

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE

HELD ON TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2009

Present: Councillor A Napier (Chair)
Councillors D Myers, Mrs A Naylor,
G Patterson, F Shaw and R J Todd

Apologies: Councillors R Crute, Mrs J Freak
and P G Ward

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 13 January 2009, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
2. **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP2)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Liveability in relation to SMP2, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The report sought approval of the River Tyne to Flamborough Head SMP2 compiled by the North Eastern Coastal Authorities Group in consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and DEFRA.

Members were advised that a Shoreline Management Plan was a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and sought to reduce the risk to people and the developed historic and natural environment.

Whilst it was a non-statutory policy document it did take account of other existing planning initiatives and legislative requirements, and informed wider strategic planning.

The Plan reflected any significant changes since SMP1 which was adopted in 1997 and recommended a prioritised programme of strategy plan development or reviews, an outline of timing of possible future schemes, established any actions that would be required to resolve uncertainties and any actions that may be necessary to deal with the consequences of the Plan. It also suggested a process for informing stakeholders of progress against the actions.

An Action Plan was proposed within SMP2 which would not only be influenced by priorities such as the condition of beaches, sea walls and coastal slopes but would also take account of coastal erosion, sea level rise and climate change.

The recommendation in the SMP2 document for the Easington section of coast was to 'Hold the Line' at Seaham. This was to undertake any necessary new works or improvements to existing defences to ensure that there was no further erosion that may compromise existing infrastructure, new developments or any future proposals.

The remainder of the coastline from south of Seaham Harbour to the District boundary with Hartlepool had been identified as 'No Active Intervention' to allow the continuation of the natural processes and allow erosion to continue.

SMP2 was to be adopted by the seven local authority partners, the Environment Agency and Natural England. Once adopted the Plan would be the document by which the Council would pursue its coastal management in the future and through which decisions upon developments and initiatives would be founded.

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The report also outlined future management of the Plan. The SMP2 Project Management Group would be responsible for undertaking ongoing strategic monitoring and strategy plans for policy units, and bi-annual reviews would be carried out to monitor progress of the SMP2 Action Plan. Formal reviews would be undertaken if there were any significant changes in local conditions.

RESOLVED that the River Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan 2, compiled by the North Eastern Coastal Authorities Group in consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and DEFRA, be adopted.

3. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, Section 100B(4)(b) the Chair, following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that one item of business, not shown on the Agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency. However, in view of the confidential nature of the item, it be considered following the exclusion of the press and public.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

5. EARLY RETIREMENT/VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY – SKIP SERVICE

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Resources which gave details of a request for early retirement/voluntary redundancy under the Council's new Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy Policy. A copy of the report had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the request for early retirement/voluntary redundancy be approved and the post be deleted from the staffing establishment;
- (b) an announcement publicising the withdrawal of the skip service be made with sufficient notice to allow current users to make alternative arrangements.

6. LAND AT NORTH BLUNTS, PETERLEE (AOB)

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Resources in relation to the disposal of land at North Blunts, Peterlee, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that

- (a) approval be granted to the disposal of land at North Blunts, Peterlee;
- (b) approval be granted to the release of the restrictive covenant on the site owned by Durham County Council to enable it's redevelopment;

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- (b) permission be granted to enter into an 'Exclusivity Agreement' with the developers until 31 July 2009.

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