

4 Policy statements

4.1 Introduction

The policy statements in this section outline the policies for each policy development zone (PDZ). They are illustrated by the policy maps and accompanied by additional information that was used to appraise, select and confirm these policies. There is one policy statement for each management unit, consisting of the following elements:

Overall summary of the plan and description of the plan in the three epochs

This is a description in text of the plan and policies. The text starts with the overall intent for the Management Unit. It then describes the different policies throughout the Unit, and summarises their impacts (both positive and negative).

Summary table of the policies per PDZ

This is a table that summarises the policy per PDZ for all three epochs. It lists the policy label (HtL, MR, AtL or NAI) and explains what this means locally. The text box on the next page explains how the four policy labels have been applied to the various intents of management that the SMP proposes.

Description of changes compared to present shoreline management

This highlights where this SMP is proposing changes from the current management. For the open coast frontages, the first SMP produced in 1996 is used as the reference. For the estuaries, which were not included in the first SMP, the reference is the existing management. Although Flood Risk Management Strategies have been undertaken for the Essex estuaries only the Roach and Crouch Estuary Strategy contained fully appraised management policies. Information from all the estuary studies has been included in the development of the SMP.

The main aim of the Shoreline Management Plan is to develop an ‘intent of management’ for the shoreline that achieves the best possible and achievable balance of all the values and features around the shoreline for the coming 100 years. This intent of management constitutes the actual plan. For all SMPs nationally, the plan for each section of shoreline is then translated into one of four policy labels (see also section 1.1):

- **Hold the line (HtL)** – means holding the defence line where it is now. The SMP does not determine an intended standard of protection for defences: this needs more detailed study beyond the SMP, in strategy studies or asset management plans. However, for some frontages the SMP can indicate an intent to maintain or upgrade the standard of protection. This is explained further in the next paragraph.
- **Advance the line (AtL)** – means building new defences seaward of the existing defence line.
- **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, all characterised by managing change, either technically, for land use or for the environment. For the Essex and South Suffolk SMP, two distinct types of Managed Realignment are relevant, see below.
- **No active intervention (NAI)** – no further investment in coastal defences or operations.

Even though the SMP does not determine an intended standard of protection, there are frontages where the broad scale analysis of the SMP gives sufficient confidence about the benefits and costs to state an intent to maintain or upgrade the standard of protection, including taking into account impacts of climate change. For clarity, we have added a + sign to the policy labels for these frontages. Note that for the other frontages, it may also be possible to maintain or even upgrade the standard of protection, but this will require more detailed study beyond the SMP.

This can be the case for any policy that contains defences, i.e. HtL, AtL or MR, as follows:

Policy label	Intent of management
HtL+	Maintain or upgrade the standard of protection, including
AtL+	taking into account impacts of climate change
MR+	

There can be various types of managed realignment, and this is also the case for the Essex and South Suffolk SMP. This is explained for each PDZ in the intent of management but, to prevent any confusion, this SMP uses policy labels that identify various sub-types of the managed realignment policy, as follows:

Policy label	Intent of management
MR1	Allow local and limited intervention to limit the risks of erosion, as long as negative impacts are minimised. This may involve small scale works.
MR2	Breach of the frontline defence after building any necessary new landward defence line and counterwalls to limit flooding to adjacent areas.

Overview of effects related to the principles

The results of the policy appraisal process are illustrated in the policy statements by tables. A symbol was assigned to each of the principles as shown in Table 4-1.











Below that are the criteria that were used for the appraisal. The cells of the tables were then shaded in green, amber or red to visualise how the plan performs against the criteria and principles. The colours have the following meaning:

- green: the plan has a positive effect on the principle
- amber: the plan has a neutral effect on the principle
- red: the plan has a negative effect on the principle
- grey: the principle does not apply to the PDZ (for example, the infrastructure symbol is grey for PDZs where there are no roads or utilities that can be affected by policies of the SMP).

Appendix E describes the full process of appraisal, and provides the baseline data used to derive the scoring.

Policy maps

Each policy statement contains a set of four policy maps to illustrate the plan: the present day situation and a map for each epoch.

	To balance flood and erosion management with the assets and benefits that it protects.
	To seek opportunities for managing the shoreline through natural coastal processes and take full account of longshore and cross-shore impacts.
	To provide time and information for communities, individuals and partner organisations to adapt to any anticipated coastal change.
	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.
	To support and promote the social and economic values of the Essex and South Suffolk coast to wider society.
	To support conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity.
	To support protection and promotion of the historic environment and its value for the heritage, culture and economy of the area.
	To support and enhance people's enjoyment of the coast by maintaining and enhancing access.
	To develop policies appropriate to the diverse character of the Essex and South Suffolk coast and its dynamic interaction of land and sea.
	To contribute to maintaining and enhancing the evolving character of the coastal landscape.

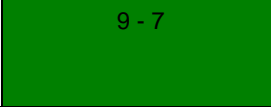
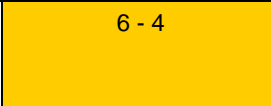

Decreasing fulfilment of criteria ↓	Description	Associated colour and scores
	Good performance of the policy against the criterion	9 - 7 
	Average performance of the policy against the criterion	6 - 4 
	Poor performance of the policy against the criterion	3 - 1 

Table 4-1 Key to appraisal tables