National Coastal Overview Update

 September 2016

The Coastal Strategic Overview Refresh

In April 2015, the Environment Agency agreed with the Coastal Group Chairmen and Defra to work together to review how its strategic overview is working seven years on. Work has been underway and this informal programme of work is being coordinated by the Environment Agency national Strategy Delivery team and Chairman of Coastal Group Network.

This work has been underway for the past year and will continue into 16/17, including a focus on SMP governance in Coastal Groups.

The Environment Agency agreed to share additional materials and information with Coastal Group Chairs over the summer, however, this has been delayed slightly due to workload pressures resulting from staff absence. We are now aiming to share these outputs in the autumn.

Defra Ministerial Team Confirmed

Following Theresa May's appointment as Prime Minister on 13 July 2016, a number of new ministers were appointed.

* Andrea Leadsom MP has been appointed as the new Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
* Thérèse Coffey MP replaced Rory Stewart MP as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. Thérèse has been the Conservative MP for Suffolk Coastal since May 2010. She is beginning her ministerial interest in the coast with a visit to Hemsby and Scratby, North Norfolk, to hear concerns of the local action group and Brandon Lewis MP around erosion impacts there.
* George Eustace MP continues as Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Lord Gardiner continues as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Coastal change adaptation - beyond the pathfinders

In May 2016, Defra began the process of drawing together experience from the Coastal Change Adaptation pathfinders (2010-11) into a practical output for coastal FCRM Risk Management Authorities. This follows two reviews of the pathfinders since their completion, which have focussed upon project delivery and the effectiveness / wider applicability of pathfinder ‘roll back’ initiatives respectively. The purpose of the current work is to use this evidence to inform and set out policy and practice relating to coastal adaptation.

Defra is involving representatives from the local authorities involved in the largest pathfinder projects (Suffolk Coastal, North Norfolk, East Riding of Yorkshire and Scarborough), where the immediate risk from erosion is considered greatest. DCLG, The National Trust (Phil Dyke), Natural England (Andy Millar), the Environment Agency (Nick Hardiman) and Coastal Groups Network (Bryan Curtis) are also helping to inform the development of this work on a steering group, which met in May 2016. To ensure the local authority perspective on gaps in policy and delivery mechanisms is properly captured at the start, Bill Parker, Lead Officer of the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group, was asked to articulate these gaps in a preliminary paper. This was circulated to the Coastal Group Chairs for comment in August, and will be highlighted to Defra on 7th September before more detailed analysis by the steering group. The paper included a spectrum of potential barriers to coastal adaptation, with suggested solutions, principally regarding policy, funding, progress/incident reporting and the need to better address imminent losses to erosion.

The steering group will meet again in the autumn to frame the key outputs of this work, which are anticipated in 2017.

National Coastal Monitoring Programme

The new phase of monitoring is underway.  Procurement of services in most cases has used the new Frameworks established jointly by the Regions, including topographic surveys, aerial photography, hydrodynamics and habitat mapping. The Frameworks are available for all coastal monitoring programme partners to use.  The new governance for the National Network is in place.  The value of data downloaded from the website during the previous phase (2011 to 2016) reached £996 million.  As proposed some years ago the Programmes’ website is also becoming something of a natural hub or repository for coastal data and research results, including the NERC-funded iCOASST project, in which the EA was an embedded stakeholder, and the new online model for shingle profile prediction under the influence of bi-modal wave conditions, Shingle-B. A brief presentation about Shingle-B (including when and where it is appropriate to use it) will be offered to Coastal Groups during the autumn.

NCERM Updates

The first round of updates to the National Coastal Erosion Risk Map (NCERM) is now being completed, and the website will be updated to reflect these updates in the autumn. Due to timescales tying in with ‘State of the Nation’ (NaFRA review) data requests and some delays to securing project management initially, the data request for this first round suffered from a limited timescale over the Christmas/New Year period. However, over 30 local authorities responded and, even where updates have not been fully agreed this year (such as in East Anglia and parts of the South West), significant progress has been made towards completing publication of up-to-date material for the whole English coast. Comprehensive coverage is anticipated by the end of 2018, subject to local authority approvals.

The next tranche of updates will follow from September 2016, with requests for updates from local authorities during the autumn. This year the Environment Agency will also explore the potential to bring the updates process in-house, and – separate to this project – scope priorities for developing NCERM’s capabilities further.

Coastal Asset Data Improvement

The lack of a nationally consistent coastal asset dataset hinders our ability to manage coastal risk strategically. Current local authority asset data is often incomplete, difficult to view at a strategic level, and of uncertain quality. One of the main constraints of recent years has been the inability of coast protection authorities to access and store data on Environment Agency (EA) asset management systems (e.g. NFCDD, AIMS).

In July Mark Johnson and Neil Watson presented a paper to Coastal Group Chairs looking at coastal asset data management. The paper proposed establishing a capital project to fund the collection and storage of local authority coastal asset data, taking a major step forward in developing a consistent national coastal asset dataset. Coastal Group chairs supported the proposals and accepted the paper.

Local Authorities, the Environment Agency and the Chairman of Coastal Group Network will work together to prepare a business case to progress this work. This will include submitting a discussion paper to the EA FCRM Business Board later this year.

Staff changes

Coastal Group changes

From the establishment of the new Strategic Coastal Groups in October 2008 Peter Woods has been Chairman of the North East Coastal Group (NECG). After a long career in local government and more latterly Private Consultants he retired on the 31st August 2016. Peter has always been an avid supporter of the Coastal Groups and his quiet Counsel will be greatly missed. He hands over the Chairmanship of the NECG to one of the Vice Chairmen Stuart Rowe of Scarborough Borough Council until formal elections can take place in October. We all wish Peter well in his well earned retirement.

We also say goodbye to Jonathan Clarke one of the Vice Chairmen of the South East Coastal Group and long term lead for the Regional Coastal Monitoring Team based in Canterbury City Council. Jonathan is a prolific author of papers and I’m sure that we will at least hear from him again when he starts his new job on the other side of the world in New Zealand. We wish Jonathan best wishes for his future.

Environment Agency changes

Hannah Williamson has joined the Environment Agency national team. Hannah will be working primarily on the Flood Risk Management Plan portfolio of work, but is also taking on some aspects of the coastal work.

Forward Look

An overview of upcoming meetings or events is provided below:

* EA/Defra Stakeholder Forum – London - 19th September 2016
* Coastal Flood Risk Workshops - North and South/South West Coasts - Bootle and Bristol - 14th and 20th September 2017
* Innovation in flood risk management CIRIA - London - 4th October 2017
* SANDS 2016 User Conference – Swindon - 26th October 2016
* Flood and Coastal Conference 2018 – Telford – 28th to 30th March 2017 (Deadline for abstracts 9th September)
* KRING annual meeting - Lincoln - 25th to 27th September

GOV.UK updated

The following GOV.UK updates relating to the coast have been issued Between May and August 2016.

[Newhaven flood alleviation scheme](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwODI2LjYzMDA1OTUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDgyNi42MzAwNTk1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTA5MTIzJmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/newhaven-flood-alleviation-scheme)

[Shoreham Adur tidal walls scheme](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwODA4LjYyMzk0NjAxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDgwOC42MjM5NDYwMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODk4NzA4JmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shoreham-adur-tidal-walls-scheme)

[Flood risk activities: charges for permits from 1 April 2016](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwODA0LjYyMjg2NDcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDgwNC42MjI4NjQ3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODk2Njg0JmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flood-risk-activities-charges-for-permits-from-1-april-2016)

[Internal Drainage District Order 2016: River Adur](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwNzI5LjYyMDkwMjQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDcyOS42MjA5MDI0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODkzMzMyJmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/internal-drainage-district-order-2016-river-adur)

[Flood risk activities: charges for permits from 1 April 2016](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwNzI2LjYxOTY4MzQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDcyNi42MTk2ODM0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODkxMzQxJmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flood-risk-activities-charges-for-permits-from-1-april-2016)

[Register your flood risk activity exemption: environmental permits](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwNzIxLjYxODE5MTMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDcyMS42MTgxOTEzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODg4OTc2JmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-your-flood-risk-exemption-environmental-permits)

[Grant in aid forms: flood risk management authorities](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwNzE4LjYxNjUzNjkxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDcxOC42MTY1MzY5MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODg2MTYxJmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-grants-for-local-authorities-and-internal-drainage-boards)

[Programme of flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwNzE0LjYxNTIyMTgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDcxNC42MTUyMjE4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODg0MzI3JmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/programme-of-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-schemes)

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[Application for an environmental permit part F3: charging for flood risk activities and declarations](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwNjI3LjYwNzY0NjUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDYyNy42MDc2NDY1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODc0NTcxJmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-an-environmental-permit-part-f3-charging-for-flood-risk-activities-and-declarations)

[Shoreham Adur tidal walls scheme](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwNjIzLjYwNjQ1MjkxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDYyMy42MDY0NTI5MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODczMDA2JmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shoreham-adur-tidal-walls-scheme)

[Flood risk and land drainage byelaws](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwNTI2LjU5NTIwNzQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDUyNi41OTUyMDc0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODYxMzIyJmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJ5YW4uY3VydGlzQGhvdG1haWwuY28udWsmdXNlcmlkPWJyeWFuLmN1cnRpc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-land-drainage-byelaws)