

REPORT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION COASTAL SPECIAL INTERESTS GROUP

Date : **9 DECEMBER 2003**

Title : **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS – PRESENTATION ON
PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE**

SUMMARY

To advise the Special Interests Group on progress with the Round Two Shoreline Management Plans and a response by the Coastal Groups of England and Wales to the consultation document.

BACKGROUND

In May 2003 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published 'Procedural guidance for production of Shoreline Management Plans'. The purpose of the document was to provide advice and guidance to assist shoreline management plan sub-groups in the development of the second five year tranche of SMPs. Over the intervening period Defra has commissioned Halcrow to work with a number of Operating Authorities in the development of trial SMPs in three areas – two in the south-east and one in East Anglia.

At a meeting of the Coastal Group Chairmen recently it was agreed that a response should be sent to Defra and I prepared this after consultation with a number of my colleagues. At the meeting of the Defra Coastal Defence Forum held on 18 November the subject was discussed further and a short information sheet (**attached** to this report as Appendix 1) was released by Defra. The consultation period ended on 19 November and a copy of my response on behalf of the Coastal Group Chairmen, and taking account of points raised by officers from the Coastal SIGSOG was submitted; the response is **attached** to this report as Appendix 2.

A number of important issues have been raised as a result of the ongoing work on the trial SMPs such as cost, complexity of the studies, consultation arrangements and ensuring that there are the necessary skills within the profession to address Round Two SMPs. These points are set out in more detail in the letter and will be expanded upon at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

To note the response by the Coastal Group Chairman of England and Wales, taking on board the comments from officers representing the Coastal SIG. A further report be brought to Coastal SIG in due course when the final advice and guidance and details on the timescale for Round Two SMPs has been confirmed.

R G McInnes
IW Centre for the Coastal Environment