

Agenda Item No: 9.5 **Report No:** 127/17

Report Title: Repair to the Sea Wall at Groyne 19, Friars Bay, Peacehaven.

Report To: Cabinet **Date:** 27th September 2017

Cabinet Member: Cllr Isabelle Linington

Ward(s) Affected: Peacehaven East and Peacehaven North

Report By: Ian Fitzpatrick, Director of Service Delivery

Contact Officer(s)-

Name(s): Tim Bartlett Specialist Adviser (Environment)
Post Title(s): Tim.bartlett@lewes.gov.uk
E-mail(s): Ex. 5490
Tel No(s): 01273 085490

Purpose of Report:

To request capital funds to undertake repairs to the sea wall at Groyne 19, Friars Bay, Peacehaven.

Officers Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1 Agrees to undertake repairs to the sea wall Groyne 19. These repairs to be undertaken before winter 2017; weather and tidal conditions permitting.
- 2 Allocates £80,000 for the repairs in the General Fund Capital Programme, to be financed from capital receipts.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 1 Lewes District Council has discretionary powers under the Coast Protection Act 1949 to construct sea defences and to repair and maintain the same.
- 2 **Background Information**
 - 2.1 Over many years Lewes District Council has been awarded central government monies to build coastal defences, at the toe of cliffs in Peacehaven and separately in East Saltdean. The defences protect the cliffs from erosion by the sea and many hundreds of homes and critical

assets. They are one of the more valuable assets in Lewes District Council's portfolio.

- 2.2** The Peacehaven sea defences comprise a sea wall with an access road on top of the sea wall. There are 19 concrete groynes each approximately 70m long. These groynes were designed to reduce the loss of beach material; flints, pebbles and sand from being carried away from the foot of the sea wall by longshore drift.
- 2.3** The most easterly groyne is Groyne 19 and this was designed to act as a terminal groyne. Due to its orientation this groyne is exposed to large waves and as a consequence has deteriorated more rapidly than others. The beach material it once held probably served to accelerate damage to the sea defences at this location. This is evidenced by much patching of the sea wall over the years. The photograph below illustrates the current situation and the damage occurring to the end of the sea wall. As the sea wall is a critical civil engineering structure it needs to be repaired.



- 2.4** The repairs are estimated to cost up to £80,000. The monies would be used to deliver a design and build contract.
- 2.5** Civil engineering works to the sea defences require specialist knowledge of the constraints and environment encountered on the foreshore; to aid our procurement of specialist contractors we would wish to take advantage of existing frameworks such as those operated by East Kent Engineering Partnership, Brighton and Hove City Council and or Environment Agency.

- 2.6 In order to reduce the risk of further damage to the sea wall our aim will be to have these works to be completed this autumn, weather and tides permitting.
- 2.7 The repairs should extend these defences for up to 20 years and resolve health and safety issues that arise from a deteriorating defence
- 2.8 These repairs demonstrate our commitment to work within the spirit of the Coast Protection Act. In undertaking any works we would be required to liaise with the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and potentially the Crown Estate

3 Financial Appraisal

- 3.1 There is no allocation in the 2017/18 General Fund Capital Programme available to fund repairs to Groyne 19. Subject to Cabinet approval, an allocation of up to £80,000 will be made for this project which can be financed from the balance of unused capital receipts generated from previous asset sales.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 Lewes District Council as the local Coastal Protection Authority has permissive powers under the Coast Protection Act 1949 (as amended) to protect the coast from erosion and encroachment by the sea. There is no statutory requirement to do so.
- 4.2. Under Section 4 of the 1949 Act a local Coastal Protection Authority has powers to carry out such coastal protection work as may appear to them to be necessary or expedient for the protection of any land in its area.

4 (Ref: 006626-LDC-MW/237754)

5 Risk Management Implications

- 5.1 I have undertaken a risk management checklist and no risk assessment is presently required

6 Equality Screening

- 6.1 Not applicable at this stage

7 Background Papers

- 7.1 Further information on the Coastal defences can be found in Brighton Marina to Newhaven Western Harbour Arm Plan – Summary of findings for the Local V Community January 2016. Found at http://www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/Brighton_Marina_to_Newhaven_BNCMIP_Local_Community_Summary.pdf