

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Contract and Asset
Management

REPORT NUMBER: **K89**

TO: STRATEGY COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 16 September 2010

THE ESSEX AND SOUTH SUFFOLK SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement of the final policies included within the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan (ESSSMP).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the policies within the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan be endorsed.
- 2.2 That any comments which the Committee may wish to make as a result of its consideration of this report be forwarded to the project team for the Plan.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no specific financial implications for the Council from the Plan.
- 3.2 However some of the policies in relation to our frontage require joint working in order to deliver solutions. These solutions may result in contributions being sought from the Council.
- 3.3 There will be a greater understanding of any requirement from the Council when the current lack of clarity from Central Government relating to the funding of coast protection and flood defence is removed.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 This report is not closely linked with the Council's Significant Business Risk register.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT

- 5.1 There are two equality and diversity issues associated with the actions currently being considered as a result of the SMP.
- 5.2 The first is reduced access for people with disabilities which can be mitigated as and when the problem occurs.

5.3 The second is where vulnerable households are locally affected by flooding. This issue is currently being addressed by the group working on the Pitt review which will address individual needs as they arise.

6. **KEY INFORMATION**

6.1 Shoreline Management Plans (SMP's) are large-scale assessments of the opportunities and risks associated with coastal processes for specific lengths of coastline.

6.2 They were first proposed by government in 1995, with the first round of SMP's for the UK coast being drawn up in 1997/98. The intention at that time was that they would be revisited on a 6-year cycle. It is only now however that the second round of SMP's is being prepared.

6.3 Their key objective is to develop future management policies for lengths of coastline in order to help reduce the risks to people, property and the developed historic and natural environment. They should outline the basis for the policies and set the framework for managing risks along the coastline in the future.

6.4 In developing the future management policies the constraints on funding for coast protection and flood defence must be taken into account.

6.5 Government Guidance on the current round of SMP's states that they should identify the best approach to managing risks over the next 100 years from flooding and coastal erosion, including cliff instability, both for individual areas and the wider coast, taking into account all features and values and in close liaison with land use planning. This approach could well include coastal re-alignment.

6.6 This new SMP includes Babergh's estuary boundaries along the Stour and the Orwell. This is a new inclusion. Neither the previous Essex SMP, which terminated at Manningtree, nor the previous Suffolk SMP, which started at Languard Point in Felixstowe, included these estuaries. It has now however been recognised that they are affected by coastal processes, and there should therefore be continuity between SMP's.

6.7 The development of the new SMP has been led by the Environment Agency supported by specialist consultants Haskoning UK Ltd. It is now in its formal consultation stage prior to being finalised. There have been earlier consultation stages supported by open events where all communities and interested parties have had the opportunity to comment.

6.8 Your Officers have been part of the process for developing this SMP since it began in June 2008. It must be noted however that this involvement has been fairly limited, as we only have an estuary frontage. All other Council's have coastal frontages where the impacts of coastal erosion and sea level rise are far more substantial.

6.9 This SMP is a substantial document covering the coastline and estuaries from Southend in the Thames to Languard Point at Felixstowe. The Babergh 'frontage' covered by the plan lies within Management Unit 'A', and extends from Brantham along the north bank of the Stour, then along the south bank of the Orwell to Wherstead. This is not a frontage that suffers from substantial problems in terms of erosion or flooding. Most of the land falls outside any Tidal Flood Risk Zone.

6.10 The approach adopted in producing the SMP is as follows:

- The whole frontage is divided in Management Areas. Babergh lies in Area 'A'
- Each area is divided into Policy Development Zones (PDZ's). These are shown on the attached plan. The zones in Babergh are numbered A6 to A9f
- Each PDZ is allocated a policy, or 'Intent of Management', for three specific time periods i.e.
 - Short term – present day to 2025 (Epoch 1)
 - Medium Term – 2025 to 2055 (Epoch 2)
 - Long Term – 2055 to 2105 (Epoch 3)
- There are four policies or 'Intents of Management' to be applied i.e.
 - i) **Hold the Line (HtL)** – this means holding the defence line where it is now
 - ii) **Advance the Line (AtL)** – this means building new defences seaward of the existing defence line
 - iii) **Managed Realignment (MR)** – means allowing or enabling the shoreline to move, with associated management to control or limit the effect on land use and environment. This 'Intent' is also sub-divided:
 - **MR1** – allow local and limited intervention to limit the risks, as long as negative impacts are minimised
 - **MR2** – breach of a frontline defence after building any necessary new landward defence line.
 - iv) **No Active Intervention (NAI)** – no further investment in coastal defences or operations

The attached plan indicates the policies for each zone for the short term i.e. the next 15 years.

6.11 The attached Appendix 'A' indicates the proposed policies (or Intents of Management) for each zone, but also includes them for future Epochs, which are not on the plan. The appendix also includes brief comments for each zone.

6.12 The key points to note with this policy table are:

- The north bank of the Stour from Brantham to Shotley Gate has two policies – ‘hold the line’ (HtL) for the majority of the frontage, and ‘managed realignment’ (MR1) with limited intervention for two smaller sections.
- On the south bank of the Orwell the Shotley marshes are designated for ‘managed realignment’ (MR1), part in the short term, and part in the medium term. This will however require the co-operation of the owner.
- Also on the south bank of the Orwell are three currently undefended areas where coastal processes are starting to affect existing features, and therefore require an integrated solution. These are:
 - a) Wherstead Road (PDZ A6), where the frequency of closure of the road due to flooding is likely to increase
 - b) Pin Mill (PDZ A7b), where high ground is increasingly threatened by erosion, and some buildings sit just above the current flood zone
 - c) Shotley Gate (PDZ A8c), where cliff top dwellings are potentially threatened by cliff instability and erosion at the base of the cliff

The policy for these three areas is to establish a process of co-operation between the partner organisations with responsibilities (e.g. Environment Agency, Suffolk CC, Babergh DC) and the people and businesses with an interest, in order to develop a sustainable long term solution, including funding opportunities. This solution may include limited local defences, but will also include adaptation or realignment.

7. **APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Proposed Policies

Plan - Epoch 1 [Present Day to 2025] Policy Map

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan – on display in Members Room

CONTACT: Stewart Schleip
(Open Spaces Manager)

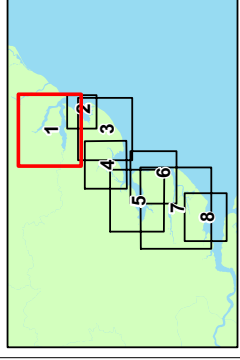
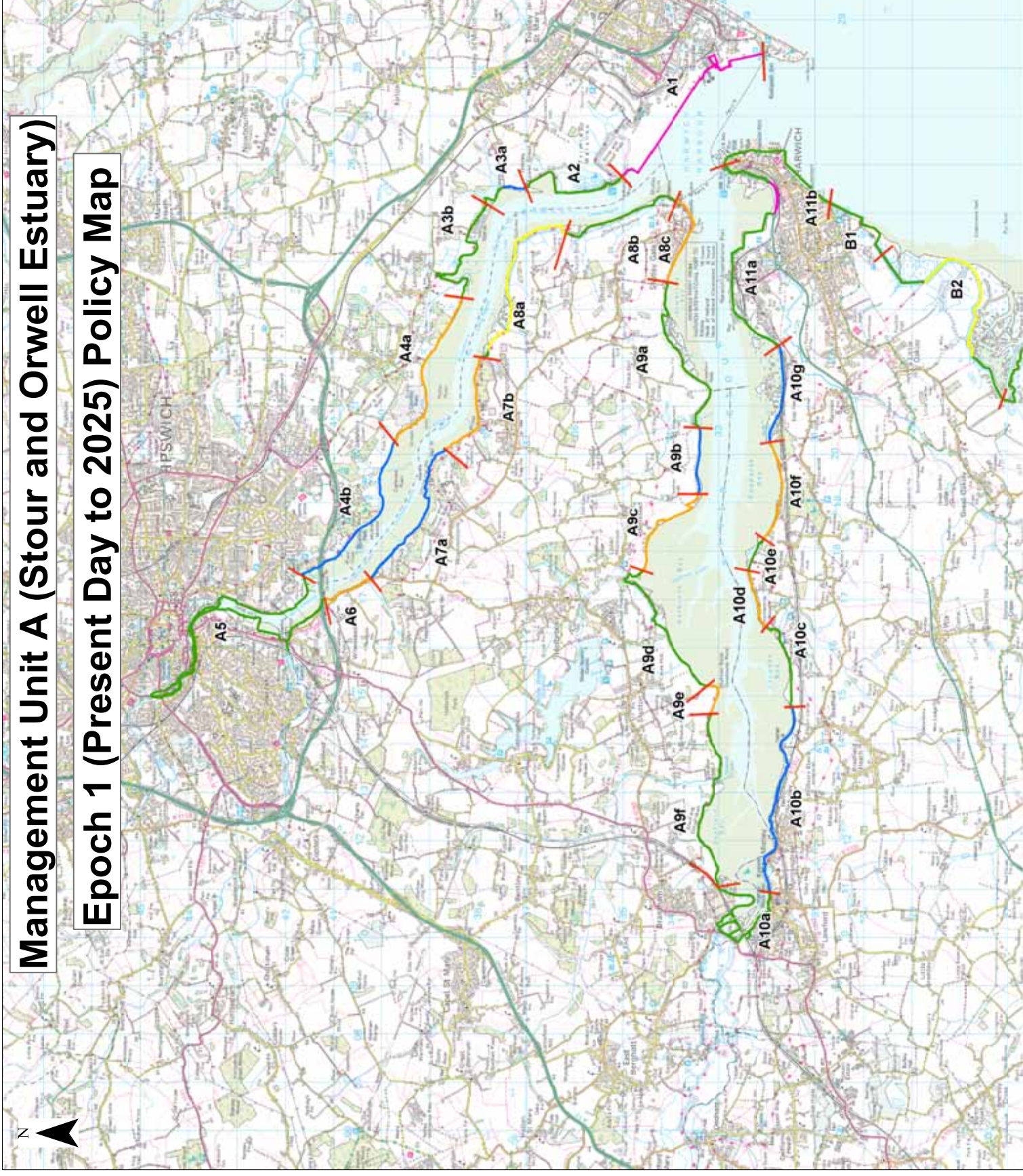
E-MAIL: stewart.schleip@babergh.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Policy Development Zone	Policy (or Intent of Management)			Explanation
	Now to 2025	2025 to 2055	2055 to 2105	
A6	MR1	MR1	MR1	Integrated plan for adaptation to be determined through partnership approach, which may include local defences
A7a	NAI	NAI	NAI	No erosion expected, therefore no defences needed.
A7b	MR1	MR1	MR1	Integrated plan for adaptation to be determined through partnership approach, which may include local defences
A8a	MR2	HtL	HtL	Managed realignment by breach of the existing defence while continuing flood defence to the Marina, all dwellings and roads. The new line will be held throughout Epoch 2 and 3.
A8b	HtL	MR2	HtL	The current line will be held in Epoch 1. In Epoch 2, Managed realignment by breach of the existing defence while continuing flood defence to the Marina and all dwellings and roads. The new line will be held in Epoch 3.
A8c	MR1	MR1	MR1	Integrated plan for adaptation to be determined through partnership approach, which may include local defences
A9a,d,f	HtL	HtL	HtL	The current line will be held throughout all Epochs.
A9b	NAI	NAI	NAI	No erosion expected, therefore no defences needed.
A9c,3	MR1	MR1	MR1	Local intervention to limit erosion risk to features is acceptable if the impact on natural estuary development/evolution is minimised

Management Unit A (Stour and Orwell Estuary)

Epoch 1 (Present Day to 2025) Policy Map



- Key:
- Policy Development Zone boundary
 - Preferred Policy
 - Hold the Line
 - Managed Realignment - low lying ground at flood risk
 - Managed Realignment - high ground at erosion risk
 - No Active Intervention
 - Advance the Line

Title: **Epoch 1 (Present Day to 2025) Policy Map**

Project: Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan

Client: Environment Agency Anglian Region

Date: March 2010

Scale: 1:75,000 @ A3

Figure: 1