

A CLG & CIWEM conference

Development and Coastal Change
Consultation on Planning Policy and Guidance

15 September 2009
SOAS, University of London

The aim of this conference is to enable stakeholders to understand and develop their views and contribute to the development of planning policy and guidance in relation to key issues on development and coastal change

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Introduction

Coastal change exacerbated by climate change has enormous implications for development on the coast and is therefore a major consideration for spatial planning in shaping places that are resilient to climate change. Coasts have changed continuously through history but climate change is speeding up change, increasing risks from coastal erosion and flooding. Development on the coast is expected to become a major aspect of climate change adaptation.

Strong planning policy to manage coastal flooding is already in place (PPS 25), however currently planning decisions in relation to coastal erosion risks are made with reference to Planning Policy Guidance note 20 (PPG 20). PPG 20 published in 1992 adopted a strongly precautionary approach restricting any development in areas of risk of coastal erosion. This means that even appropriate development that would support the economic and social viability of the community is unable to go ahead.

The new planning policy for managing the impacts of coastal change sets out a planning framework for the continuing economic and social viability of coastal communities to ensure that the impacts of coastal change are taken into account at all stages of the planning process.

The policy aims to strike the right balance between economic prosperity and reducing the consequences of coastal change on communities.

The policy promotes a strategic risk-based approach to managing future physical changes to the coastline, so that long-term adaptation of communities can be planned whilst allowing necessary development that is appropriate and safe.

It will also introduce a more coordinated approach to planning and investment at the coast, ensuring that spatial strategies to deliver regeneration and sustainable economic development take proper account of the impact of physical processes affecting the coastline and decisions regarding the planning and management of coastal defences.

The aim of this conference is to enable stakeholders to understand and develop their views and contribute to the development of planning policy and guidance in relation to key issues on development and coastal change.

The objectives of this conference are:

- To enable a wide range of stakeholders to understand and develop their organisations responses to the consultation
- To help test and develop the Planning policy and guidance
- To collect views that will enable stakeholders and government to frame their views
- To explore in detail a number of key issues that are being put forward in the new policy .

Programme

09.45 Session 1. Welcome on behalf of CLG / CIWEM and Introduction to the day

Chairman: 5 mins

09.50 Session 1. Introduction - Developing policies that recognise coastal change

Sarah Clifford Defra 10 mins

Peter Bide CLG 20 mins – to include the points on EA, permitted development rights, Call in powers

Q & A 20 mins

Managing coastal change, particularly coastal erosion exacerbated by climate change needs an updated policy approach. Government policy initiatives, Making Space for Water and PPS25 Planning policy for development and flood risk, have set the scene. In June 2009 Defra released their Coastal Change Policy, and in July CLG consulted on planning policy and guidance for managing coastal change. These significant developments in policy signal Government's commitment to assist communities in adapting to the challenge of coastal change. The objective of this session is to outline Government thinking and to highlight a number of specific proposals.

10.40 Developing the evidence base and in particular the role of Shoreline Management Plans

Mick McLoughlin The Planning Co-operative 10 mins

Greg Guthrie Royal Haskoning 10 mins

Q & A 20 mins

Coastlines are extremely dynamic places and planning in these areas is very challenging. The Shoreline Management planning (SMP) process, now in its second phase and the preparation and review of SMPs has advanced the thinking and our understanding of the large scale nature of coastal processes in the planning context. Challenges of implementation remain, however, and this session will explore our recent understanding of how SMPs are used by planners and stakeholders.

11.20 Break: Sandwich buffet and refreshments

12.05 Session 2. Planning for change at the regional scale

Chairman: Jon McCue Atkins

Regional speakers tbc

Q & A 20 mins

There is a clear understanding by the scientific and technical community of the larger scale of coastal processes of erosion, accretion and sediment transport that extend well beyond local boundaries. There is also a growing awareness of the need for the policies and information in SMPs to be factored into regional spatial plans by regional planners. The objective of this session is to explore the links at the regional and strategic scale of the proposed policies.

12.50 Planning at a local level in the coastal environment

Peter Frew North Norfolk District Council

Planning spokesperson Scarborough Borough Council

10 mins each Q & A 20 mins

While plans at the Regional scale set the strategic context, at the local level managing the adaptation of communities to coastal change is a major challenge that must recognise the impact of long term coastal change and the social and economic realities that such change will bring. Planners need a range of tools and approaches for effective planning at a local level and the objective of this session will be to explore how the new policy will facilitate this.

13.30 Break: Sweets and refreshments

14.10 Coastal Change Management Areas

Peter Bide CLG Context 5 mins & Rob Young North Norfolk District Council 15 mins

Q & A 20 mins

A key new idea proposed in the policy is the development of coastal change management areas. These should enable LPAs to define spatial areas where action needs to be taken to manage coastal change in a consistent and transparent way. There is some experience of this approach and the objective of this session will be to explore how this approach might be taken forward on a broader scale.

14.50 Vulnerability assessment

Peter Bide CLG Context 5 mins

Fola Ogunyoye Royal Haskoning 15 mins

Q & A 20 mins

This is a new tool to help planners and developers to identify the impacts to coastal development and how they might be managed in a structured way. Their use in planning is similar to flood risk assessments but there are important differences. The objective of this session is to explore how vulnerability assessment works and how it differs from other forms of assessment.

15.30 Final Discussions Defra and CLG – what happens next 20 mins

16.00 Finish and refreshments

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The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) is an independent professional body and registered charity, advancing the science and practice of water and environment management for a clean, green and sustainable world. www.ciwem.org

The Venue: The venue is the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, London. This is a new, air conditioned lecture theatre, with all the modern AV aids and professional projectionists; there will be ample space to accommodate the anticipated delegate numbers.

Accommodation: There is a wide range of accommodation available in the area and delegates will receive a hotel list when they book.

The Organisers: The conference is being organised by Bob Earll of Coastal Management for Sustainability (CMS), in partnership with CIWEM.

Conference fee: [VAT at 15%]

Conference fee	£160	VAT £24.00	£184.00
Concession rate*	£130	VAT £19.50	£149.50
Group Rate [3 or more paying together]	£140/person	VAT £21.00	£161.00 each
Full time Post Graduate student/ Retired CIWEM members	£45	VAT £6.75	£ 51.75

*Our aim is to make the conferences as inclusive as possible. The concession rate applies to individuals and organisations that clearly work from limited budgets in the academic or voluntary sector. We will review this on a case by case basis and place individuals and organisations on a register for future reference. Please contact us first by email to bob.earll@coastms.co.uk before booking if you think you qualify.

- The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers
- Delegates with special needs should make this clear on booking

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Further details from Bob Earll: Phone/Fax 01531 890415 Joining details – maps, directions and hotels – programme are on the CMS website: www.coastms.co.uk or Email: bob.earll@coastms.co.uk

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