

South Lakeland District Council
Cabinet
Wednesday, 03 February 2021
Cumbria Coastal Strategy

Portfolio: Climate Emergency and Localism Portfolio Holder
Report from: Simon Rowley - Director of Customer and Commercial Services
Report Author: Gareth Candlin – Operational Lead Specialist Services
Wards: (All Wards);
Forward Plan: Published 18/12/2020

1.0 Expected Outcome

1.1 That Cabinet will support and adopt the Cumbrian Coastal Strategy (CCS) so that SLDC can actively work with statutory and non-statutory partners moving forward to deliver the outputs within the CCS strategy and better protect the coastline and associated settlements and communities from coastal erosion, flooding and the associated risks.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

(1) Adopts the Cumbrian Coastal Strategy

(2) Delegate Authority to the Director of Customer and Commercial Services to work with partner organisations to deliver the specified outputs within the strategy in accordance with the approved budgets

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 The Cumbria Coastal Strategy (CCS) is a plan to evaluate and manage the risks related to coastal flooding and erosion along the Cumbrian coastline on a long-term scale. It follows on from the North West Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) which covered the coastline from the Great Orme in North Wales to the Scottish Border, and assess the existing condition of land and flood defences along the coastline and builds on the existing proposals set out in the SMP2, identifying potential future interventions required. The strategy is also needed to get approval for future flood and coastal risk management schemes and to access national funds to contribute to the cost of defences.

3.2 The Cumbria Coastal Strategy (CCS) was initiated by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, recognising the success of strategies in other areas of the country. The CCS is being project managed by Cumbria County Council in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), supporting the five coastal Local Authorities .A Project Review Group of local stakeholders has worked to help identify issues and opportunities and contribute valuable knowledge to the development of the CCS.

- 3.3 Cumbria County Council appointed the consultants CH2M to undertake the development of the strategy. CH2M have subsequently been taken over by Jacobs consulting during the development of this strategy.
- 3.4 Strategies are the second level in the shoreline management system. They look at how we can carry out the Shoreline Management Plan policies for smaller stretches of coast in more detail. Shoreline Management Plan policies can occasionally change as a result of these strategies.
- 3.5 The key objectives of the Cumbria Coastal Strategy are:
- to evaluate the risk of flooding and erosion along the Cumbrian coastline
 - identify properties and infrastructure at risk
 - identify and evaluate potential long-term solutions
 - form a robust and objective evidence base
 - to provide a framework for future infrastructure and development.

The Cumbria Coastal Strategy started development in June 2017, and the final draft was completed in early 2020.

- 3.6 Some of the key stages of development included:
- Data and baseline information review (June to September 2017)
 - Consideration of risks, opportunities and priority areas (July to December 2017)
 - Strategic environmental assessment scoping (November 2017 to March 2018)
 - Options development and appraisal (February to August 2018)
 - Engagement on draft options (November and December 2018)
 - Identification of preferred options (January to August 2019)
 - Draft strategy production (April to September 2019)
 - Consultation on draft strategy (October to November 2019)
 - Strategy appraisal report (December 2019)
 - Strategy and project completion (January 2020).

- 3.7 The Shoreline Management Plan considers areas of the coast and categorises them into four distinct policy areas:

No active intervention: There will be no further investment in coastal defences or operations.

Hold the line: An aspiration to hold the shoreline in its current position. This might involve maintaining current defences or constructing new defences in the future.

Managed realignment: Allowing the shoreline to move backwards or forwards, with management to control to limit movement. This could involve introducing measures to reduce erosion or building new defences on the landward side of the original defences in low-lying areas.

Advance the line: New defences are built on the seaward side of current defences.

- 3.8 The Shoreline Management Plan divided the Cumbria coast into 25 policy areas, 7 of which include SLDC coastline. This referencing system has also been used in development of the CCS. Each policy area includes a number of **policy units**. Where policy units may have coastal defence management needs in the short term, such as
- there are key assets at possible risk from coastal flooding or erosion,
 - the current Shoreline Management Plan policy has been questioned, or
 - there are opportunities to improve the environment and bring benefits to an area.

These have been called **priority units**. Different options for dealing with future risks.

- 3.9 Policy units which have not been classed as priority units have also been considered within the classification of the current Shoreline Management Plan policy and future actions have been identified.
- 3.10 The strategy will help address the increased risks posed by climate changes for the coastal communities within South Lakeland.
- 3.11 Full details of the proposed interventions can be found in Appendix 1 – CCS summary Report South Lakeland.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 SLDC has sat on the project board throughout development of the Strategy. Officers from the Environmental Protection Team and Development Plans have reviewed documents and made changes where needed. There has also been input from Economic Development team in relation to specific business sites such as the Glaxo Smith Kline site at Ulverston.
- 4.2 The project team at CCC have lead on public engagement in conjunction with SLDC officers. Full details of the consultation can be found in appendix 2 – CCS Stakeholder Engagement Report.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Do nothing: This means walking away from the defences and undertaking no further work. Existing defences will fail over time and erosion and flood risk will increase.
- 5.2 Reactive approach, this means only intervening as and when defences fail or flood events highlight new areas of vulnerability. This would lead to significant increase in costs and lack of planning and identifying funding opportunities leading to delays in repair and replacement. It would leave communities more exposed and would be counter to best practice.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

- 6.1 This policy will help the Council Plan priorities of responding to climate change and enhancing biodiversity.
- 6.2 Specifically it will help assist in “ensuring that new development is sustainable, energy efficient and flood resilient” and “ensuring that business areas are protected from flooding”

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 The Cumbria Coastal Strategy identifies a number of capital projects across the next 50 years plus, that will require the Council to identify and bid into funding streams to deliver with other partners. Details of these schemes and high level estimated costs can be found in appendix one.
- 7.2 The value of the proposed capital schemes will require the Council to undertake a procurement process that aligns with the relevant best practice and legislative requirements at that point in time in which the procurement is undertaken.

- 7.3 There will be a requirement for input into these capital projects from, legal, finance and procurement as well as the assets team. There will likely be need to bring in specialist project management resources skilled in delivery of coastal flood protections schemes. Funding for this and other support service requirements would be captured as part of the capital bids.
- 7.4 There will be a need for partnership working with the Lead Local Flood Authority, the Environment Agency and other statutory and non-statutory (including community flood resilience groups) in the delivery of this strategy.

Human Resources

- 7.5 There will be no HR implications to this strategy

Legal

- 7.6 The Council will be required in the future to consider the legal implications and future decision making requirements together with the procurement and legal implications for the capital projects referenced in 7 above.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.7 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No
- 7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: As part of the development of the strategy a number of strategic environmental assessment reports were completed that covered the impact on Health, social, economic and environmental factors.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.9 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 7.10 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: This was completed as part of the coastal strategy

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Funding streams can't be identified for large capital schemes.	Delivery of key flood defence's delayed and flood risk not effectively managed.	Work with County Council as LLFA and gov to ensure project pipeline is well understood by funding partners and adequate lead in time built into projects to allow for funding bids to be identified and applied for
District Council lacks specialist expertise in Coastal erosion and delivery of large coastal defence schemes	Challenges in developing and managing bids for large capital defence projects	Additional expertise identified and procured on a project by project basis.

Contact Officers

Gareth Candlin, gareth.candlin@southlakeland.gov.uk, 01539 793382

Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	CCS Summary Report – South Lakeland District Council
2	CCS Stakeholder Engagement Report Final

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
N/A	

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Section 151 Officer	23/12/2020	29/12/2020
Monitoring Officer	23/12/2020	29/12/2020
CMT	14/12/2020	16/12/2020

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	15/12/2020
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	20/12/2020
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	20/12/2020
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	19/01/2021
Council	NA