

Regional Coastal Groups

Progress Note & Contact Details

December 2008

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Following adoption on 22nd June 2007 the former Minister for the Environment and Climate Change Ian Pearson announced the new arrangements for the Environment Agency's Strategic Overview of the coast part of which was the implementation of 7 new Regional Coastal Groups. Progress on the establishment of these groups and first point contact details are set out below.

2.0 North East Coastal Group

2.1 The inaugural meeting took place at St William's College in York on 17th October 2008. It was well attended. The formulation of the new Group was welcomed by attendees.

2.2 The draft terms of reference were agreed, subject to an amendment to paragraph 3.1 to include reference to Regional Spatial Strategy and an additional paragraph in respect of designated sites, biodiversity and habitats designations. Mike Quigley of Natural England spoke about the NE perspective and recommended to the Group these latter inclusions, the wording of which he undertook to provide.

2.3 The membership was agreed, with additional recommendations around 'Associates' and 'Observers', e.g. including additional Ports, National Trust, Regional Development Agencies, RSPB, Wildlife Trust and the Association of Drainage Authorities.

2.4 Officers elected were:

John Riby	Chairman	Scarborough Borough Council
Peter Wood	Vice Chairman (north)	North Tyneside District Council
Richard Bellfield	Vice Chairman (south)	Lincolnshire County Council
	Secretary & Treasurer	Environment Agency

Stewart Rowe	Webmaster	Scarborough Borough Council
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2.5 The Draft Business Plan was received without comment.

3.0 East Anglia Coastal Group

3.1 The inaugural meeting of this Group was held on 30th October 2008 and although they did not attend this meeting two new prospective members in Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils confirmed that they would attend future meetings.

3.2 Draft terms of reference were agreed and plans to develop a business plan were seen as key. A separate meeting to begin to establish these was planned to follow on as soon as possible.

3.3 Meetings will be held quarterly at venues offered by members.

3.4 An executive was elected and consists of:

Peter Frew	Chairman	North Norfolk Council
Keith Tyrrell	Vice Chairman	Terry Oakes Associates & Suffolk Coastal DC
Clive Flanders	Secretary	Environment Agency
Paul Patterson	Treasurer	Waveney DC

3.5 The SMP's in the area were reported as being on target for March 2010, although a 3a meeting had recently suggested that that this would be a very tight timescale to meet and would not be achieved without the current programme being accelerated. The reasons for this were discussed but one failing highlighted was that insufficient time for Local Authority adoption prior to submission had not been allowed.

3.6 Discussions on how to involve District Council Elected Members concluded that a possible annual workshop would be the best way forward.

4.0 South East Coastal Group

- 4.1 This group was established at a meeting on 13th October 2008 and was well attended.
- 4.2 Terms of reference, constitution, business plan and communication strategy were all adopted pending minor amendment and clarification.
- 4.3 A Caretaker Executive was elected to establish the group and hold formal elections at the Annual meeting in the summer of 2009. The executive posts are:

Bryan Curtis	Chairman	Worthing & Adur Councils
Ted Edwards	Vice Chairman	Canterbury City Council
Mark Douch	Vice Chairman	Environment Agency
Colin Paine	Treasurer & Vice Chairman	Shepway District Council
Roger Spencer	Webmaster & Vice Chairman	Arun District Council
Simon Herrington	Secretary	Herrington Associates Ltd

The Vice Chairman posts cover the SMP areas within the region.

5.0 Southern Coastal Group

- 5.1 The Southern Group was established on 12th September 2008 together with a Member Forum arrangement. Terms of reference, constitution, business plan and key role job descriptions have been established. The Group is working in close and equal partnership with the Standing conference on problems associated with the coastline (SCOPAC).
- 5.2 The Executive posts are:

Dr Robin McInnes OBE	Chairman	Consultant
Dr Andrew Bradbury	Vice Chairman Chairman of the Research Sub Group	New Forest District Council
Secretary	Havant BC	
Treasurer	Havant BC	

6.0 South West Group

6.1 The South West Group was established on 13th November 2008. Terms of reference, constitution, methods of working and a draft action plan were agreed. A comprehensive list of organisations divided between full membership, associate membership and observers was agreed to be contacted to attend future meetings. Current project proposals were reviewed with a general request to establish a long list of future proposals asap for submission via the SWCG and FDC's to the EA.

6.2 The Executive posts were agreed as follows:

Philip Rees	Chairman	Unaffiliated
Graeme Smith	Vice Chairman	Teignbridge District Council
Martin Clemo	Vice Chairman	Restormel Borough Council
Geoff Boyd	Vice Chairman	Environment Agency
Sarah Harding	Secretary & Treasurer	Environment Agency
Keith Cole	Webmaster	PM for SMP

6.3 The timetable for the key SMP 2s was reviewed and key "hotspots" are to be considered at the next review meetings.

7.0 Bristol Channel Group

7.1 The inaugural meeting of this Group took place on 18th November 2008 and although acknowledged as a strategic group it agreed that the three former coastal groups should continue to meet.

7.2 Draft term of reference was agreed pending support from the three local coastal groups.

7.3 The executive elected are:

Humphrey Temperley	Chairman	Environment Agency
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8.0 North West Group

8.1 The inaugural meeting of this Group was on the 1st December 2008. Key issues were agreed to be strategic direction and risk management. Aspects of this included clarifying the role of elected members, preparation of a Business Plan and raising the awareness of flood and coastal erosion risk management with stakeholders and elected Members.

8.2 The Executive posts are:

Graham Lymbery	Chairman	Sefton MBC
Anthony Hill	Vice Chairman	Blackpool City Council
Fiona Crigston	Secretary	Blackpool City Council

9.0 Matters for Possible Consideration at a National Level

9.1 The following are matters arising which the Coastal Group Chairmen and/or the Coastal Forum will need to consider:

- Generic joint training events of mutual interest
- Compilation of a database of all Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategies both ongoing and proposed
- Ensuring that the right personnel and skills set to deliver and implement good flood and coastal erosion risk management measures are in place
- Secure appropriate resources to deliver the new coastal groups that have now been developed
- Understand and plan for future succession needs of the new groups
- Review all strategies in a similar way to the SMP's to ensure consistency at regional and national levels
- Shoreline Management Plans and Action Plans, particularly the completion and adoption by 31st March 2010
- Better future planning and resourcing of SMP3's
- Consistency of web sites and a single hub national coastal groups site

- Improved communication both within the groups, with each other and with the EA, LGA and Defra
- Improved public awareness of the work and role of the Groups
- Appropriate input and influence of MTP's and the new Long Term Investment Strategy
- Promotion and implementation of a National Monitoring Programme
- Preparation, consultation and appropriate implementation of measures to bridge the current democratic deficit
- Dates of Forum meetings aligned to Coastal Group meetings and Regional Flood and Coastal Defence Committee meetings. One Forum meeting to be aligned with National Flood and Coastal Defence Conference
- Co-ordinated input into research needs and development

10.0 Contact Details

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