

**Planning and Regeneration**

Town Hall  
High Street  
GOSPORT  
PO12 1EB

*18<sup>th</sup> October 2023*

Dear Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee members

**Ref: Stokes Bay Seawall Replacement Project Bid for Local Levy**

Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire County Council would like to offer this letter of support to accompany the Local Levy Paper entitled 'Stokes Bay Seawall Replacement Project', which demonstrates commitment to ongoing maintenance following Local Levy capital investment in this project.

The Stokes Bay Seawall Replacement design consists of a new steel sheet pile wall with concrete capping beam and concrete promenade. This design solution was considered the most economic whole life cost option and it is expected to require minimal maintenance for its 50-year design life. However, given the amount of local levy requested, and fact that risk management authorities cannot draw on grant aid for maintenance, it is understandable that a commitment to the upkeep of these defences was raised by the Southern RFCC sub-committee.

Coastal Partners, a team of engineers, surveyors, scientists, environment and finance experts centrally deliver a comprehensive coastal management service across five local authorities including Gosport. As part of this service, Coastal Partners undertake routine asset inspections to highlight and action maintenance works to ensure the longevity of coastal and flood defences. The scope of maintenance works are assessed and prioritised annually via a risk based approach and delivered by framework contractors using GBC's dedicated coastal maintenance budget. The sea defences in Stokes bay would continue under this inspection and maintenance regime, with the findings being shared with Gosport Borough Council for action.

The County Council is the Highway Authority for the 11 district areas of Hampshire, which includes Gosport, and has responsibility for the management and maintenance of the public

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highway. We apply a data-driven, risk-based and lifecycle approach to the maintenance of our infrastructure, in order to demonstrate value for money and meet our legal, policy, economic, social and environmental requirements. Stokes Bay Road, and the full extent of the public highway in the vicinity of the sea defences in the Stokes Bay area, will continue to be maintained in accordance with the Highway Authority's published asset management strategy and plans.

Yours sincerely

**Debbie Gore, Gosport Borough Council**  
Chief Executive

**Tim Lawton, Hampshire County Council**  
Assistant Director Highways, Engineering and Transport