

ESSEX AND SOUTH SUFFOLK SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

UPDATE FOR THE ESSEX COASTAL FORUM – MARCH 2015

The ESSSMP WG are responsible for the monitoring and change management of the Shoreline Management Plan. The Working Group can approve minor textual changes to the document to allow the Plan to be updated in accordance with current circumstances. The Working Group can also recommend any moderate or major changes to the SMP for consideration by the ECF and the RFCC respectively.

Progress: 2014/2015

The SMP Working Group met on the 2nd February 2015 to discuss progress on the actions and review potential changes. The Working Group were given until the 10th February 2015 to send in any additional comments to the EA to be incorporated into papers for ECF.

In April 2015 the EA are required to submit the SMP Monitoring and Change Management spreadsheets to the Environment Agency's National Strategic Overview team for inclusion in the Section 18 report for ministers under the Flood and Water Management Act.

The current statistics for the Essex and South Suffolk SMP actions are as follows:

- 16% complete
- 56% progressing
- 23% on hold,
- 5% planned

However, there are a number of factors to consider when considering progress against the actions. These points were taken into account by those reporting and include:

- A number of the actions are not programmed to start until later epochs
- An action may be progressing over several years

Changes to the Plan for 2014/2015:

Minor textual changes were made to the SMP at the WG meeting of 2nd February 2015/13/14 which have been subsequently agreed by members of the Working Group. Copies of the minutes have been provided to ECF members for any comments.

Although the bi-annual WG meeting did not take place, there were very few updates provided by the key parties on progress on the SMP actions. It was proposed that an annual face to face meeting of members be scheduled in Jan/ Feb with a further mid-year meeting or teleconference should there be a need to discuss progress of actions through the year. It was agreed that if no objections to this proposal were

received by 31st March then the WG would agree to move to annual meetings with a mid-year update provided to feed into ECF meetings.

The level of detail provided to the ECF on the WG discussions was raised and suggested JL seek ECF views on what level of detail on the reporting they wish to receive.

Moderate Change:

One Action which is considered a moderate change was discussed which relates to Action Plan ref MI_1 Mersea Island Rewalls Farm – Potential MR site. This was Identified as a potential MR site and scheduled for Epoch 2, the events of the tidal surge in Dec 2013 and subsequent storm tides in Jan and Feb 2014, caused significant deterioration of the defences. EA undertook some emergency repairs in Feb 2014 and then met with then wrote to landowners formally notifying them of EA plans to withdrawal future maintenance of the defences. The acceleration of the policy is considered to be a moderate change under the change process and requires the approval of the ECF. The SMPWG propose for the policy change to bring the MR policy forward from Epoch 2 to Epoch 1.

Aims and objectives for the 2014/2015 reporting year.

During 2015/2016 the Working Group will need to:

- Review the current and future policies, for particular Policy Development Zones, following the impacts of the tidal surge in December 2013.
- Investigate the potential for a major change to the SMP and the chain of approval required to progress this change.
- Continue to work together to improve discussions and encourage timely updates to assist with reporting on SMP actions.
- Encourage more substantial feedback on the actions, from Working Group partners, to feed into the National reporting.