

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**  
**BRIEFING NOTE**  
**SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL'S PLANNING AND**  
**ENGINEERING VIEW OF THE**  
**SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS**

**Background**

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a large scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and helps to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment. In doing so, an SMP is an important part of Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for managing flood and coastal erosion. The aim is to manage the risks by using a range of methods which reflect both national and local priorities to:

- Reduce the threat of flood and erosion to people and their property; and
- Benefit the environment, society and the economy as far as possible, in line with the Government's sustainable development principles.

Original SMP guidance was issued by Defra (then MAFF and the Welsh Office) in 1995. A first round of SMPs were completed by 1999 and these are now being reviewed, known as SMP2's.

The purpose of this document is to highlight the importance of planning in using the SMP as a technical tool, noting it is primarily for coastal defence. In doing this, the Council has reviewed both the first SMP and how they intend to deal with linkages with other structure plans and SMP2.

**The First SMP**

There were some linkages between the Borough's Local Plan and SMP1. However, there were some key issues in relation to this:

- SMP1 (1998) came along too late for full integration with the BLP (Local Plan Inquiry 1995/96).
- But its usefulness and relevance is acknowledged in some of its findings, e.g. in policy E2 "The Coastal Zone".

- Specific policies are included in the BLP relevant to implementation of the SMP (E17 “Coastal Protection Works”, E18 “Development Close to Coastal and Other Cliff Edges”, E19 “Flooding and Coastal Erosion”).
- Some policies restricting development in specific coastal areas (e.g. Amtree Park and Primrose Valley/Flat Cliffs) were not based on SMP information but rather on landscape/lack of facilities grounds.

Where there were issues that the SMP could not address, e.g. social, some operating authorities prepared an ICZM, e.g. East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

### **SMP2 and the Linkages with the Local Development Framework (LDF)**

The Borough Council obviously see the importance of the linkages between the technical SMP2 and developing its long term requirements on a statutory basis. (We agree with the statements set out in the Guidance Volume 1 in Boxes C and D.) There are clearly several aspects of the SMP2 that will help in developing the LDF. These are as follows:

- More detailed information is available in SMP2 on risks associated with coastal processes, cliff retreat, risk, etc. This will be an important part of the “evidence base” for the LDF.
- The discussion in SMP2 of scenarios (multi-criteria analysis) will help inform consideration of “issues and options” and deciding on “preferred options”.
- SMP2 will allow an informed long term view to be taken of future development in the coastal zone.
- This will help inform specific policy for action over the next 15 years (the LDF period) but in a longer term context (how to manage change).
- This in turn will enable more sustainable development, a guiding principle for the new LDF system (a statutory requirement). In this respect it will be a crucial input to any Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- Hopefully integration with the LDF will give confidence to residents and investors regarding the sustainability of the LDF strategy and future investment.

Please see also Appendix 1 to this note.

### **Linkages Between the SMP2 and Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS)/Regional Economic Strategy (RES)**

There are a number of other key strategic documents being prepared on a regional basis where the SMP2 will assist in the development. These include the RSS and RES. Some of the advantages are as follows:

- SMP2 illustrates to the region the scale of the issues on the coast.
- It informs the need for regional action and priorities for investment, i.e. through to RDA (the Regional Assembly got very involved in flooding issues and as a parallel have expressed interest in the need for them to be more involved in coastal management issues).
- Regional investment on the coast is significant (e.g. through Yorkshire Forward in urban renaissance) and SMP2 should give confidence re the sustainability of that investment (e.g. they may not have agreed to put money into improving Scarborough Harbour if the coastal defence scheme had not been implemented and the strategy study had not given some confidence re the future. Similarly the Spa.)
- Social issues can be addressed at the regional level.

### **Linkages Between the SMP2 and Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS)**

SCSs identify the issues important to local communities and the priorities for action. The SCS is the start point for developing other strategies.

- The SMP and LDF are key tools for delivering the SCS priorities.
- The Council's Corporate Plan is tailored to help deliver the SCS and makes specific reference to managing the coastal environment through the SMP and LDF.

### **Linkages Between Engineers and Planners**

One of the key benefits of the SMP process is in providing key linkages between how coastal engineers develop their ideas for the coast and how planners see how the coast might develop in the future. There are obvious issues in relation to this, notably that the planning horizon typically is 20 years whereas engineers are considering requirements of the 100 year horizon, such as in the SMP. However, the key is for both Borough Council engineers and planners to talk and to develop policies together. Two of the key advantages are:

- Engineers helped draft our BLP policies and will be involved in developing LDF policy.
- There are many examples of engineers involvement in planning applications.

We trust that the above will be of interest to those involved in the future of coastal management.

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Scarborough Borough Council**

**SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH LDF CORE STRATEGY - COASTAL ZONE**

1. The Coastal Zone is one of the most important environmental resources in the Borough, and more than anything the defining feature/characteristic in terms of the image of the Borough.
2. It is also the area subject to the greatest range of influences and development considerations:
  - physical interaction of sea and land
  - effect of climate change on coastal processes
  - rapidity of physical change (erosion, instability)
  - quality of landscape
  - unique ecological resources, of national and international importance (terrestrial and marine)
  - concentration of tourist facilities, especially holiday accommodation in caravan sites
  - access to recreational facilities (beaches and the sea)
  - maintaining coastal access (National Trails and access roads, e.g. A174 at Sandsend and road to Flat Cliffs)
  - communities at risk (e.g. Flat Cliffs)
3. The SMP2 has assessed the potential physical change and risks in the coastal area over the short (20 years), medium (50 years) and long term (100 years) and draws attention to particular issues which need consideration through the planning system.
4. The LDF Core Strategy is intended to provide a strategic basis for decisions on the future of the coast over the next 15 years. In the context of the SMP2 timescales this is a very short time frame and in this period there should be little physical change to the coastal area. It could be argued therefore that there is no immediate need for significant change to our current policies.
5. However, the detailed information now available in SMP2, which was not available when the Local Plan was prepared, can inform consideration of a wider range of options over a longer period of time. Possible options are set out in the table below.

**Table - Coastal Zone - Current Policy Approach and Possible Future Options**

Issue	Current Approach	Possible Options
Landscape quality	Protect and enhance. (E1, E2) <sup>1</sup>	Protect and enhance.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Current Approach</b>	<b>Possible Options</b>
Ecology	Protect and enhance. (E7-10) <sup>1</sup>	Protect and enhance.
Residential development	Resist new development in settlements with no facilities. (H9) <sup>1</sup>	Resist new development Plan removal of settlements at risk. Allow new development outside 100 years risk area.
Tourism/Caravan Sites	Allow redevelopment within sites to improve facilities and appearance. Resist extensions and new sites except at Amtree. (L6, L7) <sup>1</sup>	Phased removal of sites at risk. Allow extension landwards to compensate for loss. Seek relocation outside Coastal Zone.
Coastal Defence	Allow schemes considered appropriate by SMP. (E17) <sup>1</sup>	Allow schemes considered appropriate by SMP2.
Development near cliff edges	Resist where design life limited by rates of retreat. (E18) <sup>1</sup> Minimum of 10 m back from edge. (E18) <sup>1</sup>	Maintain existing policy but now better informed by SMP2. Maintain existing policy. More flexible approach informed by SMP2.
Coastal erosion and flooding	Resist development which increases the likelihood of erosion or flooding. (E19) <sup>1</sup>	Maintain existing policy informed by SMP2 and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
Access	Protect rights of way. (R9) <sup>1</sup>	Protect rights of way. Maintain and improve recreational access to foreshore and along coast. Continue to allow protection and repair of vehicular routes at risk (e.g. Sandsend A174 and access to Flat Cliffs). Consider more sustainable access routes to replace those at risk.

Note: <sup>1</sup> Borough Local Plan Policy Numbers

6. The Core Strategy will need to decide on the range of options that best achieves a proper balance of environmental, social and economic objectives aided by the Sustainability Appraisal.
7. The strategic approach eventually agreed through the Core Strategy will inform more detailed policies in the proposed Development Policies DPD.