

Appendix 1

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Our Ref: 35.1.1.JAD
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25 June 2010

Dear Ian

ESSEX & SOUTH SUFFOLK SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Please find below the comments of Suffolk Coastal District Council in response to the consultation draft of the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan. The comments are subject to formal ratification by the Council's Deputy Leader who is currently on holiday, but we will confirm by 9th July any amendments to the text below.

General comments

The District Council supports the underlying principles as set out in the consultation draft. However as the European Union & the UK Government have adopted and promoted the concept of Integrated Coastal Zone Management as the most effective means of addressing the multiple interests of the coastal zone and in recognition of the fact that the management of the shoreline can have implications for a wide range of socio-economic and environmental interests it would seem appropriate to state at the outset of the final plan the role that it has in helping to deliver ICZM on the Suffolk and Essex coasts.

The Council also wishes to ensure that the primary purpose of designation of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, i.e. the protection of this nationally important landscape, is reflected in the adopted policy framework for, and subsequent delivery of shoreline management on the Orwell and Stour Estuaries. In this respect the recognition of the existing delivery mechanisms i.e. the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Partnership (not the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as referred to in the draft) and the Stour and Orwell Estuary Planning Partnership are extremely important.

There is a very clear need to both establish and maintain high levels of community engagement throughout the life of the Shoreline Management Plan particularly if the communities in question are to be experiencing changes in the management of their local shoreline. It is therefore essential that the Action Plan sets out the mechanisms by which this will be achieved.

Monitoring and further study to provide a sound basis for the future review of the shoreline management plan has been quite rightly identified as an action for inclusion in the Action Plan. The scope of the monitoring and research should be broadly-based to reflect not only changes in the understanding of coastal processes and impacts of climate change but also changes in demographics,

infrastructure and economy and where relevant, the impacts on both marine and terrestrial habitats and landscape quality.

Specific comments

Area policies – north bank of the Stour Estuary

The Council is satisfied that the policies proposed for the north shore of the River Orwell are reasonable and the timeframes in which changes are proposed are sufficient to allow for local communities to adapt.

The Council does however reflect the view held by the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit that the importance to the landscape of the freshwater habitats that are located behind the river walls should not be under-estimated and that wherever feasible any loss of such habitat will be mitigated by the creation of replacement habitat close by. It is believed that opportunities to achieve this outcome exist at Trimley Marsh and Loompit Lake, both of which have managed realignment policies in the second epoch.

I hope that these comments are of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Schofield
Strategic Director