

V2
Sidmouth and East Beach BMP
Project advisory group
Thursday, 25 February 2021 @ 9.30am

Agenda Item 4

Clarification and proposed update of Aim 1

Prepared by Tony Burch and agreed to include in the agenda by the Chair

Note 3 of the previous meeting about the Aims of the project, the **Project Aims**, needs to be clarified for two important reasons.

Reason 1 – Project governance

Agenda Item 12 sets out a proposal for re-establishing a **Project Board**.

At '2) Responsibilities - 2.1'... It proposes that the primary responsibility of the Project Board would be to... *oversee the delivery of the project, in accordance with the **Aims** of the project.*

Reason 2 – Project management

Project **Aims** are a very important project management tool for several reasons, which include:

- They set out what the project is aiming to deliver. This is essential for the effective management of a project, to keep it on track and for effective communications with stakeholders.
- They are an overriding factor in decision-making throughout the project, from minor day-to-day decisions to strategic decisions.
- They provide a concise basis for measuring performance during the project and at its end.

Below the Aims are project **objectives**. The objectives are what needs to be achieved in order to deliver each of the Aims.

Below the objectives are the project **tasks**. The tasks are what needs to be carried out in order to deliver the objectives.

This note:

1. Provides a back-ground to the Aims of the project
2. It explains why Aim 1 should be updated
3. It proposes an update for Aim 1, for consideration by the advisory group, with a view to it being approved by the Council.

1. Background

At the first steering group meeting on 4 February 2014 the following Aims for the project were agreed:

- Aim 1 - Maintain the 1990's Sidmouth Coastal Defence Standard of Service (Sidmouth Beach);
- Aim 2 - Reduce the rate of beach and cliff erosion to the east of the R Sid (East Beach).
- Aim 3 - Carry out 1 and 2 in an integrated, justifiable and sustainable way.

The term '**coastal defence**' in Aim 1 is a collective term for '**coast protection**' (the protection of coastal land above sea level against coastal erosion) and '**sea defence**' (the protection of coastal land below sea level from coastal flooding). It was deliberately chosen for Aim 1 because at that time it was not known what type of protection the 'existing scheme'¹ was designed to provide.

2. Why Aim 1 should be updated

During the data-gathering phase of the Beach Management Plan project, in 2014 or shortly thereafter, it was discovered that the existing scheme was only a coast protection scheme, which was designed to protect the sea-front (the promenade, the road and the sea-front buildings, homes and businesses) from coastal erosion, with a 50-year standard of protection. The design did not take climate change into account because it was not a design requirement then, as it is now.

Because the existing scheme was not designed as a sea defence scheme there was no sea defence 'design standard of protection' to maintain, for the purposes of Aim 1.

3. Proposal for updating Aim 1

When it was discovered that the existing scheme was only a coast protection scheme, Aim 1 should have been updated to:

Aim 1 - Sidmouth sea front - a) Maintain the 50 year coast protection standard of service of the existing scheme, taking climate change into account, and b) modify the existing coast protection scheme to provide a 200 year standard of service against coastal flooding, taking climate change into account.

Advisory group members are asked to consider this proposal to update Aim 1 and to advise accordingly.

¹ The 'existing scheme' consists of: The sea wall with rock armour and a design-beach in front of it to protect it from wave attack / 3 rock groynes on the beach and two offshore rock breakwaters to keep the design-beach in place / a long-term commitment to maintain the design-beach by recycling and recharging it when trigger levels and volumes are reached.