

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2024

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT & COASTAL ADAPTION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

Purpose:

To raise awareness of the Authority's duties and obligations pertaining to coastal management and the risks posed by climate change and sea level rise

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in Report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Reason

To formulate views for submission to the Cabinet / Council for consideration

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen, Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Rhodri Griffiths

Designations:

Head of Place & Sustainability

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11TH MARCH 2024

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT & COASTAL ADAPTION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

This paper examines how Carmarthenshire County Council is managing our coastline. It provides a summary of the national and local policy approach pertaining to shoreline management and the activities delivered by the Authority in the management of our coastline. This paper then comments on the robustness of current preparedness and future requirements.

Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) has 90km of coastline which is both an asset in terms of biodiversity, ecosystems, leisure and tourism but also a liability in terms of management, maintenance and inspections. 15km (17%) of the Carmarthenshire coastline is hard engineered to protect against flooding and coastal erosion.

Recent analysis by the Flood Defence and Coastal Defence (FDCC) business unit highlights that we have 19 communities who are at risk of **tidal flooding** and **coastal erosion** in Carmarthenshire. This further equates to

- 2300 residential home at risk;
- Over 2600 properties in total at risk and
- 70 key services.

The Carmarthenshire coast, Hendy to Pendine, has 87 actions within the shoreline management plan policy document and just under 50% of these are the responsibility of the Authority. 18% of these actions have been completed over the last 23-years, 33% are ongoing and a little under half (49%) requiring actioning.

While for information only, this report requests support in exploring funding and better ways of working to deliver a number of actions to ensure that Carmarthenshire's coastal communities and businesses are informed and prepared for the risk of tomorrow.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed R Griffiths

Head of Place & Sustainability

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES

2. Legal

CCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has no statutory duty to protect residents and businesses from flooding.

Under section 21 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, it has a statutory obligation to maintain a register of flood risk assets.

The Shoreline Management Plan-2, the primary policy document pertaining to shoreline management, is a non-statutory policy document.

5. Risk Management Issues

The attached report has highlighted that there are 19 communities at risk of flooding along Carmarthenshire's coast. This equates to 2300 residential homes and 70 key services. In total there are over 2600 properties (home and business) at risk from coastal flooding and or coastal erosion.

6. Physical Assets

On the current flood risk asset database there are 177 flood and coastal erosion risk management assets along Carmarthenshire's coast. These are assets with an annual management and maintenance regime.

In addition to these FCERM assets, Carmarthenshire have property and land that requires adaption to manage the risk posed by climate change and sea level rise. There is currently no single database that allows the number or value of these assets to be quantified.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED

YES

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
There are none