

Board/Committee:	Community & Environment Board
Date of meeting:	1 st March 2023
Title:	Stokes Bay East Seawall Replacement Project and Studies
Author:	Head of Streetscene, Stevyn Ricketts
Status:	FOR NOTING

Purpose

This report is to provide Members with a status update on the Stokes Bay East Seawall Replacement Project and longer term option appraisal and design study, Gosport.

Recommendation

The board is asked to note that:

- 1. The Stokes Bay East Seawall Replacement Project has a significant funding gap that needs to be closed prior to construction procurement. A Planning Application and Marine Licence will continue to be progressed.**
- 2. The longer-term Stokes Bay Feasibility Study is appraising options for the sea defences in the wider bay and is expected to be completed in Autumn 2023.**

1.0 Background

- 1.1** Coastal Partners are responsible for the ongoing monitoring, maintenance and management of Gosport's sea defences.

The Stokes Bay section of coastline lies within policy unit 5B02 of the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2). The management policy for this unit is to "Hold the Line" and was adopted by GBC Community Board in 2010.

The site also sits within the Strategic Management Zone 3 (SMZ3) of the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Strategy (RHPS) approved by the Environment Agency (EA) in 2015 and GBC Community Board in 2015.

The recommendations for this section of frontage are to:

- Develop and implement a Beach Management Plan (BMP), including beach recycling and future monitoring to maintain healthy beaches.
- Undertake scheduled upgrades with maintenance as required to maintain existing sea defences, groynes and seawalls.

GBC as a Coast Protection Authority are utilising its permissive powers under the Coast Protection Act 1949 to develop two projects for Stokes Bay. A seawall replacement project and a feasibility study, which are reported below.

2.0 Report

2.1 Progress Update Stokes Bay Seawall East Replacement Project

2.2 On 18th March 2021 the Community Board endorsed the implementation of the proposed Phase 1 capital programme repair works to avert further damage to the failed seawall at Stokes Bay. This repair would address the immediate concerns, allow the car park to re-open and provide a medium-term solution while longer term coastal management options are developed for the whole bay.

The current approved budget is £500,000, consisting of £450,000 GBC capital funding and a £50,000 contribution from Hampshire Highways.

The works included reconstructing 80m length of failed seawall with a more robust piled wall and promenade. The works were extended by 55m following damage sustained during Storm Eunice (see Appendix 1 map).

Following procurement of a design consultant, construction drawings and specifications have been completed. All supporting documentation for the Planning Application and Marine licence have been drafted. Cost advice has been procured to assess the budget cost for the proposed works, prior to going to tender for construction.

2.3 Budget Update Stokes Bay Seawall East Replacement Project

The total spend to date including detailed design, consenting and project management is £84,786.63 (Dec '22).

Applying the recent cost advice, the revised forecast outturn cost is £1,234,014 including risk and Optimum Bias. There is currently a project forecast variance of -£734,014 compared to the budget estimated at the end of 2020.

Activity Description	Outturn cost (£)
Project staff	88,830
Consultant fees	44,450
Construction	856,040
Risk (95 th %ile)	210,452
Optimism Bias	34,242
Total forecast outturn	1,234,014

The variance is due to several factors:

- Brexit, Covid19 and now the conflict in Ukraine have triggered hyper-inflation which is having a significant impact on the cost of construction materials, fuel, plant hire and labour. It has also significantly extended lead in times for materials.
- The scope of the required works has also extended due to storm damage from Storm Eunice.

Construction procurement cannot proceed until additional funding has been secured to cover the forecast outturn cost. A Planning Application and Marine License application will be progressed. The project team are reviewing different funding sources to close the funding gap. Unfortunately, the project is not eligible for grant aid funding as there are no homes at flood or erosion risk.

The seawall remains in a fragile condition and at risk. Should there be a risk of further wall damage, beach management works to recycle shingle in front of the wall will be considered.

2.4 Progress Update - Stokes Bay Feasibility Study

- 2.5 On 18th March 2021 the Community Board endorsed the implementation of a feasibility study into longer term coastal management options available to GBC and HCC for remaining seawalls in Stokes Bay. This study was funded through a combination of Local Levy funding and GBC and HCC contributions.

The study is considering the future sea defences for between the East and West car park (see Appendix 2 map) from the perspective of flood and erosion, transport, tourism, heritage and the environment. However, integration of the wider Stokes Bay frontage will be taken into account when developing the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) options.

Following procurement of a design consultant, a series of draft options were developed for this frontage. Budget costs were provided and adjusted for cost inflation. These indicated that the level of funding required to eventually construct these options would far exceed that available to both GBC and HCC.

The Project Board reviewed the situation and directed that a low cost 'Do Minimum' option should be developed to address the short-term erosion risk. This would complement the more aspirational long-term option. The project team are working with the design consultant to develop both these options and to present them as concept drawings. The study is expected to complete in Autumn 2023 when the findings will be presented.

2.6 Budget Update - Stokes Bay Feasibility Study

The Stokes Bay study has a budget of £300,000 plus £90k contingency:

- £200,000 Local levy from the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (SRFCC)
- £50,000 from Hampshire County Council (HCC)
- £50,000 + £90,000 contingency from Gosport Borough Council (GBC) Community Board – Non-Housing Capital Programme - as approved by Full Council on 3rd February 2021.

The current expenditure to date is: £111,946 and is on-budget. The forecast cost to complete the feasibility studies in Autumn 2023 is £300,000 and within the approved funding.

3.0 Way Forward

3.1 Stokes Bay Seawall East Replacement Project will prepare and submit the Planning and MMO applications. Work to secure additional funding will continue.

Stokes Bay Feasibility Study will continue to develop two concept options and present the study findings in the Autumn.

4.0 Conclusion

Stokes Bay Seawall East Replacement has been designed and costed. Licenses and consents have been prepared and will be submitted. The project team are seeking ways to close the funding gap to allow the works to be constructed.

Work on the Stokes Bay Feasibility Study is continuing to develop options for the sea defences in wider bay for to address the longer long term policy to hold the line.

Financial Services comments:	None for the purpose of this report.
Legal Services comments:	None for the purpose of this report.
Equality and Diversity:	None for the purpose of this report.
Climate Change implications:	None for the purpose of this report.
Crime and Disorder:	None for the purposes of this report.
Service Improvement Plan implications:	Improving access to Stokes Bay.
Corporate Plan:	This scheme will improve community leisure facilities, improve health and well-being through developing a healthy environment and promoting an active lifestyle and make the most of the boroughs waterfront assets.
Risk Assessment:	See Section 2.3 of the report.
Background Papers:	Report to Community Board Meeting – 1/11/2010 – North Solent Shoreline Management Plan – Adoption of the final plan.

	<p>Report to Community Board meeting - 09/03/2015 River Hamble to Porchester Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk management Strategy – Adoption.</p> <p>GBC Coastal Panel Briefing Paper 07/07/18 - Stokes Bay Road Frontage – Coast Protection.</p> <p>GBC Coastal Panel Briefing Paper 28/10/20 - Stokes Bay Road Frontage – Coast Protection Update.</p> <p>Report to Full Council 02/02/2021 – Medium Term Finance Strategy and budget (revenue and capital) 2021/22.</p>
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location plan Stokes Bay East Seawall replacement. 2. Location plan, Stokes Bay feasibility study.
Report Author/Lead Officer:	<p>Luke Ellison / Rupert Teasdale, Coastal Partners - Emma Stainer, Coastal Partners</p>

Appendix 1: Location Plan, Stokes Bay East Seawall Replacement Project.





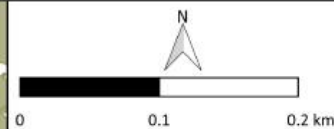
Appendix 2: Location plan, Stokes Bay Feasibility Study.

STOKES BAY FEASIBILITY STUDY EXTENTS



Legend

-  Main Focus Area of Defences considered as part of the Study
-  Potential Amenity Environment and Heritage Enhancements



DRAWN BY:
BJR

CHECKED BY:
ES

DATE: 25 Feb 2021

Aerial Photography: Courtesy of Channel Coastal Observatory (2016)