

Report to: Strategic Planning Committee



Date of Meeting 9 November 2021

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

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## Coastal Change

### Report summary:

We need to plan for coastal change in accordance with national planning policy and guidance. This involves identifying the areas at risk, identifying them as Coastal Change Management Areas and developing policies in the local plan to manage development and minimise risk. Evidence of the areas likely to be affected should be available early in 2022. Given the complexity of this topic and the potential impacts faced by our coastal communities, it is important for SPC to be updated on the issues involved ahead of consideration of policy approaches through the draft local plan. We have therefore prepared a coastal change topic paper. This highlights the work being undertaken to identify areas likely to be vulnerable to coastal change and considers best practice on developing local plan policies for coastal change.

### Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes  No

Policy Framework Yes  No

### Recommendation:

- (1) That Strategic Planning Committee consider the attached Coastal Change topic paper and provide feedback to inform the development of coastal change policies in the draft local plan.

### Reason for recommendation:

To make Members aware of the issues that will shape the development of an approach to dealing with coastal change through the local plan.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** High Impact

**Risk:** High Risk; Adaptation to climate change will be key issue in the local plan and coastal change is an important element of this.

**Links to background information** [Agenda](#) reports and minutes for SPC meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Link to [Council Plan](#)**

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
  - A greener East Devon
  - A resilient economy
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Planning for coastal change involves identifying the places most likely to be affected, developing policies to reduce future risks to people and property and helping communities at risk to prepare and plan for change. Evidence of the areas at risk will be finalised early in 2022 and will provide evidence for the designation of Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs) in the local plan, in accordance with national planning guidance.
  - 1.2 A Coastal Change Topic Paper is attached to the report that sets out some of the decisions that we will need to take as a local planning authority to develop a suitable approach to coastal change in the local plan.
  - 1.3 In summary, the topic paper:
    - Highlights ongoing work by the University of Plymouth to provide evidence of coastal change in East Devon;
    - Sets out the national approach to dealing with coastal change;
    - Reviews best practice on coastal change policies in local plans; and
    - Identifies key issues for consideration (including where to define CCMAs, and how to develop appropriate policies).
  - 1.4 Members are requested to read the topic paper to aid their understanding of the issues that will need to be addressed and to provide any comments that may help with the development of the local plan.
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## **Financial implications:**

There are no financial implications on which to comment.

## **Legal implications:**

Member engagement with the development of the local plan and understanding of the issues in relation to coastal change is to be welcomed and there are no legal implications from this topic paper.