

1 Introduction

1.1 The Shoreline Management Plan

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a high-level policy document in which the organisations that manage the shoreline set their long-term plan. The SMP aims to identify the best ways to manage flood and erosion risk to people and to the developed, historic and natural environment. It also identifies opportunities where shoreline management can work with others to make improvements.

We developed a draft version of this SMP, which was out for public consultation from 15th March to 28th June 2010. The consultation generated a wide range of responses from the people and organisations with an interest in the shoreline of Essex and South Suffolk. We have considered these in developing this final version of the plan (see Appendix B in Annex Ba).

Throughout the development of the SMP the partners have aimed to:

- inform and get responses from all interested groups or individuals on our understanding of why and how coastal flooding and erosion might occur, and their effects on people, their use of the land and the environment;
- consider the views of all interested groups and individuals on the approach for managing the shoreline of Essex and South Suffolk in the short, medium and long term.

The SMP is an important part of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) strategy for managing flooding and coastal erosion. This strategy has two key aims:

- to reduce the threat of flooding and erosion to people and their property;
- to benefit the environment, society and the economy as far as possible, in line with the Government's 'sustainable development principles'. These are standards set by the UK Government, the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly Government for a policy to be sustainable, and they are as follows:
 - Living within environmental limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Achieving a sustainable economy
 - Using sound science responsibly
 - Promoting good governance

Figure 1-1 provides an overview of the SMP area and the management units used throughout this document.



Figure 1-1 Management units of Essex and South Suffolk SMP

As shown in Figure 1-2, the SMP is the highest-level planning stage of Defra's strategy for flood and coastal defence. The SMP sets high-level policies, which are then implemented through delivery plans (such as strategies and asset management plans) and subsequently by projects and actions (such as schemes).

About ten years ago, a first round of SMPs was completed for the entire length of the coastline of England and Wales. The first SMP for this shoreline was completed in 1997. The revised SMP (SMP2) builds on the first round of plans, taking into account updated information collected, changing circumstances and revised geographical boundaries.

The SMP describes our intent of management for the shoreline of Essex and South Suffolk that achieves the best possible and achievable balance of all the interests around the coast, for the next 100 years. In the first instance, this intent of management is about the management of the shoreline and its flood and erosion defences. Any projects to change and improve flood and erosion defences would be developed by the Environment Agency and the maritime local authorities, in close partnership with all stakeholders. These projects also have to go through the Local Authorities' planning process. There is of course also a strong relationship with social, economic and environmental activities and values around the shoreline. SMP policies are therefore not driven purely by flood and coastal defence economics, because it is impossible to quantify all the impacts of shoreline management. However, chosen policies need to be realistic, especially in the short term. In the UK there is no statutory responsibility on anyone to provide or maintain flood and erosion defences. The Environment Agency and the maritime local authorities only have powers to do so, and they need to work within the limited budgets available. Therefore implementing SMP policies will depend on funding being available; this may be from the national flood and coastal erosion risk management budget, but it could also come from other national sources, or from local and/or third-party funding.

The SMP is a high level document. Where capital schemes are required to implement a particular policy in the plan, these will be included in Environment Agency or Local Authority investment Plans. The majority of funding is likely to be sought through central Government, via the Environment Agency. Other funding may be sought more locally through local levies which are where first tier local authorities contribute an annual levy to the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood Defence Committee. Where there are private frontages like Felixstowe Port, investment will continue to be the responsibility of the operator.

Costs of 'holding the line' of a frontage are extremely variable. For example a sheltered estuary embankment with salt marsh frontage may require minimal maintenance such as annual vegetation cutting. This may be in the order of tens

of pounds per hundred metres. An exposed estuary frontage which may require more significant work such as annual repositioning of concrete blocks can cost tens of thousands of pounds per hundred metres. On the exposed coast, capital replacement of coastal defences can cost in the order of £1 Million per hundred metres.

The SMP does not make decisions about land use and environmental values, but it does set one of the parameters within which coastal land use and the coastal environment will function. The SMP has therefore been developed through a partnership approach between the Environment Agency, the local and unitary authorities, Essex and Suffolk County Councils, Natural England and English Heritage, as well as organisations that have an interest or responsibility in coastal management. The SMP has used other partners' documents as evidence during its development. Similarly, all partner authorities intend to take full account of the SMP in their decisions. For example, the SMP is a key piece of evidence informing the preparation of the local authorities' Local Development Frameworks, including Minerals and Waste Development Documents, produced by County Councils and Unitary Authorities. These are statutory documents that plan for the long term future of each local authority area, including the coast, by allocating land use and setting policies against which planning applications are considered. Figure 1-2 illustrates the role of SMPs in land-use planning. The figure also illustrates the link with other water management plans such as the recently published River Basin Management Plan for Anglian region. Section 1.5 explains how the SMP takes account of this and other related plans and procedures. The SMP supports the delivery of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) principles, which attempts to 'join up' the different policies which have an effect on the coast as well as bringing together stakeholders from local to national levels.

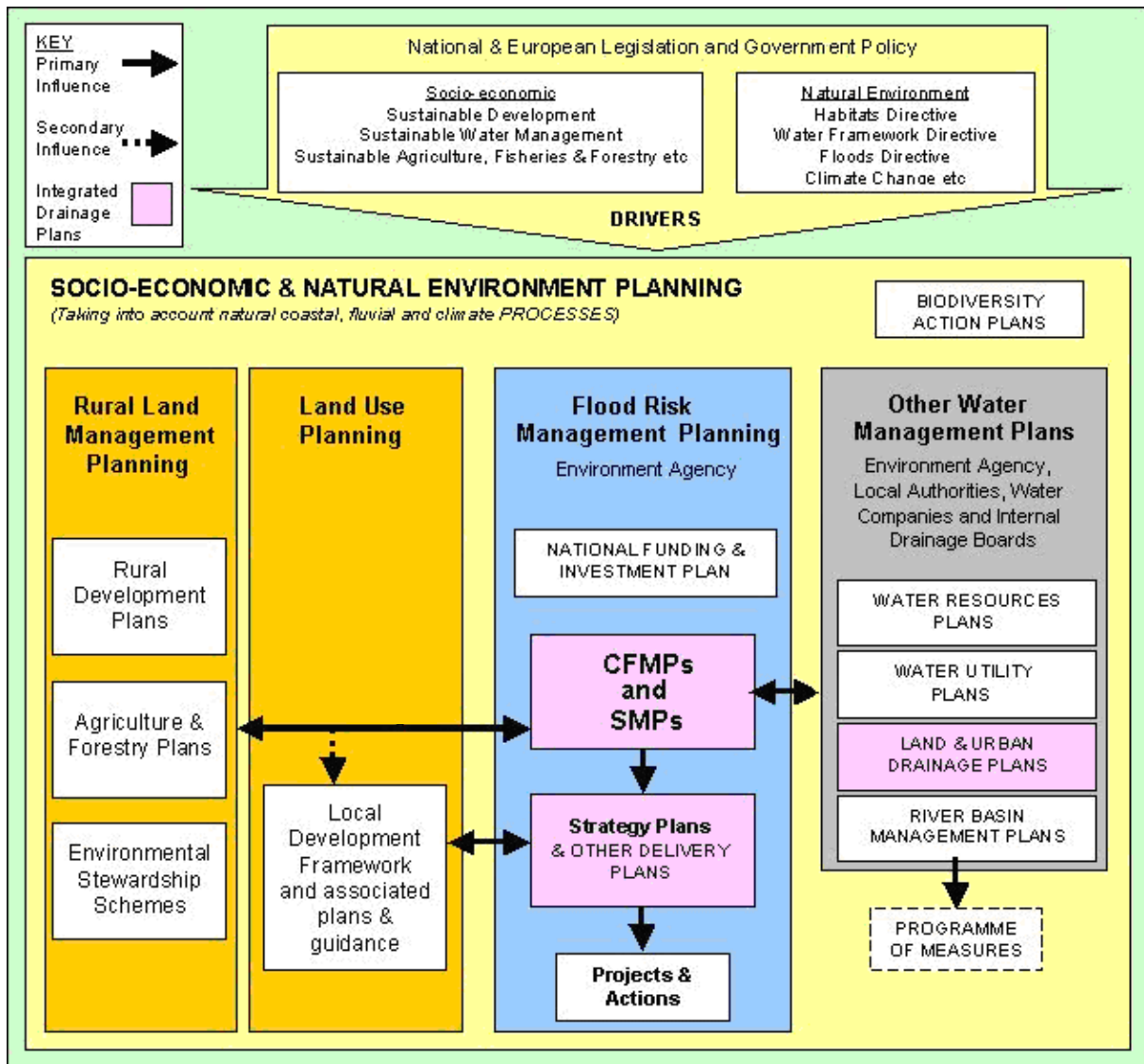


Figure 1-2 Role of SMPs within the wider planning framework

The central decision in the SMP concerns the intent of management: i.e. deciding what we want to achieve through managing the shoreline. This intent of management is typically described in terms of the effect of shoreline management on land use and environment. It describes what we want to achieve through managing the shoreline. However, for use in coastal flood and erosion management, the intent of management has to be translated into one of four policies that describe the actual management of the shoreline itself:

- **Hold the Line (HtL)** – means holding the existing defence line by maintaining or changing the standard of protection. The role of the standard of protection is explained further in the next paragraph.
- **Advance the Line (AtL)** – means building new defences seaward of the existing defence line. This policy should be limited to those stretches of coastline where significant land reclamation is considered.
- **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 can take various forms, depending on the nature of the shoreline and the intent of management to be achieved. All are characterised by managing change, not only technically (where management can mean breaching, building and maintaining defences) but also for land use and environment (where management can mean helping or ensuring adaptation). For the Essex and South Suffolk SMP, two distinct types of Managed Realignment are relevant. For frontages that are currently undefended, MR means that the SMP allows local and limited intervention to limit the risks, as long as negative impacts are minimised. For frontages that currently have flood defences, MR means realigning the flood defences to a more landward location; this could also be implemented gradually, for example via regulated tidal exchange.
- **No Active Intervention (NAI)** – means no investment in coastal defences or operations. It can apply to unprotected cliff frontages and to areas where investment cannot be justified, potentially resulting in natural or unmanaged realignment of the shoreline.

Section 4.1 describes in more detail what these policies can mean in practice. The first three policy options usually involve defences. The policies do not imply any particular standard of protection to be provided. They could be implemented by maintaining or by changing the standard of protection. This is typically a decision that is taken beyond the scope of the SMP (see Text box below). However, for some frontages the broad-scale analysis of the SMP gives sufficient confidence about the benefits and costs. For these frontages, the SMP does state an intent to maintain or upgrade the standard of protection, including taking into account impacts of climate change. This is explained further in section 3.3. It is important to note that further studies are needed to confirm the policy before any individual scheme is progressed. In addition there will be on-going interaction with landowners, other stakeholders, and any change will be subject to relevant planning regulations. Finally, the SMP will be reviewed over its lifetime to take into account new data and information, which will ultimately feed directly into the next round of Shoreline Management Plans, which will be produced in approximately ten years. These issues are also addressed in Chapter 5 (Action Plan), which forms an integral part of the final Essex and South Suffolk SMP. This SMP needs to identify the intent of management and associated policy for

each section of the shoreline, over the short, medium and long term up to 2105. All SMPs use the following three time periods, which are referred to as epochs:

- epoch 1 (short term): now till 2025;
- epoch 2 (medium term): 2026 – 2055;
- epoch 3 (long term): 2056 – 2105.

For the later epochs, as uncertainty increases, the intent of management and associated policies will be less fixed. Shoreline management planning is an ongoing process, so SMPs are reviewed as new information and knowledge becomes available. This review normally happens every five to ten years.

What the SMP does *not* cover

The text box below lists some of the things that Shoreline Management Plans do not cover, with reference to the processes and documents that do deal with these issues.

- Setting the standard of protection of defences and determining the interventions needed to implement the policies: these will be determined in more detailed studies beyond the SMP, for example System Asset Management Plans or Strategy studies.
- Guarantee funding of policies: the SMP aims to develop realistic policies, but more detailed studies such as Project Appraisal are needed to ascertain the availability of funding, from national, local or third party budgets.
- Alignments of any new defences and measures to mitigate the impacts of policies: the SMP identifies these where relevant, but they will be developed in detail in later stages, particularly in the design of schemes. This can include realignment of footpaths, mitigating impacts on the historic environment, etc. These processes in their own right will include consultation and will require all relevant permissions.
- Land use planning: this happens through the local authorities' Local Development Frameworks; they use the SMP as evidence to identify areas at risk.
- Management of habitats: the SMP can play an important role in influencing the future of habitats where these depend on coastal processes. However, all designated habitats have their own management plans and / or objectives which provide the basis for site management, including the impact of the habitats on designated species.

1.2 Project area

The project area is the section of shoreline for which the SMP describes the plan and sets the policies. For the Essex and South Suffolk SMP this extends from Landguard Point (the eastern boundary of the port of Felixstowe) in the north to Two Tree Island (just west of Southend) in the south. Chapter 2 provides a characterisation of the project area and explains how the character of the area has played a vital role in the development of the plan.

The exact locations of the two 'open coast boundaries' are:

- northern boundary – at the start of Felixstowe port docks, near Landguard fort. This is the southern boundary of the Suffolk SMP so there is no gap or overlap between the two SMPs.
- southern boundary – on the mainland, the boundary is at the eastern end of Hadleigh marshes, at the limit of the defences managed by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. The SMP project area also includes the whole of Two Tree Island (Figure 1-4). This island is divided administratively between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Castle Point Borough Council, although Southend-on-Sea Borough Council owns the freehold of the entire island.

The southern boundary at Two Tree Island was selected following liaison between the Environment Agency and the Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) project team. The result is an overlap of the SMP and TE2100 study areas between Shoeburyness and Two Tree Island. This overlap was allowed so that issues related to coastal/estuarine erosion could be looked at. These boundaries represent a change from the original SMP which extended from the River Mardyke in the Thames estuary to Lawford in the Stour estuary.



Figure 1-3 Felixstowe Port - northern boundary



Figure 1-4 Two Tree Island – southern boundary

The SMP area also includes the estuaries of the rivers Roach, Crouch, Blackwater, Colne, Stour and Orwell, and the tidal inlet of Hamford Water. The 'upstream boundaries' of the SMP in the estuaries have been selected to match the downstream boundaries of the East Suffolk Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP), the North Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan and the South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (Figure 1-6). The exact locations of the estuary boundaries are:

- Orwell estuary – Horseshoe weir and Handford Sluice in Ipswich
- Stour estuary – the Cattawade barrage sluice
- Colne estuary – the Colne barrier at Wivenhoe
- Blackwater estuary – the weirs at Beeleigh falls, Maldon
- Crouch estuary – the Battles bridge at Battlesbridge
- Roach estuary – the Stambridge Mills and Sutton Bridge at Rochford

In practice, this means that the SMP develops shoreline management policies up to and including the outfall structures, taking into account their role in protecting the river valleys against tidal flooding. The role of the outfall structures as a downstream boundary for the rivers has been included in all three CFMPs. These plans include the issue of tide-locking where high tide levels limit river outflow which can cause river flooding inland.

The CFMP policies apply to all properties and infrastructure in the flood plain inland from the river outfalls. The CFMPs' policies for this area are:

North Essex CFMP

Lower Blackwater - policy 3

Colchester - policy 4

Coastal streams - policy 2

Harwich - policy 3

Clacton and Jaywick - policy 3

Heybridge - policy 5

South Essex CFMP

Rural Dengie tidal -policy 2

Southend / Rayleigh policy 5

East Suffolk CFMP

Suffolk Coast and Heaths - policy 2

Ipswich and suburbs -policy 5

Explanation of the CFMP policies:

- policy 2 – reduce flood risk management. The area is at low to moderate risk of river flooding which means that it is generally possible to reduce existing flood risk management actions
- policy 3 - continue existing/alternative actions -Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we are generally managing existing flood risk effectively
- policy 4 - take action to sustain current level of flood risk -Areas of low, moderate or high flood risk where we are already managing the flood risk effectively but where we may need to take further actions to keep pace with climate change
- policy 5 - take further action to reduce flood risk -Areas of moderate to high flood risk where we can generally take further action to reduce flood risk

The North Essex, South Essex and East Suffolk CFMPs were published in 2010. A non-technical summary and post-adoption statement are available to download from the Environment Agency's website at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/114303.aspx>. The SMP has taken the policies in this CFMP into account in developing the shoreline management policies.



Figure 1-5: Essex and South Suffolk SMP2 area

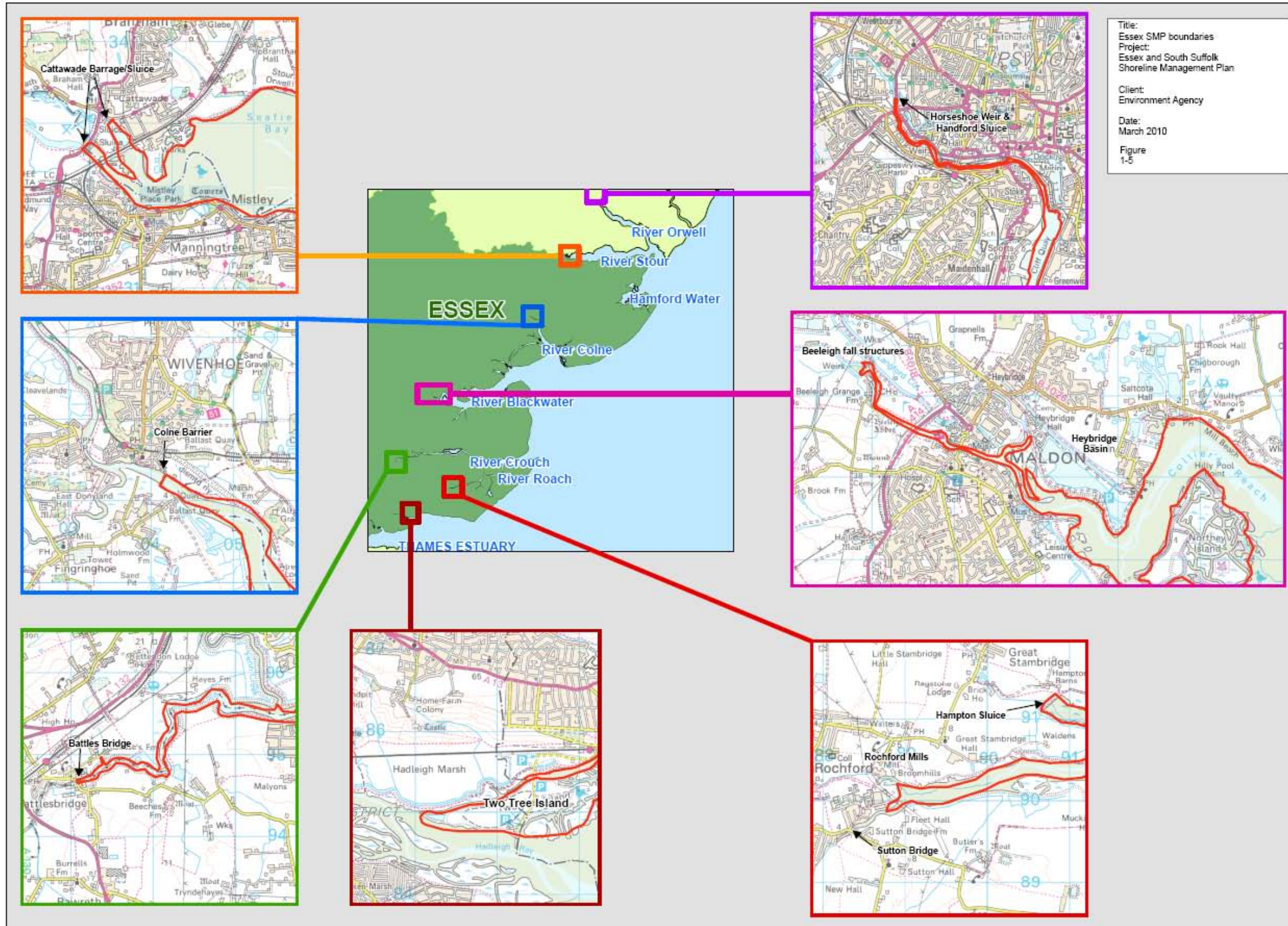


Figure 1-6: Essex and South Suffolk SMP2 tidal boundaries

A much wider area has been taken into account in developing the plan. This study area includes everything that can influence shoreline management, and everything that can be influenced by it. This study area covers much of the North Sea, the rivers up to at least their tidal limit, the whole area within the tidal floodzone, and to some extent also the hinterland and further afield that has links to all the features in and around the Essex and South Suffolk shoreline.

1.3 Developing the SMP

1.3.1 Organisations involved

The SMP has been developed in partnership with all relevant authorities. These include the authorities that manage the shoreline, planning authorities, statutory stakeholders and other organisations which have a relevant interest or responsibility. These organisations have been involved through both officers and elected members.

The SMP is the long-term plan of the authorities that manage the shoreline. For the Essex and South Suffolk SMP this concerns:

- the Environment Agency (who manage most of the flood defences in the area);
- Tendring District Council (who manage the high ground shoreline between Walton and Clacton);
- Southend Borough Council (who manage the high ground shoreline and flood defences between Shoeburyness and Two Tree Island).

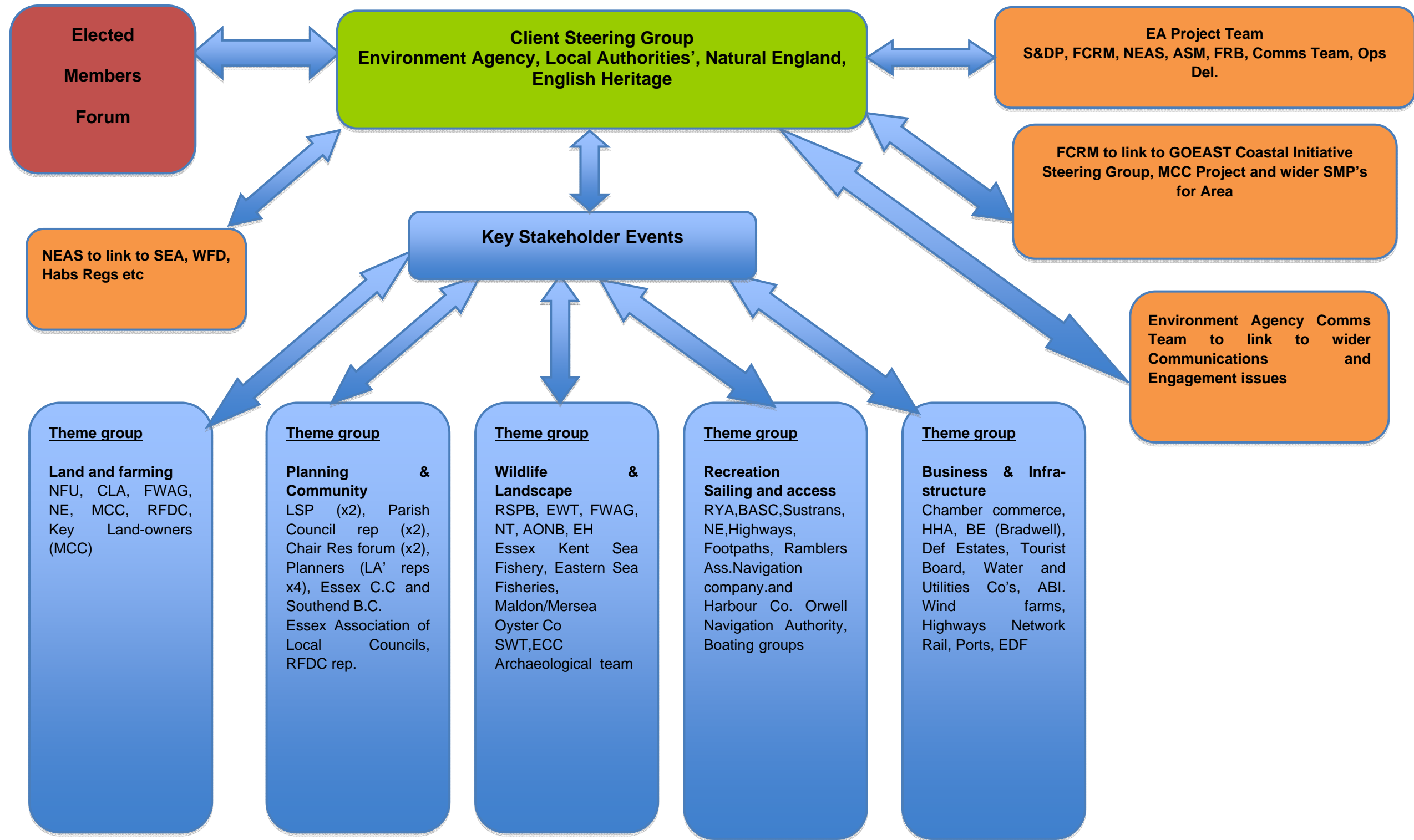
Interaction between the SMP and land-use planning is essential, so all planning authorities have been involved as full partners. This involves the following nine local authorities and two county councils:

- Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Ipswich Borough Council
- Babergh District Council
- Tendring District Council (as well as their role as a shoreline management authority for part of their coastline)
- Colchester Borough Council
- Maldon District Council
- Chelmsford Borough Council
- Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (as well as their role as a shoreline management authority for part of their coastline)
- Rochford District Council
- Essex County Council
- Suffolk County Council

The statutory stakeholders for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (see section 1.5) are:

- Natural England
- English Heritage

Figure 1-7: : Essex & South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan Structure



1.3.2 Stakeholder involvement

Appendix B contains a detailed account of the way in which we have involved stakeholders in developing the Essex and South Suffolk SMP. The process of developing this SMP has been led by the organisations listed above (the Client Steering Group). We have also involved members from the local authorities, county councils and the Environment Agency's Regional Flood Defence Committee in the Elected Members' Forum. These representatives have scrutinised the SMP process from the start, and have provided a way for these authorities to influence the draft and final plan.

We have developed a stakeholder engagement approach using the 'Building Trust with Communities; Working with Others' approach, based on Environment Agency Staff Guidance. However, given the very large numbers of stakeholders within the SMP boundary area, we have had to carry out further stakeholder analysis to make sure we reach those who represent large groups of individuals or organisations. For the initial stages of evidence gathering and verifying data we engaged with those key stakeholders who represent significant numbers of people or groups with the most at stake around the Essex and South Suffolk coast, and its hinterland. We held meetings for these key stakeholders to inform them of the SMP review and to involve them in identifying the themes and issues they value around the Essex and South Suffolk coast. These groups have also been able to consider our evidence and add local information and perspectives that have helped to shape the draft and final plan.

As we started to determine draft policies we engaged on a more local basis with those groups and individuals most likely to be affected by a change in management policy. This was to make sure that any change in policy was explained fully and that those affected had the opportunity to ask questions on a one-to-one basis. This helped us to give them support and advice in understanding their role in managing changes at the coast.

It is an essential part of engagement to ensure that everyone potentially affected, both directly and indirectly, feels involved in and informed of what is happening to their coast. It is vital that we secure maximum participation in the public consultation, and that we enable all those who want to be involved, to get involved through a method that is appropriate and relevant to them. As part of our stakeholder mapping in preparation for the public consultation and owing to the large geographical nature of this SMP, we used a professional communications research company to further map out the community, organisations and businesses. As part of this work we particularly looked at what strands of diversity needed particular care. Our research indicated that in our public consultation we needed to ensure that we consider age, faith, race, those

who are less able, hard to reach communities (Travellers) second home owners and tourists.

Using the information we collected we planned out our programme of publicity and engagement for the public consultation. Using our evaluations and feedback we undertook a review mid-way through the consultation to make sure that we had a fully representative view from the broader community and also held additional events and meetings to maximise involvement. Summary documents for this research are included.

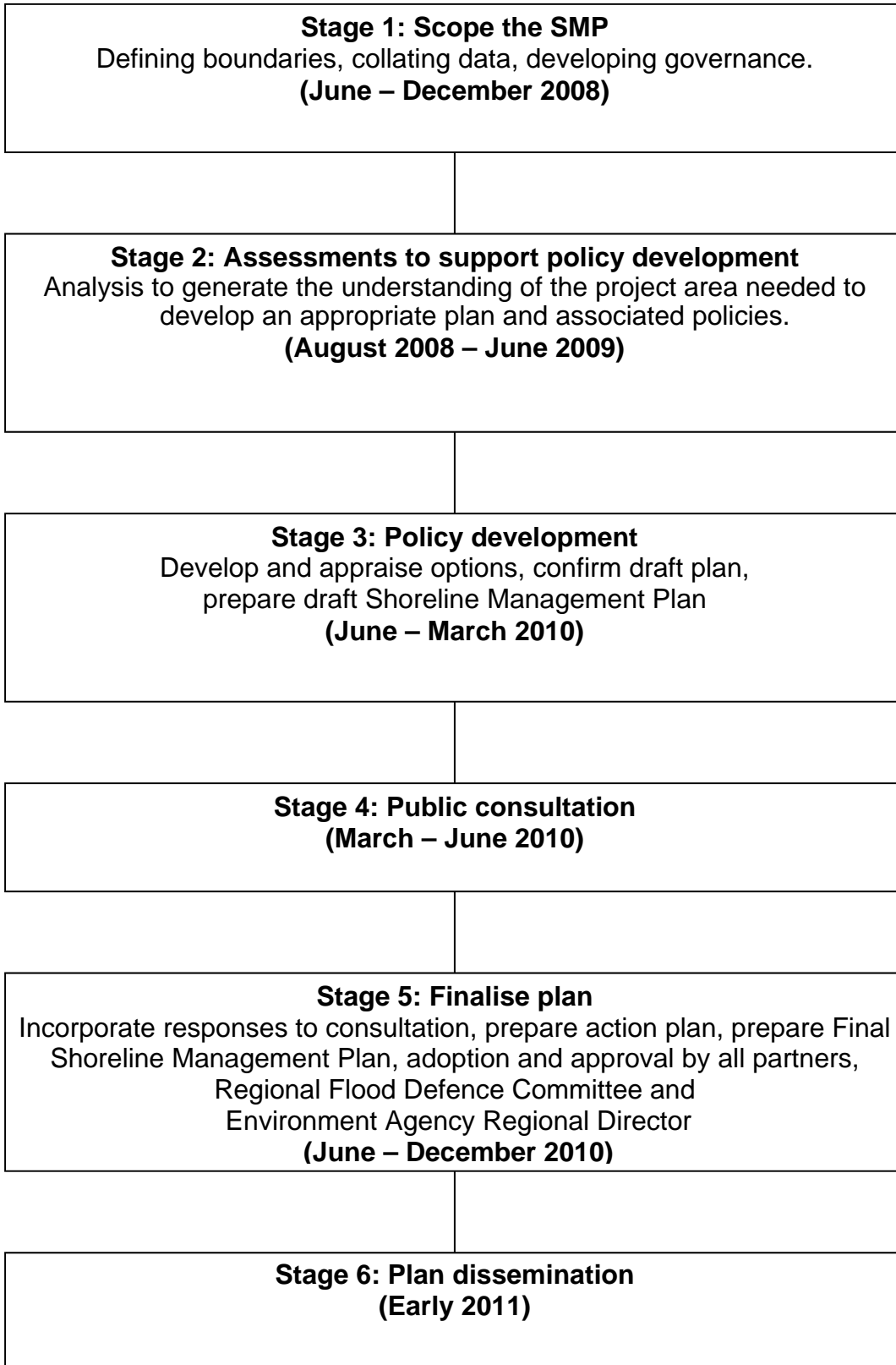
In addition to our commitment to address equality and inclusion we have been transparent and accountable. We have been able to respond efficiently to requests under the Freedom of Information Act as well as independent inspection.

To engage wider audiences we held drop-in sessions and produced newsletters and press briefings. These ensure that the public and other stakeholders were aware of the plan review and were updated about progress and how to get involved through the public consultation.

All feedback received during and after the public consultation can be found in Appendix B. We have also produced a consultation table which is a catalogue of all comments received and if relevant indicates where they have been addressed in the main document or appendices. This can also be found in Appendix B.

1.3.3 Overview of SMP development process

The development of SMPs follows the principles and processes set out in the Shoreline Management Plan guidance issued by Defra in March 2006. The Defra SMP guidance identifies six stages in which the SMP is drafted (Stages 1 to 3), consulted upon (Stage 4) and finalised (Stages 5 and 6). The flow diagram below illustrates this process with the timelines for the Essex and South Suffolk SMP.



Appendix A contains more detailed information about how the SMP has been developed (stages 1, 2 and 3).

The final plan will be adopted by the EA Regional Director, following adoption by the partner authorities that manage coastal defences (Southend and Tendring) and ratification by all other partner organisations.

1.4 Principles for shoreline management of the Essex and South Suffolk coast

The development of the SMP has been based on a set of principles agreed among all organisations involved in the process. Some of these principles can be, by their nature, contradictory and this is one of the main challenges of shoreline management. It is unlikely, or even impossible, to satisfy all these principles fully everywhere so the SMP aims to provide the best achievable balance between the principles over the short, medium and long term. As a whole, this set of principles represents the balance of values to which the SMP aspires. The order of these principles below does not indicate the order of importance.

The principles have been used as a framework for developing policy appraisal criteria, to score and assess the impact locally of the various policy options for different stretches of the coast within the SMP area. The principles and associated criteria are presented in Table 1-1. Appendix E describes how these have been used to arrive at the SMP's policies.

Table 1-1: Essex and South Suffolk SMP principles and criteria

Principle	Criterion
To develop policies appropriate to the diverse character of the Essex and South Suffolk coast and its dynamic interaction of land and sea	Impact of policy package on the diverse character of the Essex and South Suffolk coast
	Impact of policy package on dynamic interaction of land and sea
To balance flood and erosion management with the assets and benefits that it protects	Number of properties (including businesses) within the tidal floodzone or at risk from erosion compared to the current number
	Judgement based on input about future opportunities

Principle	Criterion
To seek opportunities for managing the shoreline through natural coastal processes and take full account of longshore and cross-shore impacts	Use of natural processes (saltmarsh, longshore interaction)
	Positive and negative impact on other frontages
	Cross-shore impact on near shore activities
To develop policies that are resilient against future changes and associated uncertainty	Sensitivity of the policies to different assumptions for the main uncertainties.
To provide time and information for communities, individuals and partner organisations to adapt to any anticipated coastal change	Adequacy of time available for adaptation for communities, individuals and partner organisations
To support communities and sustainable development for the people living around the Essex and South Suffolk shoreline by managing the risk to community activities and infrastructure	Impact on infrastructure
	Impact on socio-economic activities
	Impact on public services (including schools, hospitals and emergency services)
	Impact on communities
	Impact on deprived communities
To support and promote the social and economic values of the Essex and South Suffolk coast to wider society	Impact on socio-economic features of regional, national or international significance

Principle	Criterion
To support conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity	Impact on the achievement of management objectives for designated habitats and species, keeping them in favourable condition (including no significant loss of extent or populations)
	Impact on the achievement of national and local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets, both within designated sites, undesignated sites, mosaic habitats and within the wider coastal countryside
	Impact on the achievement of management objectives for designated geological sites, keeping them in favourable condition
To contribute to maintaining and enhancing the evolving character of the coastal landscape	Impact on the character of the coastal landscape, including consideration of geological, geomorphological, historical environment and cultural features, and the role of settlements in the landscape
To support protection and promotion of the historic environment and its value for the heritage, culture and economy of the area	Impact on historic environment and its wider value
To support and enhance people's enjoyment of the coast by maintaining and enhancing access	Impact on access to and along the coast

1.5 Compliance with procedures

This SMP takes full account of the requirements of a number of important related fields. The SMP's inclusion of general sustainability criteria has been demonstrated through a signposting exercise based on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process. This is included in Appendix J. Compliance with the EU's Water Framework Directive is assessed in Appendix K. The SMP has been developed through a parallel and integrated process with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA, related to the associated EU Directive), and an Appropriate Assessment (AA, related to the EU's Habitats Directive). These are provided as stand-alone documents in Appendices L and M respectively.

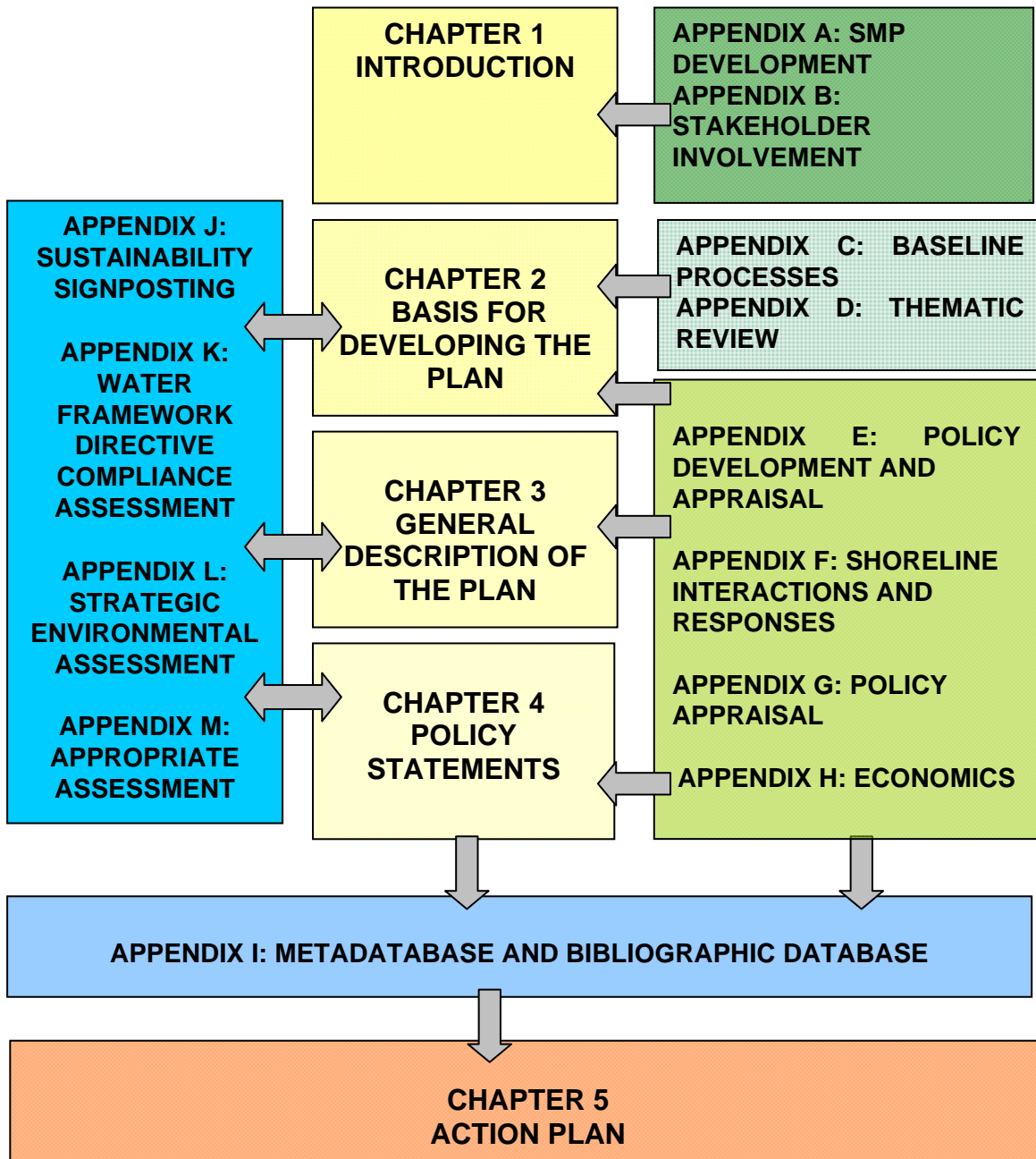
An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the engagement strategy for this SMP. The Equality Impact Assessment has ensured that everyone potentially affected, both directly and indirectly, feels involved in and informed of what is happening to their coast. More information on the Equality Impact Assessment and its findings can be found in Appendix B.

1.6 Structure of the Shoreline Management Plan

The Shoreline Management Plan consists of a plan document and a set of accompanying Appendices. The plan document is aimed at a wide audience, such as an elected member of a relevant authority or interested member of the general public. The plan document is intended to be as concise as possible, without missing out important details. The aim of the plan document is to justify the policies and to identify their implications. Information about alternative policies that were considered is included in the appendices.

The structure of the plan document including the Appendices is illustrated in the flow diagram below and explained in the following paragraph in more detail.

Figure 1-8 Structure of the SMP



Chapter 1 introduces the plan and is supported by the following appendices:

- Appendix A – explaining the different stages and tasks undertaken in the SMP process including graphics and diagrams to explain the logic of the SMP development;
- Appendix B – explaining how stakeholders have been involved in the development of the plan.

Chapter 2 provides the technical background, data and evidence which has formed the basis for the development of the plan. The following appendices support Chapter 2:

- Appendix C (Baseline processes) – explaining our understanding of the coastal and estuary processes and evolution of the Essex and South Suffolk coast;
- Appendix D (Thematic review) – describing land use and environmental values, including structured tables that describe the significance of each feature for shoreline management.

Throughout Chapter 2 there are references to Appendices E (Policy development and appraisal); F (Shoreline interactions and responses); G (Policy Appraisal) and H (Economics).

Chapters 3 and 4 describe the plan and policies. Chapter 3 provides a high level summary, the overall reasoning behind the plan, and the implications of the plan and policies. Chapter 4 then goes into more detail by providing the policy statements for each management unit, supported by four policy maps illustrating the present-day situation, epoch 1, epoch 2 and epoch 3. The following Appendices support the description of the plan and policies and provide further background:

Appendix E gives a detailed description of the Policy Development and Appraisal process. It sets out the principles, criteria and indicators, including a description of the agreed approach, characterisation, criteria and indicators per frontage. It then describes the policy development process and provides further information to illustrate the approach.

Appendix F describes the impact on coastal and estuary evolution of two baseline management scenarios; this has been used to develop an understanding of the role of shoreline management in the SMP area, as a starting point for policy development. All data and results are presented in structured tables,. This appendix also provides the reasoning behind the identification of coastal risk areas, which includes the assessment of the coastal defences, and the flood and erosion risk per management unit. The following maps supporting the plan can be looked up in Appendix F:

- Coastal risk maps;
- Coastal defence maps (residual unmaintained defence life);
- Coastal flood risk maps;
- Coastal erosion risk maps.

Appendix G (Policy Appraisal) contains the detailed Policy Appraisal Tables for the selected policies.

Appendix H (Economics) provides a high-level assessment of the economic justification of the policies: are they viable, marginally viable or challenging. The Appendix also explains the method and approach behind the economic assessment.

Appendix I provides an overview of all data sources used in developing the SMP.

The SMP's inclusion of general sustainability criteria is demonstrated through a signposting exercise based on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process. This is included in Appendix J. Compliance with the EU's Water Framework Directive is assessed in Appendix K. The SMP has been developed through a parallel and integrated process with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA, related to the associated EU Directive), and an Appropriate Assessment (AA, related to the EU's Habitats Directive). These are provided as stand-alone documents in Appendices L and M respectively.

Finally, Chapter 5 (Action plan) gives an overview of the specific activities that the partner organisations have agreed for implementing the plan and policies.

The main SMP document is a technical report intended for use by operating authorities, planning authorities and statutory bodies in managing flood and coastal risk. We have also produced a non-technical summary, which is a short and easier to understand version of the main document. For this reason, it only contains information that is included in the main document itself, and not in any of the appendices. The non-technical summary document is aimed at a wider audience than the main document and is intended for wider public use.