



EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL

[My East Suffolk](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Make a Payment](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Search](#)



[Decisions](#)

[Register](#) | [Login](#)

Decision Details

General

Reports

This section allows you to view the general details of a Decision

Details

Status: Implemented

Business Item Slaughden Shoreline Management Plan Review

Ref. ES/0512

Is a Key Decision: No

Decision Type: Committee

Decision Maker: Cabinet

Date of Decision Tue 6 Oct 2020

Show on Forward Plan No

Description

Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management

Matter for Decision (to consider...)

That the Shoreline Management Plan Policy Unit ORF15.1 – Sudbourne Beach be changed to Managed Realignment in all 3 epochs.

Service Area Planning & Coastal Management

Service Area 2 Not Applicable

**Contact for
Background
Papers:**

Sharon Bleese
Coastal Manager (South)
07990 793662
Sharon.bleese@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

**Background
Papers:**

Environment Agency (2013) Strategic planning for flood and coastal risk management: Shoreline management plans - monitoring, change and reporting. Operational instruction D12_34.

**Is Decision District
Wide**

No

Decision Made

1. That SMP Policy Unit ORF15.1 – Sudbourne Beach be changed to Managed Realignment in all 3 epochs
2. That the text in the SMP Policy Unit ORF15.1 be revised to:-

	Policy Plan			
	2025	2055	2105	Comment
<i>Existing policy</i>	Hold the Line	No Active Intervention	No Active Intervention	An interim policy pending an agreed Management and Investment Plan for the Alde and Ore area.
<i>Revised policy</i>	Managed realignment	Managed realignment	Managed realignment	Measures to maintain barrier resilience and minimise the risk of permanent breach forming, whilst working with the dynamic coastline and ensuring continued sediment connectivity.

Reason for Decision

1. There was no formal policy identified in the SMP, instead an interim policy of No Active Intervention was defined. Since the SMP the shingle barrier has narrowed further and there is a high risk of it becoming breached. A formation of a permanent breach would have significant impacts on the Alde-Ore Estuary, which are very uncertain at present. This outcome would also be contrary to the objectives of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan, which was endorsed by the Local Authorities after the SMP was adopted.
2. A revised policy of Managed Realignment will enable the council, working together with the Environment Agency, to provide resilience against erosion whilst working with a dynamic coast, through maintaining the shingle ridge to minimise the risk of a permanent breach. This does not, however, commit the local council to additional financial expenditure, but does allow a more flexible approach to the situation than the current interim policy of no active intervention, which infers no further investment or management works.
3. Any future works will, however, still need to appraise the potential loss or damage to internationally designated habitats within the site.
4. There was a consensus between those agencies that manage the coast in Suffolk, as well as significant support from the local community, for the proposed change to this SMP policy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

1. No change from the current SMP policy (No Active Intervention). This policy would mean there would no further management of this frontage in the future. As the shingle ridge is already narrow, there is a risk that this would result in a permanent opening forming, linking the open sea and the estuary. There could be a significant and uncertain effect on the wider estuary and the natural and human environment it supports. This would also not align with the vision of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan.
2. Hold the Line policy. This was considered but it was discounted due to: technical challenges to delivering this option and long-term sustainability issues, the potential impact on coastal processes, significant negative impacts on the natural environment, substantial costs both now and continuing in the future.

Any Declarations of Interest Declared

None.

Any Dispensation Granted

None.

Decision Criteria

This Decision does not contain any decision criteria records.

Wards

Aldeburgh and Leiston

Topics

This Decision does not contain any Topic records

Overview and Scrutiny

This Decision does not contain any Overview and Scrutiny records.

Back To Decisions

Exit CMIS

Committees

Councillors

Decisions

Documents

Meetings

Outside Bodies

Search

Terms & Cookies

■ Contact us

© 2019 East Suffolk Council

[Legal and Privacy Statement](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Website feedback](#)