Coastal Partners

Environmental Statement

Appendix I

Statement of Community Involvement

Langstone FCERM SCHEME

August 2024

Langstone FCERM Scheme Environmental Statement

Appendix I

Statement of Community Involvement

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Langstone Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) scheme aims to deliver the leading coastal defence option for the Langstone frontage, in order to reduce flood risk, as recommended by the Portchester to Emsworth FCERM Strategy (EA, 2011). The scheme frontage extends for approximately 1km and protects 53 residential and 4 business properties. A further 6 residential properties not currently at risk but will become at risk by 2040 due to climate change will also be better protected within the lifetime of this scheme.

The option appraisal and outline design stage were completed in October 2020. This stage considered a range of solutions across the frontage, of varying designs and alignments. Each solution was subject to an appraisal, and as such options were filtered down to those providing the most viable solution across a range of measures (technical, environmental, economic).

Coastal Partners launched the detailed design phase in Autumn 2020 which was completed in January 2024.

In the early stages of project initiation, stakeholder engagement was highlighted as key to the success of this project, especially as the site is popular with the local community and visitors. Engagement with the local community and other stakeholders commenced in 2018 at outline design stage and has continued right up to the submission of this planning and marine licence application in tandem with the design development so that feedback from local landowners and stakeholders could be incorporated.

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) outlines the engagement undertaken to date. Further details can be found within the project's live Stakeholder Engagement Plan which can be made available upon request. This contains a log of all engagement undertaken to date. In addition, there is a wealth of reporting available upon request or available publicly online within the scheme area of the Coastal Partners website - https://coastalpartners.org.uk/project/langstone-coastal-defence-scheme/

1.2 Policy Requirement

Statement of Community Involvement

Havant Borough Council adopted a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in September 2022 which sets out broad guidance for planning applicants on the methodology for the pre-application consultation and engagement. It states that:

> '*Applications may need to be supported by a statement setting out how the applicant has complied with the requirements for pre-application consultation and demonstrating that the views of the local community have been sought and taken into account in the formulation of development proposals. The level of consultation should be proportionate to the scale and significance of the application.'*

'The Borough Council considers it very important that local people are involved in the development management process as early as possible. The Council therefore encourages applicants on major, significant or sensitive sites to engage with the community before a planning application is submitted.'

This document provides details of how the above has been met.

EIA Regulations 2017

The 2017 EIA Regulations, notably Regulation 4, states that the environmental impact process should consist of "any consultation, publication and notification required by, or virtue of, these Regulations". Consultation bodies are defined by the 2017 EIA Regulations as "any body which the relevant planning authority is required to consult, or would, if an application for planning permission for the development in question were before them, be required to consult by virtue of article 18 (consultation, before grant of permission)".

Localism Act 2011

The Localism Act 2011, notably Part 6, Chapter 4 sets out the pre-application consultation requirements for planning applications and in accordance with Section 61W, the applicant has undertaken public consultation with persons who live at, or otherwise occupy premises in the vicinity of the land, and as required by Section 61X has taken account of the responses received.

As a major project, additional consultation has been carried out over and above the statutory requirements detailed above. This is detailed within this report.

2. Engagement Methodology

2.1 Aims and Objectives of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was produced at both the options appraisal and outline design stage and the detailed design stage. They have served as live documents that outline a framework for engagement with project stakeholders throughout the development of the design phase and keep a log of all engagement activities. These can be made available upon request.

The aim of a stakeholder engagement plan is to provide a framework for engagement throughout the development of a project.

In order to achieve this aim, the following objectives are outlined:

I. To define stakeholders and categorise according to association with the project and their requirements and expectations.
II. To outline the principles of engagement.
III. To set out engagement methods.

IV. Manage the expectations of stakeholders and the needs of the project.
V. To recognise the value of stakeholder engagement for all parties.
VI. To define any known potential engagement challenges.
VII. To set out reporting requirements.
VIII. To set out quality control requirements.
IX. To prepare a project specific engagement approach that compliments project milestones and decision points.
X. To define roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the SEP.
XI. Enable logging of stakeholder engagement as it is completed, generating a summary of engagement.

2.2 Defining Stakeholders and Stakeholder Groups

A stakeholder can be defined as an individual, group or organisation who is impacted by the outcome of (or process involved with) a project. They have an interest in the project's success and can have a positive or negative influence on this.

2.2.1 Principles of Engagement

Effective stakeholder engagement involves interactions between the project team, groups and individuals, which provides stakeholders with an opportunity to raise concerns and opinions and ensures that this information is taken into consideration when making decisions. Stakeholder engagement will be underpinned by the following principles:

Commitment	*A commitment to a scheme that delivers benefit to the community*
Integrity	*Engage in a manner that fosters mutual respect and trust*
Respect	*Recognise community and stakeholder values, beliefs and interests*
Transparency	*Providing information and respond to concerns appropriately*
Inclusiveness	*Provide opportunity for and encourage broad participation*
Reflection	*Create opportunities to listen, reflect and learn*

2.2.2 Stakeholder Groups

Statutory Consultees and Pre-Planning Advice

Representatives of regulators and statutory consultees with whom bespoke, formal consultation is acquired under a pre-application arrangement on specific matters:

Havant Borough Council (HBC)
- Local Planning Authority
- Civil Engineering & Landscape
- Conservation Officer
- Tree Officer
- Regeneration
- Emergency Planning
- Estates

Hampshire County Council (HCC)

- Estates
- Countryside Services, Public Rights of Way
- County Archaeologist

Hampshire Highways
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
Natural England (NE)
Historic England (HE)
Environment Agency (EA)

This consultation has been used to inform the licence and consenting requirements for any site investigations or construction works.

Technical Steering Group

Representatives of lead organisations, with established influence and interest in project, including regulatory bodies. Project steering group representatives work in partnership to deliver a technically, environmentally and economically balanced FCERM scheme at Langstone, and provide feedback and input to the decision-making process. Engagement with the steering group members is primarily based on correspondence between them and Coastal Partners on specific matters of interest.

Havant Borough Council (HBC)
Hampshire County Council (HCC)
Environment Agency (EA)
Historic England (HE)
Natural England (NE)
Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC)
Langstone Harbour Board (LHB)
The Crown Estate (TCE)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

Langstone Stakeholder Working Group

Representatives of lead organisations and community groups, those directly impacted by the scheme, and those with specific interest in the project. The Langstone Stakeholder Working Group (LSWG) met at three key design milestones during detailed design and have their own Memorandum of Understanding.

Havant Civic Society
HBC Conservation Officer
Langstone Residents Association
Langstone Village Association
Langstone Sailing Club
Langstone Cutters Rowing Club
Langstone Flood Watch
Save Our Shores
Solent Protection Society

Langstone Conservation Group
The Ship Inn Manager
The Royal Oak Estate Manager
Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Langstone Harbour Board
Royal Oak Frontline Cottages Group (FLAG)
Langstone Road Residents Group
Coastguard Cottages Residents Group
Mill Lane and Harbourside Sea Defence Group
HBC Cllrs (*Unless pre-election period restricts attendance)

3rd Party Professional Services

Further to the Consultees listed above, further professional services have been appointed to assist with the development of the project. These provide specialist services in relation to Heritage and Archaeological Support, Early Contractor Involvement, and a Cost Consultancy.

Frontline Residents and Businesses

In preparation for the detailed design phase, residents and businesses directly impacted by the leading options were engaged with separately through individual 1-2-1 meetings. Level of impact varies between individual properties, with some being located adjacent to the alignment, and others forming an integral part of the proposal. There are also several Utility Suppliers who have assets located along the frontage, who have been consulted with directly throughout to identify design solutions.

Community Leaders

In order to provide updates to community leaders, briefings were provided at design milestones for the HBC Coastal Communities Lead and Cabinet. Community leaders (ward Councillors) were also invited to the Langstone Stakeholder Working Group.

Wider Community and interests

Representatives of the local community and interested parties have been updated at key milestones and been able to attend public events (whether hosted online or in person), providing opinion through feedback questionnaires and social media. Local residents have also been able to sign up to receive updates through our new eNewsletter, which has included further information and outlined how they can participate further.

2.2.3 Engagement Methods

A variety of engagement methods has been used at each stage of the project to encourage participation, raise awareness of the scheme, and update on progress.

Engagement methods include, but are not limited to:

Briefings and presentations
Face-to-face meetings and site visits
Workshops
Exhibitions
Virtual Exhibitions, digital webinars and other emerging technology
Displays, notice boards and signage
Newsletters and e-Newsletters
Booklets and posters
Web based media including an updated website, questionnaires, social media
Press releases
Direct communication via email, telephone and virtual telecall
Online opinion polls and questionnaires
Use of a project specific shared email address as point of contact

This list is not exhaustive and various alternative or novel methods of engagement emerged as the project progressed. As the project evolved, the appropriate engagement was tailored to each stakeholder group.

Every effort has been made to ensure that all communication is clear, concise and free of technical language. This is particularly important with regards to engagement with the community.

3. Consultation and Engagement Programme

3.1 Outline Design Consultation and Engagement

3.1.1 Technical Steering Group

The project's Technical Steering Group was set up at the beginning of the option appraisal and outline design phase in 2018. The role of the Steering Group was to guide the delivery of the project, share knowledge, particularly regarding local issues, identify opportunities and constraints, ensure best practice and provide feedback and input to decision making.

3.1.2 Langstone Key Stakeholder Working Group (LSWG)

The Langstone Key Stakeholder Working Group (LSWG) was set up early in the project to provide opportunity for local community bodies and other key stakeholders to directly input into the development of the scheme. Three workshops were held throughout the outline design phase.

September 2018 – Project Start-up
November 2018 – Shortlisting Stage
July 2019 – Leading Options

#1 – Project Start-up

The aim of the workshop was to establish the LSWG, understand and agree the role of the group members, to share information and gather feedback through a series of tabletop exercises to achieve meaningful engagement and create working relationships. The purpose

of the interactive tabletop exercise was to explore questions and opportunities and to address concerns, gain a wider understanding of local aspirations and to understand what is viewed in the community as a successful scheme. The exercises were focused around Coastal Defences, Recreation and Access, and Wider Opportunities and Broader Considerations.

#2 – Shortlist

The aim of this workshop was to update on the work completed to date, to pass on the details of the shortlisting process, to share the options shortlisted and to explain the next steps of the study. The format included posters and a presentation followed by a group discussion.

#3 - Leading Options (July 2019)

The aim of the third workshop was to update on the work completed since the last meeting, to present the leading options, update on the funding situation, present the core scheme alignment and to explain the next steps.

The LSWG continued to meet during the Detailed Design Phase.

3.1.3 Langstone Collaborative Stakeholder Workshop – March 2020

A collaborative stakeholder workshop was held at the Havant Public Service Plaza. The aim was to provide an opportunity to revisit and discuss the drivers for a scheme and to explore the coastal defence options for Langstone as a community.

Members of the Langstone Stakeholder Working Group (LSWG), key representatives from the community with an interest in Langstone and front-line residents were invited to attend the workshop. Attendees included local residents within the scheme area, resident's associations, recreational groups, local businesses and conservation groups. In total there were 31 external attendees.

The collaborative workshop proved a valuable exercise in seeking the views and ideas of organisations and individuals from across the Langstone area, providing a platform for building trust and mutual collaboration. The feedback given during this meeting directly resulted in the assessment of and further engagement on an alternative defence alignment for the Royal Oak frontage.

3.1.4 Face-to-face Meetings – Outline Design

Following identification of the leading coastal management options, the project team spent a two-month period carrying out 14 face-to-face meetings with residents who may be directly affected by a potential scheme. The team were welcomed into the residents' homes to openly share and discuss the leading options. During this period the team also held face-to-face meetings with the Ship Inn, the Royal Oak, Langstone Sailing Club, Natural England, Historic England, Hampshire County Council, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and utility companies to discuss the leading options and potential funding contribution opportunities. The project team have also met in person, virtually and onsite with representatives of the Langstone SOS Group on a number of occasions to discuss their thoughts and ideas.

3.1.5 Public Events and Engagement

Shortlist of Options

Two public events were held in November 2018 in the Ship Inn and the Langstone Sailing Club to share the shortlist options. The events provided an opportunity for residents and visitors to find out more about the coastal defence study, speak to the project team and to share their views on the shortlisted options being put forward.

During the events, the local community were also invited to share their aspirations to improve the public space along the waterfront. Both events were well received and in total 114 people attended and over 50 questionnaires were completed which fed directly into the appraisal of the short list options to identify a preferred way forward for Langstone.

Leading Options

Two further public engagement exhibitions to disseminate the Langstone leading options were held on the 8th and 9th of January 2020 at Langstone Sailing Club and the Ship Inn. Over 200 people attended, and 90 questionnaires were completed during the events. Feedback from the Leading Options public events and results of the questionnaires were very mixed with widely differing opinions highlighted in the questionnaire responses.

Summary reports of the outcomes of these exhibitions are available upon request or on the scheme area of Coastal Partners website at www.coastalpartners.org.uk/project/langstone-coastal-defence-scheme/.

Questionnaires

Throughout the option appraisal and outline design phase of the scheme, several community questionnaires were provided, in order to invite feedback on the options as they developed (at the launch of the study phase, at the Shortlist and Preferred Option Exhibitions and on an alternative alignment).

Feedback from the January 2020 public events and the collaborative workshop in March 2020 clearly showed that a key concern was the seawall option along the Royal Oak frontage. Concerns raised related to impacts on views and heritage associated with a higher flood wall along this frontage. The community talked about an alternative option of reinforcing the quay while accepting some flooding in the future but with increased resilience of properties.

The project team took these concerns on board and revisited options for this section of the core scheme. As a result, two further options for the Royal Oak frontage were identified, incorporating an alternative defence alignment. Following an appraisal of the feasibility of this alternative alignment by our consultants AECOM, an engagement exercise was carried out with the community of Langstone to clarify which alignment was most supported by the community.

A report for each of these questionnaires is available upon request or on the scheme area of the Coastal Partners website at www.coastalpartners.org.uk/project/langstone-coastal-defence-scheme.

3.2 Detailed Design Consultation and Engagement

3.2.1 Langstone Key Stakeholder Working Group (LSWG)

During the detailed design phase, the Langstone Stakeholder Working Group *met on three* occasions:

Detailed Design Start-up (April 2021)
Detailed Design 50% design milestone (July 2022)
Detailed Design 80% design milestone (February 2024)

#1 – Detailed Design Start-up

The LSWG met virtually at the launch of Detailed Design on the 20th April 2021. The agenda included a presentation by the Project Team and discussion on the following:

Journey to date
Next Steps for Detailed Design
Questions and Answers
Forum on Funding Shortfall

Meeting minutes and slides were shared with LSWG Members and are available on the Coastal Partners website at www.coastalpartners.org.uk/project/langstone-coastal-defence-scheme.

#2 – Detailed Design 50% design milestone

The LSWG met in person at the Havant Borough Council Public Services Plaza on the 4th July 2022.

The agenda included a presentation by the Project Team providing a design update and discussion, followed by a breakout session.

Meeting minutes and slides were shared with LSWG Members and are available on the Coastal Partners website at www.coastalpartners.org.uk/project/langstone-coastal-defence-scheme.

#3 - Detailed Design 80% design milestone (February 2024)

The final (6th) Langstone Stakeholder Working group was held at Langstone Quays Resort on 23rd February 2023, to celebrate and share the 80% designs with key representatives of the community. Further detail, including the slides and meeting minutes are available on the Coastal Partners website at www.coastalpartners.org.uk/project/langstone-coastal-defence-scheme.

3.2.2 Community Participation Events

Coastal Partners and consultants AECOM hosted Community Participation Evenings for the Langstone FCERM Scheme on July 21st and July 22nd, between 4pm and 7pm. These events were hosted in Langstone and included a tour of the frontages, offering the opportunity for the community to ask questions and feedback on the design proposals for each frontage.

3.2.3 Frontline Residents and Business Consultation

Many meetings and engagement activities have been undertaken with frontline residents and businesses during detailed design stage. This has included at key project milestones or for specific points of discussion. Engagement methods have included face-to-face meetings, one-to-one meetings and in the form of letters.

All of these activities have been captured in the engagement log which can be made available upon request.

3.2.4 Community Drop In Sessions

A total of 6 sessions additional drop-in sessions were delivered to provide the community with a chance to attend and discuss the latest designs. The events were well attended and prompted discussions on key topics. Hot topic sessions were provided to cover emerging areas of discussion and debate (High Street Flood Gates, Frontage 2 redesign, Materials). The project team took away the questions and gave feedback to the designer on key areas of concern.

3.2.5 Public Exhibition

In January 2024, Coastal Partners on behalf of Havant Borough Council welcomed the community to the public exhibition of the Detailed Design of the Langstone Coastal Defence Scheme. This event was an opportunity for the community to share support for the scheme and provide feedback on any areas for further improvement. The event was attended by 171 individuals following a 4-week period of advertisement following digital and traditional methods.

The Project Team were in attendance to bring the scheme to life and answer any questions about the proposals. Samples of many of the materials proposed were also available to view.

The drop-in session provided time to read the information boards which covered the key design aspects. These were also available to view as a digital leaflet.

A survey was available at the exhibition and online. There were 85 respondents to the survey, the results of which are summarised below:

> Of the 85 respondents to the survey, **93% agreed that there is a need for the scheme to reduce the coastal flood and erosion risk at Langstone**. 3 respondents disagreed and 3 said they were not sure.
> **90% of respondents said they support the delivery of the Scheme**, subject to funds being secured. 8% said they did not support. 2% were not sure.
> **67% of respondents strongly supported the scheme proposals, whilst a further 21% said they somewhat supported the proposals.** 6% strongly opposed the proposals, with a further 4% somewhat opposing the proposals. 2% were neutral.

The full 2024 exhibition report is available here: https://coastalpartners.org.uk/static/media/resources/langstone-exhibition-summary-jan-2024.pdf.The exhibition posters are available in digital format here: https://coastalpartners.org.uk/langstone-detailed-design-public-exhibition

3.3 Other Engagement and Communications Activities

The scheme page on the Coastal Partners website has been updated regularly with the latest news and information and provides downloads for engagement material and reporting. A GovDelivery eNewsletter was set up with over 500 people signed up to the mailing list by the end of 2020. Articles have been issued in the Havant Borough Council 'Your Borough' magazine. Virtual events have been held, including video presentations recorded for the website particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Coastal Partners social media platforms have shared updates about the scheme and press releases have been issued at key stages.

A cabinet meeting was held in October 2020. Prior to this, Coastal Partners provided detailed information to inform a Cabinet Briefing, in addition to answering several questions raised by Cabinet Members. Furthermore, Coastal Partners met with the HBC Leader of the Council and local residents on site to discuss concerns raised in the lead up to the Cabinet Meeting.

A Cabinet Meeting was held in March 2024, recommending that Cabinet approves progression to complete the Panning and Consenting management stage of the project, of which this SCI supports.

3.4 Statutory Consultees

The project team have also engaged separately with statutory stakeholders to obtain advice and their support at the short list and leading options stages of the project, as well as through detailed design. This has included face-to-face, online meetings and site walkovers.

Their involvement and contributions have been embedded into the relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES).

4. Summary

The Borough Council considers it very important that local people are involved in the development management process as early as possible. The Council therefore encourages applicants on major, significant or sensitive sites to engage with the community before a planning application is submitted.

This document demonstrates that the project team has strived to meet the requirements of the Borough Council's adopted SCI throughout the community and stakeholder engagement process.

The project team have carried out far reaching engagement with the wider community, key stakeholders, statutory consultees and local businesses. This has involved providing information and opportunities to respond in a range of formats, including feedback forms, public workshops and face-to-face meetings, which recognises the Councils requirements within the SCI.