



working in partnership  
along the Norfolk  
and Suffolk coast



Cromer

Looking back,  
moving forward  
First annual  
partnership report  
2016 - 2017



CROMER



GREAT YARMOUTH



LOWESTOFT



MELTON

	Coastal Partnership East (CPE) responsibility
	Shared responsibility (CPE & EA)
	Environment Agency (EA) responsibility
	Responsibility of others



# Introduction

Looking back to our official launch 12 months ago I said at the time that the formation of the partnership was an extremely important step in how we manage the coast in Norfolk and Suffolk. We were committed to the partnership working together as equals and we have all benefitted from the joint expertise that this wider team has brought.

Over the last year we have worked together to take advantage of a larger resource of local knowledge and a higher degree of efficiency. We have strengthened partnerships with organisations like the Environment Agency, finding ways of sharing information and aligning systems, for example in areas such as asset management. We have formed new partnerships with organisations like the Water Management Alliance and with the membership of the Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal Network. These developing partnerships and indeed all those we work with, we greatly value. Across all four local authorities we continue to work closely with our local communities and to ensure that our new partnership still means that they have local contacts with local knowledge but have a wider ranging resource to call upon.

I said that the results will prove positive for all involved. I believe that they have and I am extremely proud to have served as Chair for this first year. I hand over the Chair with confidence to Cllr David Ritchie of Waveney District Council who will see us through the next year.

I am confident that the next 12 months will see Coastal Partnership East developing further and providing even more value for those we serve.

***Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett***

North Norfolk District Council  
CPE Board Chair (June 2016 to June 2017)



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# Who is Coastal Partnership East?

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, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District 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. The inability to justify the resourcing of critical specialist roles reflects the lack of scale of any individual authority to influence and engage with regional and national bodies.

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 Norfolk's coast and all of Suffolk's Cabinets agreed to a partnership model to address these jointly shared issues.

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.

Coastal Partnership East are responsible for are 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 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.

Whilst some areas of the Norfolk and Suffolk coast can be affluent, the urban coastal towns of Gt Yarmouth and Lowestoft are both recognised as areas for regeneration and requiring significant inward investment.

The demographic of the communities served by Coastal Partnership East is diverse and our challenge during our first year and moving forward is to make sure that the benefits of the new partnership are communicated in a way which is clearly understood and absorbed.

Our first annual report is designed to help provide an understanding of the partnership, our work and our direction for the coming months and years.

# Governance

## Our Board

The Coastal Partnership East Board consists of an appointed member representative from each council in the partnership.

Its purpose is to champion the Partnership and be responsible for providing strategic direction for the management of Coastal Partnership East. It ensures the effective and equitable delivery of coastal management services across the partnership area and agrees the overall work programme and facilitates appropriate resources. The Board does not have decision making powers. It makes recommendations to each partner authority.

From time to time the Board may invite other key stakeholders to attend meetings such as the Environment Agency and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Board is supported by the Operational Officer Group and the Partnership Manager. A relevant officer from each partner authority is invited to take part in the meetings.



**Cllr David Ritchie**  
(Chair) Waveney  
District Council



**Cllr Carl Smith**  
Great Yarmouth  
Borough Council



**Cllr John Lee**  
North Norfolk  
District Council



**Cllr Andy Smith**  
Suffolk Coastal  
District Council

## The role of the Board is to:

- Maintain sound governance arrangements for the Partnership
- Oversee the strategic direction of the Partnership
- Oversee the development and implementation of appropriate plans, strategies, schemes and projects
- Procure political agreement for changes in resources for the team and its work.
- Advise on consultations from partner authorities, relevant organisations, national and regional initiatives, local community groups, coastal interest groups and other bodies
- Receive monitoring reports on the operation and performance of the team, including the relative resource commitment to each partner authority, and make recommendations as appropriate
- Receive updates of the development of the wider coastal partnership and the projects it is involved in
- Initiate projects and studies relating to coastal issues or affecting coastal communities

## The Operational Officer Group

Operational office group (OOG) is made up of a senior officer representing each local authority and the partnership manager.

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Its purpose is to provide operational guidance to the Partnership Manager and considers staffing matters and holds the Partnership Manager to account for delivery in their respective areas. Alongside the Partnership Manager the OOG supports the functions of the Partnership Board.

The OOG is chaired by a member of the Group, with the chairman role changing between the Councils based on a mutually agreed timescale. They meet at least four times a year, with additional meetings taking place if needed.



**Steve Blatch**  
North Norfolk  
District Council



**Jane Beck**  
Gt Yarmouth  
Borough Council



**Philip Ridley**  
Suffolk Coastal and  
Waveney District Councils



**Bill Parker**  
Coastal Partnership East  
(Partnership Manager)

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## The role of the Operational Officer Group is to:

- Provide line management for the Partnership Manager
  - Be responsible for current and future employment to the coastal management team in consultation with the Board
  - Agree and review project and works budgets
  - Ensure that any decisions taken are not to the detriment of the other Councils
  - Ensure that any decisions taken are subject to there being appropriate and adequate budgetary provision by the Councils
  - Ensure that any decision which could have legal implications shall be taken in consultation with their respective Legal Advisers to the Councils
  - Ensure that any decision which could have financial implications shall be taken in consultation with the Section 151 Officers of the Councils
  - Ensure that all relevant inter-Council consultation has been carried out
  - Ensure that all relevant consultation has been carried out with the Board.
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# Benefits of having a coastal partnership across Norfolk and Suffolk?

This first year has seen our team begin to work across boundaries, taking a task based approach rather than focusing on working within narrow political boundaries. We have the flexibility to put effort and resource where it is needed. The recruitment of a new Coastal Engineering Manager will be a major boost to the team, providing strategic direction for the coastal engineers and leading their development and work. The new manager will work alongside our two Coastal Managers, North and South. Not based on geo-political boundaries but on their expertise and challenges faced. This flexible approach amplifies the ethos of the team, focussing on the needs and priorities of our coastal communities and businesses.

Our increased size of the team has enabled the development of capacity with specific expertise, in particular funding and communications, to work across the entire coastal area which would not be justifiable for any single authority. An early example of the benefits of the CPE approach to increase scale is a new part time post funded by through the Regional Flood and Coast Committee providing for the first time, capacity to focus in on coastal adaptation issues across Norfolk and Suffolk.

The development of our team is critical to its long term future. Work is underway to develop the next generation of coastal engineers, by providing a placement for an Environment Agency Foundation Degree in Flood and Coastal Management student.

We support ongoing training and an exchange of learning for existing staff and have in place a knowledge retention programme for our most senior staff.

The last year has seen an acceleration of our work with academic institutions and in particular with universities. We have a PhD student from Cranfield University working on the development of a new way to work with available information and data (termed 'big data' approach) to help us to better understand how our coast works and its vulnerabilities. A Masters level student project team from Cranfield has also developed a new way of visualising project data

for the Eastern Regional Flood Defence Committee, which has potential to be utilised across the country. Innovative research by Bournemouth University utilising 'X band' radar is helping us understand the dynamic changes of the Thorpeness coastline.

Working with the University of Glasgow we have been examining the issues faced with coastal adaptation and long term planning for the future of our communities.

At ENV Expo 2017 at the University of East Anglia, the Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal Network was launched. This is a new network bringing together those organisations with expertise and knowledge about the coast with those who have to make decisions about its management. Whilst in its embryonic stages it is already making new connections between organisations that didn't exist in the past. Over the last 12 months we have worked with a wide range of partners along our coast, other Risk Management Authorities such as the Environment Agency, county councils, Anglian Water and Water Management Alliance. We work with our coastal forums in Norfolk and Suffolk and our estuary partnerships in Suffolk, providing support and expertise where this is practical and possible.

We have worked with our business community, from local businesses themselves to those representing them such as the Chambers of Commerce and the



New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership. Our work with them is not only about the coast and its future management but also about being resilient businesses by providing support through our Business Efficient Resilience Toolkit (BERT) and in partnership with Groundwork.

We champion finding solutions to issues affecting our coastline at a regional level through the Regional Flood and Coast Committee and the East Anglian Coastal Group and nationally both through the National Coastal Group and the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group. Our proactive participation through these groups and organisations brings valuable visibility of CPE issues to Ministers, government departments and Arms Lengths Bodies and others key organisations and enable's us to access learning from others across the country.

And most importantly, we have continued to work with our local communities, providing them with the reassurance that local contact and support is still available. Thriving communities are essential to achieving sustainable coastal villages and towns. How we manage our coast now and for future generations plays a vital part in achieving that sustainability.

The phrase 'working in partnership' is often used but for Coastal Partnership East it is truly part of our DNA. The way of working that we have evolved in Norfolk and Suffolk is fundamental to our ability to deliver our work but we recognise that CPE contributes to enabling others to deliver their objectives and we will actively continue to this in future.

**Bill Parker**  
Partnership Manager



# Our Coastal Management Team



**Bill Parker**  
Coastal Partnership East  
(partnership manager)



**Vacancy**  
Coastal Engineering  
Manager



**Sharon Bleese**  
Coastal Manager  
(South)



**Rob Goodliffe**  
Coastal Manager  
(North)



**Brian Farrow**  
Coastal Engineer



**Bernard Harris**  
Coastal Manager



**John Harris**  
Coastal Engineer



**Becky Koehler**  
Coastal Engineer



**Paul Mackie**  
Coastal Strategic  
Funding Manager



**Paul Patterson**  
Senior Coastal  
Engineer



**Nick Reeves**  
Student Engineer



**Keith Roper**  
Coastal Officer  
(Repairs & Maintenance)



**Lucy Williams**  
Partnership and  
Engagement Officer



**Kellie Fisher**  
Flood and Coast Risk  
Management Senior Advisor

## Developing our people

Developing our people is critical to the long-term future of the partnership. Investment in training and individual development helps build capacity within the team, recognise the value of their work and support their career progression.

Learning and development is on-going for all of our team members. Over the last year we have introduced orientation site visits across Norfolk and Suffolk to help our new team to understand the work which is happening and the challenges we collectively face.

We encourage all members of our team to consider how training and development can support them not only in their current role but also for their future career progression. This can take the form of formal academic study at university or with a professional body. For example, in the last year Becky Koehler, Nick Reeves and Lucy Williams have all successfully

achieved degrees in their chosen fields. We are firmly committed to Continuous Professional Development and over the past year we have encouraged team members with specific skills to support others by coaching or mentoring. Paul Mackie (funding) and Sharon Bleese (communications and engagement) are both providing this support to partner organisations.

As we move into our second year, the training programme for our team is being developed with the new management structure playing a key role in identifying needs.

# Our work

## Major Projects

### Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project

The December 2013 tidal surge which resulted in more than 150 homes and businesses being flooded highlighted the inadequacy of Lowestoft's flood defences and the impact that this has on existing and potential growth for the town. This was further reinforced in July 2015 by flooding in the Kirkley area caused by an extreme rainfall event. Together, they demonstrated Lowestoft's vulnerability to all forms of flooding, from the sea, from rivers and from extreme rainfall.

In 2014 a project began to explore how this could be tackled. Coastal Partnership East, on behalf of Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council and other partners are managing this project. A number of studies have been carried out to understand the

current extent and risk of flooding: how flood risk could increase in the future through the impacts of climate change: and the costs and benefits of providing different flood risk management solutions.

### Over the past year

- Engaged with key partners and with the community and local businesses about the options, secured their endorsement of the option to build tidal walls and a flood barrier and their comments on a short list of options to tackle surface water flooding.
- Completed land based ground investigations to identify the extent of the civil engineering needed to support the construction of tidal walls and a flood barrier.
- Completed a Strategic Environmental Assessment to support this work.
- Successfully presented the Strategic Outline Case for approval by the Environment Agency's Large Project Review Group.
- Begun preparation for the Outline Business Case, the next stage in approval.
- Secured confirmation of £10m of growth funding from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Begun planning for Outline Design of the tidal walls and flood barrier. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in 2020/2021. This financial year we will be focusing on developing the outline design and progressing detailed designs, alongside key stakeholders. We will begin legal agreements and have further engagement and consultation with communities and businesses. We hope to submit a planning application to build the tidal walls in early 2018 and to begin construction in 2018/19 financial year.

More information about the project can be found by visiting [www.lowestoffrmp.org.uk](http://www.lowestoffrmp.org.uk)

# Gorleston to Lowestoft Coastal Strategy

Waveney District Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council have been working together, through the Coastal Partnership East team, to develop a strategy for the future coastal defence management of the coast between Gorleston south pier in the north to Pakefield in the south. This is a very changeable coastline which supports

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## **a number of communities and essential economic activities, mainly tourist based.**

The main risk along this coastline is from coastal erosion. Soft cliffs extend along the length of the coastline. These cliffs provide little natural resistance to shoreline change. Most of the frontage is defended but some of these defences are deteriorating and have reached or are approaching the end of their life. Without further investment there is a risk that these and other defences will fail, exposing coastal towns and villages along the cliff top to rapid erosion.

The overall aim of the project was to set out measures to manage the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to people and the developed environment, whilst recognising possible impacts on the natural environment, potential long term affordability and sustainability. Critically, it has been developed in partnership with the local communities, businesses and organisations to reflect a local community and business-driven Strategy, which will provide continued protection of community and business assets and support economic growth along the strategy length.

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## Over the past year

- Continued to engage with local businesses and have secured in principle over £1m of private investment. This work is on-going as we continue to have discussions about further private investment and alternative funding sources;
- Worked closely with our Project Advisory Group, made up of local communities and businesses to complete the final public consultation. The feedback gathered as a result of this consultation told us overwhelmingly that the local communities felt that the options presented in the strategy met with their approval;
- Moved forward with two changes to the Shoreline Management Policy as recommended by the Strategy. These are at Hopton and Corton;
- Successfully presented the completed Strategy to the Environment Agency's Large Project Review Group and achieved sign off.

# Bacton to Walcott Coastal Management Scheme

The Bacton to Walcott Coastal Management Scheme is an opportunity for CPE, on behalf of North Norfolk District Council (NNDC), to work with the Bacton Terminal Operators to protect nationally important infrastructure and to provide benefit to local communities.

The proposed scheme will use Sandscaping, to protect the terminal and enhance the coastal management of the villages. It involves the placement of a large volume of sand on the foreshore at Bacton, which over time will move in a predominantly south easterly direction down the coast. This sand is expected to increase beach levels and extend the

life of existing defences. This will be a UK first, taking learning from a recent Dutch innovation.

Modelling indicates that there will be significant benefits at Bacton and further work is underway to enhance the scheme to deliver benefits for the adjacent village of Walcott.

## Over the past year:

- Extensive work has been completed in modelling and designing the proposal
- Offshore survey work has been completed investigating environmental sensitivities and prospecting for potential sand resources.
- A development agreement has been drafted between the Bacton Terminal Operators and NNDC in order to enable NNDC to lead the project with Operator contributions, whilst sharing the risk and potential longer term sharing of liabilities.
- Work has been ongoing to secure public contributions, this has included £500,000 from NNDC, £500,000 Local Levy, £120,000 Natural Flood Management. Work is ongoing to secure Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid, Local Enterprise Partnership funds and other sources of funding and savings.

# Mundesley

The Mundesley frontage forms part of the 'Kelling to Lowestoft Ness Shoreline Management Plan' (SMP6). The SMP policy for Mundesley involves 'Holding the Line' (HTL) until 2055 before moving to a policy of No Active Intervention. Following the adoption of SMP, a study was commissioned by Norfolk Norfolk District Council, working in partnership with the Environment Agency. This was the Cromer to Winterton Ness Coastal Management Study, which was completed in 2013. The purpose of that study was to provide recommendations for coastal management works. The study found that coastal defence schemes could be technically and economically justified for Mundesley.

The Mundesley Coastal Management Scheme is included in the Environment Agency's capital programme. To help this work move forward, Government funding, (Grant in Aid) needs to be secured. A business case is being developed to enable this to be applied for from the Environment Agency.

We have appointed AECOM to help us to develop the business case and we have formed a local liaison

group to work with us. Following initial assessments and workshops, a long and short list of options have been developed alongside a re-assessment of the environment, economics and benefits of a scheme.

This information has been discussed with the liaison group and then presented to the wider community in Mundesley. The scheme and options were well received and the scheme has progressed to identify a preferred option.

## Over the past year:

- Appointment of AECOM to assist with the business case
- Assessment of economics and environmental considerations.
- Formation of Local Liaison Group made up of local representatives
- Development of Long and Short List of Options
- Public drop in event
- Workshop to identify Preferred Option

# Repairs and maintenance

Coastal Partnership East is responsible for repairs and maintenance on in excess of 58km coast protection defences along the coastline between Holkham in north Norfolk to Languard Point in Felixstowe. This is an extremely important part of the work we do. We maintain structures such as groynes, revetments, promenades, seawalls, beaches and rock armour. We set out the work required and then appoint and manage the contractors.

As well as repairs and maintenance the team carry out regular and important inspections so they understand what condition the structures are in and this informs future coastal management plans. We also monitor beach levels, health and safety for the public and the conditions of the cliffs.

Working with the Environment Agency, we are investigating appropriate software to help us to improve the way we manage the assets that we are responsible for and provide a consistent picture right across the Norfolk and Suffolk coast. This software will inform our programme of work and investment.

## Total length of linear defences managed by Coastal Partnership East **58km**



## Total number of assets managed by Coastal Partnership East **959**



# Measured Term Contract

Each local authority has its current contractor for undertaking specific small scale repair and maintenance works on coastal assets. Following market engagement we have trialled a new methodology for procurement of these contractors ensuring they are flexible, responsive and very cost efficient. This will be extended across the CPE area in the next year.





# Adaptation on our coast

Coastal adaptation focuses on managing change, to minimise negative consequences but also has the potential to provide new opportunities. Managing the impacts of climate change, such as reducing risks from more frequent flooding and erosion can be defined as adaptation; where we are adapting to a changing environment. Many of the suggested adaptation options for those who own or manage assets at risk need to be seen as part of a package of potential ways forward, rather than individual solutions. There is unlikely to be one solution that is satisfactory to all, or suitable in all locations. A flexible approach is required so different needs can be recognised and taken into consideration.

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Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) aim to identify long-term intent of management policies for how we can manage the coast. It is not economically viable, socially desirable or environmentally sustainable to 'Hold the Line' everywhere along our soft and erodible coast. Therefore, other alternative options, including taking an adaptive approach, need to be considered. It may be more economically viable and sustainable in the long term to consider these adaptation options now as anticipatory adaptation measures. Adaptation should be valued and resourced as effectively as protecting the coast.

In June 2009 DEFRA funded 15 Pathfinder projects to help communities adapt to a changing coastline. Clifftop enhancements at Happisburgh and improvements at Corton have helped communities to adapt to coastal erosion over the medium term and lead to wider benefits such as improved confidence and increased levels of tourism.

That said, attracting funding for coastal adaptation can be challenging. By their very nature, a project that does not have favourable cost benefit for a traditional defence scheme is unlikely to fit the funding model for an adaptation scheme. Over the past year, Coastal Partnership East, through the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group, the Environment Agency and DEFRA are currently working on a project to help support adaptation and solve problems with delivery where possible. DEFRA recognise that local authorities must be equipped with a policy, a legal mandate, and an understanding of possible funding options to enable them to engage with their communities about adapting to coastal change.



Slaughden ©Mike Page

# A resilient coast

Coastal Partnership East as a whole does not have any direct responsibilities to respond to a major flooding event however, we do have a part to play in helping our coast and the communities we serve be as resilient as possible. Our role is also to inspect the coast after a major event and to assess what repairs might be necessary, for example the recent works at Lowestoft South Beach after the 2013 tidal surge and more recently at Mundesley after the tidal surge in January 2017.

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## Reducing the risk for Lowestoft

As part of the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project, and with the support of the Regional Flood and Coast Committee, we purchased 1400m of temporary flood barriers. These are to help reduce the risk of flooding to the most vulnerable areas of the town in the event of another tidal surge and ahead of the completion of the capital project. With our internal partners Waveney Norse and our partners the Water Management Alliance, we have developed an operating protocol and deployment plan to help guide us when the barriers need to be used. We have also been supported by local businesses such as Lings, Norfolk and Suffolk Marine and sembmarine SLP as well as professional emergency responders through the Suffolk Resilience Forum.

This planning was put into practice in January 2017 this year when the barriers were deployed in advance of a predicted tidal surge. Fortunately the wind changed before it reached Lowestoft and the barriers were not formally tested. However, the procedures worked and we were ready should they have been needed. More training and testing will take place in September, ahead of the winter weather.

## Helping businesses plan for resilience

The Business Efficient Resilience Toolkit (BERT) was designed and developed in a partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, Environment Agency and Groundwork with the support of New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and Suffolk Chamber of Commerce. Coastal Partnership East manage the development and implementation of BERT.

It has, to date, helped over 170 businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk to develop and build a resilience action plan. Resilience planning involves setting out a strategy to prepare, where possible, for crisis situations that could have negative repercussions on the business concerned. It looks at worse-case scenarios and sorts through potential solutions.

BERT explores where the company is located and what its risk factors are. It also builds up a picture of staff, IT and communications structures, utilities, assets and equipment and existing insurance. It can look at risk factors for drought and heatwaves and of course flooding.

We have had lots of excellent feedback from the companies who have registered with BERT and recently received a Highly Commended award at the Suffolk Greenest County awards in the Climate Adaptation category.

One of our customers, James Green, General Manager at Wentworth Hotel in Aldeburgh Suffolk said: "The resilience programme was of paramount importance in making us aware of avenues we could pursue in order to protect the hotel from environmental impact, particularly flooding as we are next to the sea. Advice was clear and concise and the action plans easy to follow."

Other funding sources are being explored to secure a future for this project and interest has been expressed in Essex.

Workshops have been held in Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Cromer so far this year. More information and case studies can be found on [www.getbusinessresilient.co.uk](http://www.getbusinessresilient.co.uk)

# Local Government Coastal Special Interest Group



The Coastal Partnership East team having been supporting the work of Board member, Cllr Andy Smith in his role as Chair of the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG).

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The SIG brings together more than 60 coastal local authorities, sharing knowledge and lobbying Government on issues of particular interest to coastal authorities. We not only provide the SIG secretariat but also lead on a number of national issues including coastal adaptation, capacity development, marine management licencing, partnership working between local authorities and long-term maintenance funding.

# Finance

Coastal Partnership East invests in coast protection for communities along the Norfolk and Suffolk coast. In 2016/17 the total invested was in excess of £3.1m. This included both capital investments (£2.4m) in to improve the level of coast protection and revenue costs (£670k) to maintain existing coast protection assets.

## 2016 - 2017 REVENUE & CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The total Coastal Partnership East Capital Expenditure for 2016/17 was £2.4 million and £670k for Revenue maintenance.

- Lowestoft Tidal Barrier
- Revenue & Maintenance Cost
- Cromer Pier & West Prom
- Cromer Coast protection Scheme 982 and SEA
- Combined other minor capital cost
- Sherringham West Prom
- Scratby Protection Scheme
- Storm Surge



## 2016 - 2017 CAPITAL GRANT INCOME

The total Coastal Partnership East Capital Grant income for for 2016/17 was £2.08 million.

- Lowestoft Tidal Barrier
- Cromer Coast protection Scheme 982 and SEA
- Lowestoft Flooding



CPE aims to ensure the best utilisation of available funds and achieving value for money. For every £1 invested in CPE costs it delivered £5.52 invested in coastal communities For every £1 invested using local authority funds (revenue & capital) an additional £1.66 was gained in external grants.

# Communications

As we have said elsewhere in this document there are approximately 352,000 people who live in the direct coastal zone and many more that work on and visit our coast.

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As well as those communities, businesses and visitors we have a wide variety of partnerships. These include coastal and estuary partnerships, coastal forums, stakeholder groups linked with specific work and projects, bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, the RSPB and the National Trust, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, the Internal Drainage Boards and partners in our universities: all of whom are extremely important to the delivery of our work.

Across the partnership there are key internal teams who, like our communities, need to be informed of and involved in our work: to ensure that what we do reflects and helps to support and inform plans and policies.

Equally, we want our communities, businesses and partners to inform and be involved in our work. To achieve this, our approach to communications is a mixture of information giving and information gathering. We use information and feedback to inform our approach. Our intention is that those we serve and work alongside feel involved in the development of our work and our approach to coastal management. We want you to know what we do, how we will do it and how you can be a part of it.

To support this approach we have a comprehensive communications and engagement plan that informs our work with you. However, to make sure that we are getting things right your feedback is extremely

important. We would like to hear from you about what we do well and what you feel we can improve upon.

Your comments can be sent to **[bill.parker@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:bill.parker@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)** or to **[sharon.bleese@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.bleese@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)**

Working in partnership is a part of all we do. Over the last year we have had the opportunity to work alongside other coastal partnerships such as the East Solent Coastal Partnership, benefitting from lessons learnt and good practice. We have worked in close partnership with the Water Management Alliance (East Suffolk IDB), sharing expertise and operational resource around incident management and successfully deploying the temporary tidal barriers in Lowestoft in January 2017. We are also working closely with them on projects in Benacre and in Bawdsey. Our partnerships with the universities are also extremely valuable, bringing together academic research to enable us to understand our coast and to make better decisions about its future management and investment.

Partnership working, through the Suffolk Coast Forum and its annual conference is also an important piece of work for CPE. We have a role in providing event management, communications and support for the annual conference. It has grown year-on-year and we are hopeful that we will replicate its usual success in October 2017 at Trinity Park.

# Moving forward

## A message from our new Chair, Cllr David Ritchie

I hope that you've found our first annual report both informative and helpful. Reflecting back on what we have accomplished in the last year simply reinforces that this was the right direction for the effective and efficient management of our coast across all four local authorities.

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Looking forward to the coming year across the Partnership, we have exciting and challenging times ahead. Our new team structure is in place and at the time of writing this we are interviewing candidates for role of Coastal Engineering Manager, a really important post to help us take our work forward. We have important projects in progress, such as Bacton to Walcott, Winterton to Great Yarmouth and the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project. All of these are delivering really critical coast protection for our communities and businesses. Critical too, for the growth of our economy.

But we must not forget the vital role our repairs and maintenance work plays. Looking after a programme of assets totalling almost 1000 and 60km of linear defences represents a large proportion of the work of our team and is valued by our communities, keeping them safe on the coast where they live and work.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to chair the Board this year and I am confident that when I take a look back at the work we've achieved in a year's time, we will have done more, with greater efficiency and delivering even greater value for the people we serve.



**Cllr David Ritchie**  
Chair  
Coastal Partnership East



[www.coasteast.org.uk](http://www.coasteast.org.uk)

