

OUR COASTLINE IS CHANGING

...and it could affect you!



We live in a spectacular part of the country that has been shaped by natural coastal processes. The shoreline is constantly changing, sometimes gradually, sometimes dramatically, and these changes have created some of the coast's most beautiful and important features. They also, however, represent a threat to many of our coastal communities.

To protect these communities, we have often had to resort to building coastal defences.

The threat of sea level rise, wetter winters and more frequent storm events will increase the pressure put on our existing coastal defences, some of which are reaching the end of their useful life. Decisions have to be made now about what can and cannot be protected in the future ... **we simply cannot afford to protect everywhere forever.**

These important decisions are made at a local level and are referred to as a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP).



Swanage seafront



Entrance to Poole Harbour



Bournemouth seafront



Entrance to Christchurch Harbour at Mudeford



Barton-on-Sea

WHAT IS A SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

In the mid 1990s, the Coastal Groups and local authorities of England & Wales were encouraged by Government to adopt the concept of SMPs, with a view to providing sustainable coastal defence plans.

An SMP sets out the policy for managing our coastline and how we respond to the threat of coastal flooding and the risks of erosion. It aims to balance those risks with natural processes and the consequences of climate change. It takes account of existing defences, the natural and built environments, and adjacent coastal areas.

YOUR LOCAL SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Your local SMP is managed by the Poole & Christchurch Bays Coastal Group which is a partnership of the five local authorities of Purbeck, Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch and New Forest.

The local SMP covers the 190km (118 miles) of coastline, harbours, estuaries and headlands between Durlston Head in the west and Hurst Spit in the east. It takes in the coastal communities of Swanage, Studland, Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch, Highcliffe, Barton-on-Sea and Milford-on-Sea.

The first local SMP (SMP1) was produced by the Poole & Christchurch Bays Coastal Group in 1999. Over the last 10 years we have made significant progress in understanding and mapping coastal processes and the SMP is now under review.

Following an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of SMP1 and full consultation with the industry, Government has recommended that a second generation of SMPs, known as SMP2, should consider coastal risk management over a 100 year timescale.

Your local SMP2 will be published in 2010 following a review which will:

- Predict, as accurately as possible, how our coast will react and adapt to erosion, sea level rise and climate change over the next 20, 50 and 100 years;
- Identify risks to the developed, historic and natural environments as the coast changes;
- Produce a policy framework to manage the risks in a sustainable manner over the next 100 years.

www.twobays.net
for further details & regular updates

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE SMP REVIEW?

The SMP divides the length of coast from Durlston Head to Hurst Spit into a number of 'policy units', and the review will identify one of four management policies for each policy unit along our local coastline:

- **No active intervention** meaning do nothing - no investment will be made in coastal defences or other operations other than for safety purposes.
- **Hold the existing line** which means maintaining the existing defences or changing the standard of protection.
- **Advance the line** which involves the building of new defences on the seaward side of existing defences.
- **Managed realignment** which means allowing the shoreline to retreat or advance in a controlled or managed way, either because that is the best approach for a stretch of coast, or because the benefits of protection are clearly out of scale with the financial costs.

Since May 2008 a wide range of interest groups, businesses and organisations have fed information into the review process and the draft SMP, including the proposed management policies, is due to be released for public examination on 25th November 2009. The final SMP will be published in April 2010.

HOW WILL THE SMP REVIEW AFFECT YOU?

The SMP Roadshow is your best opportunity to find out which of the four management policy options will apply to your stretch of coastline and the likely consequences.

Everyone is welcome to attend and the professionals will be available to answer your queries.

Christchurch - Monday 30th November

At the High Street Monday Market from 9.00am to 4.00pm and
At the Civic Offices Council Chamber from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

New Forest - Tuesday 1st December

At the Beachcomber Café, Marine Drive East, Barton-on-Sea
from 1.00pm to 7.00pm

Purbeck - Wednesday 2nd December

At Wareham Town Hall from 10.00am to 2.00pm and
At Swanage Town Hall from 3.00pm to 7.00pm

Bournemouth - Thursday 3rd December

At the BIC, Bourne Lounge from 10.00am to 6.00pm

Poole - Friday 4th December

At the Dolphin Centre from 9.30am to 4.00pm

You can also discover more about the review and the policies by visiting your local SMP website at www.twobays.net

The SMP review is managed by Poole and Christchurch Bays Coastal Group. Your local authority is:

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