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11 June 2024

S U M M O N S

MEETING: Community & Environment Board
DATE: 19 June 2024
TIME: 6.00 pm
PLACE: Council Chamber
Democratic Services contact: Linda Coote

Peter Baulf
Borough Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Mayor, Councillor Earle, (ex-officio)
Councillor Chegwyn (ex-Officio)
Councillor Westerby (Chairman)
Councillor Maynard (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Mrs Huggins
Councillor Johnston
Councillor Philpott

Councillor Finn
Councillor Ricketts

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read by the Mayor if members of the public are present)

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the room immediately. Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request.

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

NOTE:

- i. Councillors are requested to note that, if any Councillor who is not a Member of the Board wishes to speak at the Board meeting, then the Borough Solicitor is required to receive not less than 24 hours prior notice in writing or electronically and such notice shall indicate the agenda item or items on which the member wishes to speak.
- ii. Please note that mobile phones should be switched off or switched to silent for the duration of the meeting.
- iii. This meeting may be filmed or otherwise recorded. By attending this meeting, you are consenting to any broadcast of your image and being recorded.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2024 (Pages 5 - 8)
4. DEPUTATIONS- STANDING ORDER 3.4

(NOTE: The Board is required to receive a deputation(s) on a matter which is before the meeting of the Board provided that notice of the intended deputation and its object shall have been received by the Borough Solicitor by midday Monday 17th June 2024. The total time for deputations in favour and against a proposal shall not exceed 10 minutes)

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS- STANDING ORDER 3.5

(NOTE: The Board is required to allow a total of 15 minutes for questions from Members of the public on matters within the terms of reference of the Board provided that notice of such Question(s) shall have been submitted to the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Monday 17th June 2024)

6. STOKES BAY SEAWALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT (Pages 9 - 16)

This report seeks to update Members on the progress of the Stokes Bay Seawall Replacement Project since the last update in January 2024.

7. ANY OTHER ITEMS

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**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2024**

Councillors Chegwyn, Mrs Huggins, Westerby, Johnston, Maynard, Mrs Morgan, Marshall and Philpott

22. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

There were none

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Huggins declared a non pecuniary interest in item 6 as Chair of GMAT for St. Vincent College

24. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2024

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2024 were signed as a true and correct record.

The Chair advised that Coastal Partners would be giving a verbal update on the Stokes Bay scheme under Any Other Items

25. DEPUTATIONS- STANDING ORDER 3.4

There were none

26. PUBLIC QUESTIONS- STANDING ORDER 3.5

There were none

27. CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD DEFENCE STRUCTURES AT FORTON

Consideration was given to a report by the Chief Executive updating members on progress with the Forton Coastal Defence scheme since the update in June 2023.

Officers advised that the project would now move to the next stage as the project is fully funded, an experienced contractor has been appointed, and the badger risk mitigated. Stakeholder communication in the form of letters, website updates and social media posts will commence in March. There will also be ongoing engagement with local educational establishments as part of the conditions of the award.

Members were advised that approximately 700 letters would be sent to homes and businesses, and they would get to see what is being shared before it is published.

Officers advised that everything possible would be done to protect the badgers, and a licensed badger specialist has been providing advice and assistance. There has been a

change in alignment of the works, which removes a potential clash with the sett. An exclusion zone is to be established within which restrictions on vibration etc will be in place. The timing of the project avoids the badger breeding season, overwintering bird season and minimises disruption to other bird and marine life. There will be supervision by environmental specialists monitoring the works and audits to check agreed controls are in place. In answer to a Members suggestion of involving the local badger specialist, officers advised that they had been consulted early on in the planning of the project.

In answer to a Members question, officers advise that leaseholder communications would initially be issued through St. Vincents if all parties were happy with that arrangement.

Members welcomed the news that the project was due to begin as it had been in the planning stages for some years, and any delay would be detrimental to at risk homeowners and businesses in the area, and also visitors.

Members wished to thank Coastal Partners Officers for all their hard work in getting the project to this point and wished them success in delivering the scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted:

- The works procurement is completed, and a contractor has been appointed
- The project is fully funded
- Planning permission for the scheme has been obtained
- The project is programmed and on target for an April 2024 start date on site, with planned completion in November 2024
- Public communications about the scheme works will be issued before construction.

28. ANY OTHER ITEMS

The Chair asked the officers of Coastal Partners to give members a brief update on some of the other local flood schemes.

Alverstoke - Members were advised that there had been no change to the status of this scheme as the issues of the cables remains unsolved. There is still a budget shortfall and updates on any opportunities from Environmental Agency are still awaited.

In answer to a Members question Officers were able to advise that by pausing the project, around £200,000 of budget has been protected. A Member advised that the council could not afford to pay the previous funding gap (c.£800,000), new funding would have to be supplied by government to meet the future budget shortfall.

Seafield - Officers advised that this scheme was also on hold whilst the project budgets are updated and opportunities are explored to close the expected funding gap and develop a forward plan.

Stokes Bay Road Seawall Replacement - Officers advised that this scheme covered a 135m section of failed seawall, which is receiving regular monitoring. The contract is out to tender with responses expected shortly. Once assessed, we will know if the current funding will be sufficient. Planning permission has been secured.

Community & Environment Board
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Officers were still not in possession of the Marine License, which is now overdue. They had pressed the Marine Management Organisation and restated the urgency of these works. Receipt of the license is critical before works can start and they are continuing to push for a resolution.

Members were advised that the east car park would be used as a site compound, and the area would be left in a better condition than currently. It is probable that this car park would be out of action over the tourist season. An update on the current issue of surface water flooding in both car parks needs to be provided by other Council officers.

In answer to a Members question, Officers explained that in regard to the funding from Southern Regional Flood & Coast Committee, they were not aware that there was a mechanism where money could be taken back and felt that they were strongly committed to the project, but any underspend may be returned.

Officers explained that the seawall had recently sustained some damage which was being held at bay by some temporary repair works to see this through till the works can start in the summer.

Members asked to be kept informed as to the issue of the Marine Licence.

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 6.33 pm

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Board/Committee:	COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD
Date of meeting:	19 th JUNE 2024
Title:	STOKES BAY SEAWALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT
Author:	RUPERT TEASDALE
Status:	PROJECT UPDATE – FOR INFO

Purpose

This report seeks to update Members on the progress of the Stokes Bay Seawall Replacement Project since the last update in January 2024.

Recommendation

The Board notes the progress of the following project activities:

- **Procurement of the Contractor,**
- **Update to the financial position,**
- **Planning and Environmental Licences acquisition.**

1.0 Background

1.1 The Stokes Bay Seawall Replacement Project is required to replace 135m of failed seawall at Stokes Bay, Gosport and protect key infrastructure, including a public highway (managed by Hampshire Council Council), from flooding and erosion risk (see Appendix A for location plans). The benefits of the project include:

- Reducing flood and erosion risk impacts to important infrastructure, including a local road.
- Addressing long-term and ongoing health and safety risks.
- Supporting sustainable investment and mitigating the need for reactive, unsustainable emergency maintenance.
- Reinstatement of public amenities, recreation, and access for a strategic open area in accordance with the Gosport Borough Local Plan.
- Improve physical and mental health and well-being.

The project also aligns with the Stokes Bay Feasibility Study's preferred design option for this section of Stokes Bay's frontage. Therefore, the works are considered the implementation of the appraisal's initial urgent recommendation and the first stage of delivering a solution to reduce the risk of flooding and erosion within the wider Stokes Bay frontage.

1.2 The Community and Environment Board previously received a report on January 10th, 2024, where approval was gained for authority to be delegated to the Chief Executive:

- a) to undertake the procurement of the construction works and the evaluation of bids received, and
- b) in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to award a contract for the construction works to the preferred bidder, subject to sufficient funding, and
- c) agree on project financial tolerances with the delivery officer for the purpose of

- d) administering the construction contract, and
- d) to undertake the construction stage of the project.

1.3 This report provides an update on project progress, covering the financial summary, environmental licencing and consents, procurement, and the planned construction programme. Additionally, it includes an update on the Stokes Bay Feasibility Study.

2.0 Report

2.1 Progress Update:

Since January 2024, the project team has:

- Completed the tender process and appointed a Contractor, Suttle Projects.
- Awarded the Construction Contract.
- Submitted documentation to discharge all planning pre-commencement conditions.
- Received the draft Marine Licence and conditions.
- Updated the detailed design to mitigate a clash between the existing seawall and the new sheet pile seawall.
- Updated the project website, installed “advance notice of works” signage on site and issued letters to residents and businesses in proximity to the site.

2.2 Finance:

The project has spent £129,987 to date. The spend has funded project critical activities including detailed design, financial analysis, Local Levy submission, project reporting, project and contract management, procurement, and stakeholder engagement.

The project budget totals £1,259,317. This consists of contributions of £450k and £50k from Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire respectively and £759,317 of Local Levy funding.

Suttle Projects have been appointed as the Contractor and the forecast outturn has been updated with the Construction Contract Price. The project is currently forecast to be delivered within budget.

The project is currently considered fully funded and the financial position is summarised in Tables 1 and 2 below:

Funding Source	Value (£)
GBC	450,000
HCC	50,000
Local Levy	759,317
TOTAL	1,259,317

Table 1 Approved project funding.

Project Budget (£)	Spend to date (£)	Forecast outturn (£)	Contingency (£)	Variance (£)
1,259,317	129,987	895,936	210,259	153,122

Table 2 Project financial summary

2.3 Marine Licence

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has now provided the full Marine Licence and its associated conditions. The Project Team has also submitted all the required information to cover the pre-commencement conditions.

2.4 Planning

The documents to discharge all planning pre-commencement conditions were submitted 8th April 2024. The discharge of conditions will take no longer than eight weeks, therefore, this will be completed before mobilisation onsite.

2.5 Design

Due to the length of time that has passed between the completion of the detailed design and construction there was a risk that the existing seawall had continue to fail and rotate seawards. To close out this risk before mobilising to site an updated survey of the existing seawall was undertaken. This confirmed that the seawall had moved seawards and was clashing with the pile alignment of the new seawall.

To address the clash the designer has revised the construction drawings. The design revision requires a section of the existing wall to be demolished and a slight adjustment of the new pile alignment seawards to minimise encroachment on the Special Protected Area and heritage features.

The current design includes a like-for-like reinstatement of the Alverbank East Car Park. Overtopping waves often leave large pools of water in the car park which takes time to drain. Therefore, to address this issue the project team have reviewed options to enhance the Alver Bank East Car Park drainage. Gosport Borough Council are currently review drainage options to implement in conjunction with the project.

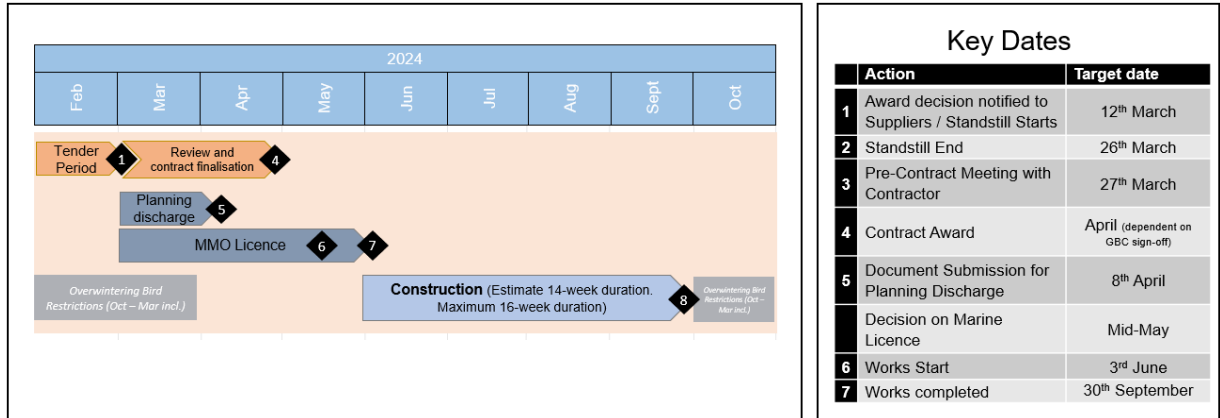
2.6 Communication and Engagement

Communication and engagement activities have commenced, and are being coordinated by Coastal Partners, with oversight from GBC, and HCC. Activities include an update to the Coastal Partners Stokes Bay Project webpage, a presentation to the Friends of Stokes Bay group, site posters, resident and business letter drop, and social media posts.

The Alverbank East Car Park will be used as the construction compound throughout the project. The site will be closed to the public, and access to the beach directly adjacent to the site will be restricted. The Alverbank East Car Park has been closed to the public for over 12 months due to the damage to the seawall, so no additional seafront parking will be lost during construction.

Road traffic should remain unaffected, but to ensure public safety, the coastal path will be diverted to the north side of Stokes Bay Road. Refer to Appendix A for site boundary and pedestrian diversion. Safety signs will be installed to inform pedestrians of this minor diversion.

2.7 Programme:



The project is on target to achieve the June 3rd mobilisation date on site. We anticipate construction will be completed by the end of September, aligning with the designated April to September construction period due to the proximity to a Special Protection Area. We are committed to remaining within this construction window. However, subject to consultation with Natural England, we could potentially extend our working period into October with additional mitigation strategies, such as a watching brief or constrained working hours, if delays are experienced onsite.

2.8 Future Focus:

The key activities over the next 3-month period are:

- Discharge pre-commencement conditions for the Marine Licence.
- Mobilise site compound, anticipated 3rd June 2024 and commence construction.

3.0 Risk Assessment

The top 4 risks to the project are set out in the table below:

3.1

Description of Risk	Consequence	Proposed mitigation
Unforeseen physical conditions, including ground conditions, and historical structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in project cost and project programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design based on available borehole data. • Percussive hammer included in piling methodology. • The designer is on standby to promptly address technical queries. • Complete construction during summer months to avoid winter storms.
Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in project cost and project programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closely monitor the weather and tidal conditions throughout the programme. • Terminal float available for any delays that may be incurred.

The existing buried broken concrete promenade may need additional preparation work for the construction of the new promenade above.

- Increase in project programme.

- An additional excavator and breaker are included in the onsite plant to crush additional concrete as needed.

More waste is produced than can be utilised onsite resulting in muck away costs.

- Increase in project cost.

- A Site Waste Management Plan to be produced before construction starts will identify quantities of expected waste.
- Contractor also provides recycled aggregates service and may be able to remove and recycle additional material for minimal cost.

4.0 Progress Update - Stokes Bay Feasibility Study

4.1 The Stokes Bay Study has been investigating the coastal management options available to GBC and HCC for the wider sea defences in Stokes Bay, funded through a combination of Local Levy funding and GBC and HCC contributions.

The study has progressed well and a series of options have been developed for this frontage. A low cost 'Do Minimum' option has been considered to address the short-term erosion risk and extend the wall life which comprises of a rock toe revetment and various concrete repairs and strengthening work to the seawall and promenade. A more aspirational 'Do Something' option has been drawn up as a concept for future refurbishment of the seawall in the longer term. These include a replacement concrete seawall with rock toe but without a beach or a sheet piled seawall with beach management.

It should be noted that the costs for implementing a Do Something option is likely to be upwards of £10 million. Due to the low number of residential properties in this area, any future scheme is unlikely to obtain large amounts of central government FCERM Grant in Aid funding. Funding for any future scheme after completion of the study is therefore primarily expected to come from the main beneficiaries GBC and HCC with alternative funding sources to be explored and mapped out as part of this project.

Project consultants Royal HaskoningDHV have produced an option appraisal report which highlights the options going forwards, as well as an outline design report which provides more detail on the short term 'Do Minimum' works which are estimated to cost in the region of £1.6 million (initial cost) to £3.3 million (over defence lifetime with maintenance).

We are nearing the end of the Study, with an internal briefing on the final outputs being planned over the summer with GBC and HCC. The feedback from these events will then feed into an end-of-project report to the Board and communication with the local community towards the end of the year.

Study Finances

The project budget totals £300,000. This consists of contributions of £200,000 from Local Levy and £50,000 each from Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

The project has spent £209,629 to date. This includes spend on the project set up, consultant contract, long listing and short listing, scope revision, desktop modelling, economics, option costing, reporting, outline design and concept drawings.

The remaining spend in 2024/2025 will focus on the communication and engagement of the final Study outputs, as well as project closure. The project is forecast to remain in budget.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The Stokes Bay Seawall Replacement Project is required to replace 135m of failed seawall at Stokes Bay and protect key infrastructure, including a public highway from flooding and erosion risk. If the project were not to proceed, the existing failed seawall would be at risk of further damage and deterioration, and the project benefits would not be realised.

Following the tender period, Suttle Projects has been appointed as the Contractor and the forecast outturn cost remains within the approved budget.

The draft Marine Licence has been received, and the final version is expected to be acquired ahead of construction commencing onsite.

The project remains on programme to mobilise to site in early June and be completed by October 2024.

Financial Services comments:	Contained within report.
Legal Services comments:	None for the purpose of this report
Equality and Diversity:	None for the purpose of this report.
Climate Change implications:	To reduce the communities' risk to sea level rise and climate change impacts through provision of new defences.
Crime and Disorder:	None for the purpose of this report.
Service Improvement Plan implications:	To improve coastal defences.
Corporate Plan:	Develop the economy by encouraging investment, protecting, and improving infrastructure and land use by developing a programme of coastal defences.
Risk Assessment:	Contained within section 3 of the report.
Background Papers:	Community & Environment Board Report: 1 st March 2023. Community & Environment Board Report: 10 th

	January 2024.
Appendices:	Appendix A: Project Location Plan
Report Author/Lead Officer:	Katie Gill / Rupert Teasdale

Appendix A – Site Location and Pedestrian Diversion

