

Who is Coastal Partnership East?



Background

Coastal Partnership East brings together the coastal management expertise from four local authorities into a single team. The Maritime Local Authorities of Great Yarmouth Borough with North Norfolk District, and East Suffolk Councils face significant, diverse but also common challenges of a dynamic coastline.

Individual authorities lack staff resilience, challenges in recruitment and career progression, expertise being fragmented and constrained within individual authorities across Norfolk and Suffolk.

However, the demands for management of coastal change, from coast protection to adaptation, far outstrip the resources available. However, responding proactively to this situation and seizing the opportunity in January 2016 the four councils covering most of the Norfolk's coast and all of Suffolk's Cabinets agreed to a partnership model to address these jointly shared issues.

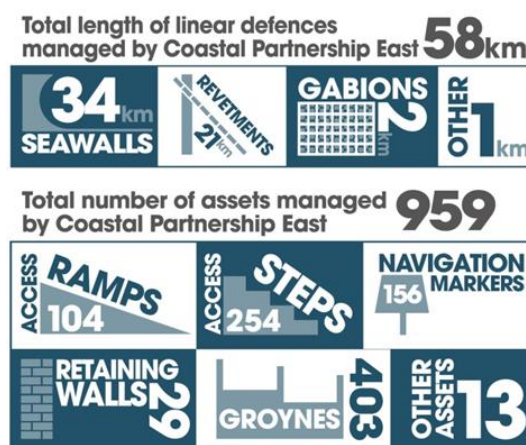
When were we formed?

From 1st April 2016 a joint Norfolk and Suffolk coastal shared services team had been formed – Coastal Partnership East.

This team works as an equitable partnership, overseen by a formal governance structure. The partnership enables resources to be managed more effectively and with a higher degree of efficiency resulting in more positive and sustainable outcomes for our communities in the long-term.

What are we responsible for?

Coastal Partnership East is responsible for 92km of the 173km of coastline in Norfolk and Suffolk, from Holkham in North Norfolk to Landguard Point in Felixstowe. There are approximately 352,000 people who live in the direct coastal zone and many more that work on and visit our coast. The Norfolk and Suffolk coast is of recreational, environmental, economic and cultural importance but it is also home to industry (energy, ports and logistics, digital, food and drink and creative sector) agriculture and tourism. In addition, there are a large number of second and holiday homes situated in our coastal towns and villages.



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Who is the Water Management Alliance?



Who is the Water Management Alliance?

The Water Management Alliance (WMA) is a group of five like-minded Internal Drainage Boards (known as IDBs) operating in the Anglian Region. Members include the Broads IDB, East Suffolk IDB, King's Lynn IDB, Norfolk Rivers IDB and South Holland IDB. Our members are all independent and democratically accountable statutory bodies who seek to protect 548,000 hectares in East Anglia.

The WMA works for and on behalf of other Flood Risk Management Authorities as well as community groups, Non-Governmental Organisations and landowners. We also deliver significant flood risk management benefits and enhanced environmental outcomes on the ground.

What is an Internal Drainage Board?

An Internal Drainage Board is a type of local public authority that manages water levels in England where there is a special need for drainage. Here in east Suffolk, the East Suffolk IDB undertake works to reduce flood risk to people, property and infrastructure, and manage water levels for agricultural and environmental needs. They have permissive powers to manage water levels within their drainage district, carefully maintaining rivers, drainage channels, culverts, sluices, weirs, embankments and pumping stations.

The East Suffolk IDB also plays an important regulatory role, using powers to keep watercourses clear of obstructions. They set byelaws to ensure the watercourse network works efficiently, and they scrutinise planning and development in their area to mitigate its impact on the water environment and flood risk. They have statutory duties with regard to the environment and recreation when exercising their functions.

How will the WMA and CPE work together?

The WMA are working with us on the Coastal Assets Repair and Maintenance contract, which will deliver approximately £700k over the next 2.5 years. This presents an opportunity for both us and the WMA to align resources and share expertise that will strengthen our partnership, build capacity and resource and serve local people with great value for money around the local coast.



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