha Cope as chairman of the SCOPAC Research Sub-Group be noted.
3. The valuable contribution provided to SCOPAC by Mr David Green formerly of Arun District Council be gratefully acknowledged.

Report by Dr Robin McInnes OBE, Chairman of Southern Coastal Group
15th September 2009.