

Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	15 September 2020
Subject:	Seafront Masterplan SPD
Report by:	Ian Maguire - Assistant Director, Planning and Economic Growth
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- 1.1.1. Report to Members the results of the February-March 2019 public consultation;
- 1.1.2. Advise Members of the content of the draft Seafront Masterplan SPD;
- 1.1.3. Advise Members on the engagement strategy on the draft Seafront Masterplan SPD and associated documents; and
- 1.1.4. To seek Members' endorsement of the approach.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended:

- 2.1.1. **Members note the summary of representations received during the February-March 2019 public consultation on the options for the Seafront Masterplan and the issues raised;**
- 2.1.2. **Members note the content of the revised draft Seafront Masterplan SPD; and approve the document and other associated documents for a period of 6 weeks of public consultation; and**
- 2.1.3. **The Assistant Director, Planning and Economic Growth be authorised to, if necessary, make editorial amendments to the wording of the Seafront Masterplan SPD and any associated documents prior to publication, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Policy and City**

Development. These amendments shall be restricted to correcting errors and formatting text and shall not alter the meaning of the document(s).

3. Background

- 3.1. The revised Seafront Masterplan SPD (SM SPD) is an update to the version adopted in 2013. The revised SM SPD sets out a vision for the seafront area, provides strategic and detailed planning guidance, identifies further enhancement and development opportunities, and highlights elements of the seafront that should be conserved. Once adopted, the revised SM SPD will be a material consideration in planning decisions.
- 3.2. Public consultation took place on the review of the Seafront Masterplan over July/August 2018, and again in February/March 2019. The first consultation sought to identify issues relating to the seafront, and the second consultation sought feedback on a range of 'challenges and opportunities' for the seafront. Analysis of this second round of public consultation is now complete and has informed the development of the draft SM SPD.

Project timetable

Key stage	Description	Indicative timescale
Stage 1: Initiation	Initial analysis of issues	Complete
	Public consultation Jul-Aug 2018	Complete
Stage 2: Challenges & opportunities	Identifying challenges and presenting opportunities	Complete
	Public consultation Feb-Mar 2019	Complete
Stage 3: Draft publication	Production of draft Seafront Masterplan SPD	Complete
	Public consultation	Sep-Oct 2020
Stage 4: Final publication	Making modifications and production of final publication for adoption	Oct/Nov 2020
Stage 5: Adoption	Decision meeting to approve final publication for adoption	Nov 2020

Relationship between SM SPD and Southsea Coastal Scheme

- 3.3. The current Seafront Masterplan adopted in 2013 contains guidance on a range of projects to improve the seafront, including high level reference to the replacement of the Southsea sea defences. Since then, the Southsea Coastal Scheme (SCS) project being delivered by the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP) has made significant progress, gaining planning permission on 05 December 2019 (LPA ref. 19/01097/FUL) and associated funding. Construction of the initial phase is due to begin soon.
- 3.4. Notwithstanding the main outcome of delivering better flood protection, the SCS presents significant opportunities to deliver various improvements to the seafront, especially public realm and space enhancements. Updating the Seafront Masterplan

will help to provide the strategic planning framework in order to capture and promote such additional opportunities going forward, and to ultimately facilitate their delivery.

- 3.5. The ESCP are currently progressing into the detailed design phases of the various frontages, and are working with consultants to further identify and detail public realm and space enhancement opportunities and development projects which could either be delivered through the SCS or could be earmarked for delivery by the council or other parties in the future.
- 3.6. Consequently, a Collaborative Enhancement Plan (CEP) has been produced (attached to this report in Appendix 7). This document demonstrates through a series of projects and ideas how the ambition of the SM SPD could be realised. It is acknowledged that each proposal will need to be subject to viability and delivery considerations (such as funding, revenue generation, buildability, legal constraints, etc.), though the aim of the CEP is to demonstrate the 'art of the possible' and one scenario for how the SM SPD could be delivered in the future and as part of the SCS. The CEP will be published alongside the draft SM SPD for public consultation.

4. Public & stakeholder engagement Feb-Mar 2019

4.1. A full report on the public and stakeholder engagement conducted in Feb-Mar 2019 for the SM SPD is included in Appendix 1. Headlines from the report are as follows:

- Younger age groups were more successfully targeted, with 20% of respondents aged 25-34 and 22% 35-44. A strong social media campaign, which reached over 33,000 people is likely to have helped. However, children and young adults (under 24) remain hard to reach.
- The main issues raised related to parking and cycling. Regarding parking, there was much concern over any parking loss, mainly from residents living near the seafront. Regarding cycling, the issue was complex, although the desire for safe cycling infrastructure was clear, with a well-designed physically segregated cycle route a key principle to achieving this.
- There was general support for public realm and redevelopment opportunities across the seafront, as well as to incorporate health and wellbeing into the protection and enhancement of the seafront.

5. Draft Seafront Masterplan SPD content

5.1. The draft revised SM SPD (included in Appendix 2) sets out a vision for the seafront area, provides strategic and detailed planning guidance, identifies further enhancement and development opportunities, and highlights elements of the seafront that should be conserved. Once adopted, the revised SM SPD will be a material consideration in planning decisions.

5.2. The SM SPD elaborates on existing Local Plan Core Strategy Policy PCS9, which sets the overarching policy direction for the Seafront Masterplan, namely that new development will contribute to the revitalisation of the seafront by:

- Encouraging and supporting redevelopment of existing buildings for leisure and tourism
- Encouraging and supporting small-scale restaurants, cafes and other uses that would diversify the offer
- Protection and enhancement of the character of the seafront
- Protection of nature conservation value at Eastney Beach
- Public realm improvements to promenade
- Improving links between the seafront & Southsea town centre and Castle Road

5.3. Therefore, within this policy framework, the following thematic areas inform the key guidance contained in the draft SM SPD:

- Climate change
- Health & wellbeing
- Heritage
- Natural environment
- Public realm
- Transport and access
- Economy and attractions; and
- Supporting development/redevelopment opportunities of various sites within the seafront.

5.4. Furthermore, the draft SM SPD provides key guidance and proposals within 'area based' chapters. These areas are presented in the document as the following:

- Old Portsmouth
- Clarence Pier
- Southsea Common:
 - Southsea Castle to Palmerston Road
 - Southsea Skatepark
 - The Pyramids Centre
 - Speakers' Corner, South Parade Gardens & Rock Gardens
 - South Parade Pier & St Helen's Parade
 - Canoe Lake Park to St George's Road
- St George's Road to Henderson Road
- Henderson Road to Eastney Point

5.5. In developing the draft SM SPD, due consideration has been given to the current direction of national and local policies/strategies and ambition towards prioritising and addressing cycling/walking infrastructure and modal shift, both at a national scale and within Portsmouth. These have been an influential factor in formulating the Transport and Access guidance and relevant proposals within the draft SM SPD.

5.6. Overall seafront parking provision has been considered throughout the development of this draft, and this is being looked at further in collaboration with the ESCP and PCC Transport teams as part of the work on the Southsea Coastal Scheme, and Transport's

Parking Strategy. For now, the SM SPD considers the issue of parking where it can, including recommending that the Clarence Pier and Clarence Esplanade car parks could be re-provisioned with an increase in capacity to mitigate potential losses in parking elsewhere (e.g. on-street provision at parts of Clarence Esplanade or Avenue de Caen) arising from relevant proposals.

- 5.7. The draft SM SPD is supported and informed by technical reports (namely a Sustainability Appraisal, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), and an Integrated Impact Assessment), and these are included in the appendices to this report. An addendum to the HRA to reconcile the assessment version of the SPD to the draft SPD for consultation has also been produced for reference. These technical and supporting reports will also be published for public consultation.
- 5.8. A covering sheet will accompany the draft SM SPD to provide background to the document and present the public consultation context.

6. Engagement on the draft Seafront Masterplan SPD

- 6.1. Much engagement with stakeholders has been conducted already through various previous public engagement and consultation activities, and it is considered the draft SPD balances competing interests, seeking compromises, while taking the seafront firmly in the direction of health & wellbeing, climate change, and sustainability, as well as seeking to conserve the seafront's special assets and characteristics.
- 6.2. Public consultation on the draft SPD is pursuant to Regulation 12 and 13 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The public consultation period is proposed to last for 6 weeks, and is proposed to start from w/e 18 September 2020.
- 6.3. The current COVID-19 pandemic and resulting social distancing requirements have had immediate implications for local authorities and the preparation of Local Plans and SPDs, including the ability of local authorities to comply with the objectives in their Statements of Community Involvement (SCIs), such as holding face-to-face community consultation events or providing physical documents for inspection.
- 6.4. To enable plan making to continue, the government updated the National Planning Policy Guidance¹ and brought into force new amendment regulations² to make the provision to temporarily allow community engagement to take place by 'any means that are reasonably practicable'. These new provisions will be reflected in the council's consultation strategies in due course, which will include using online engagement measures to their full potential as well as appropriate methods to engage 'digitally excluded' residents. The council's SCI will be reviewed in due course to reflect these changes (as well as those affecting Development Management procedures).

¹ MHCLG (updated May and July 2020) National Planning Policy Guidance on Plan-making, paras. 76-80.

² The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

6.5. Therefore, taking the above into consideration, for the purpose of this Seafront Masterplan SPD consultation it is envisaged that public engagement and consultation activities will be limited for now in their scope (e.g. there will be no face-to-face community consultation events; no physical documents made available in libraries, community centres, or council offices). However, to promote the public consultation, a range of reasonable and appropriate methods will still be used, including:

- Social media
- Council website
- Posters at various seafront locations
- Press notice
- Email notifications (e.g. statutory consultees and those on the Planning Policy mailing list).

6.6. Responses will be collected through online questionnaires and emails. Telephone responses to the consultation will also be supported by the council's research and engagement team through the City Helpdesk, where members of the public can call in on a dedicated line to be taken through the survey over the phone.

6.7. The results of this consultation will be the subject of a report to Members at a later date, along with recommendations for finalising the SPD for adoption.

7. Reasons for recommendations

7.1. SPDs build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted local plan, and are material considerations in decision-making. The Seafront Masterplan SPD updates and will supersede the current adopted Seafront Masterplan 2013, and will provide more detailed advice and guidance on Local Plan Policy PCS9 - The seafront.

7.2. Consultation with stakeholders and the wider public is a statutory requirement of SPDs before it can be adopted. The proposed duration of the consultation period covers the statutory minimum of 4 weeks.

8. Integrated impact assessment

8.1. An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out and is attached.

9. Legal implications

9.1. Preparation of the Council's supplementary planning documents, including the process of public consultation, is regulated in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Publication, consultation with appropriate stakeholders, and receiving and considering relevant representations are necessary steps towards adoption, and the report and recommendation support compliance with the Council's statutory obligations as Local Planning Authority.

9.2. The Local Planning Authority must prepare the SPD in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (s19(3) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

9.3. The Council must comply with national and international legal obligations for the protection of species and habitats. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The HRA assesses the likely significant effects of the Seafront Masterplan on the nature conservation interests of European protected nature conservation sites in and around Portsmouth and seeks to establish whether or not there will be any adverse effects on the ecological integrity of these European sites as a result of the proposals.

10. Director of Finance's comments

10.1. There are no direct financial implications as a result of approving the recommendations within this report.

10.2. The cost of drafting the plan has been met from cash limited budgets.

.....

Signed by

Ian Maguire

Assistant Director, Planning and Economic Growth

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Seafront Masterplan Engagement Report Feb-Mar 2019

Appendix 2 - Draft Seafront Masterplan SPD July 2020

Appendix 3 - SM SPD Sustainability Appraisal

Appendix 4 - SM SPD Habitats Regulation Assessment (AECOM, July 2019)

Appendix 5 - Addendum to HRA

Appendix 6 - SM SPD Integrated Impact Assessment

Appendix 7 - SCS Collaborative Enhancement Plan

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
-------------------	----------



Seafront Masterplan SPD (adopted April 2013)	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/dev-seafront-masterplan-final.pdf
Seafront Masterplan SPD Review consultation document (July 2018)	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/dev-seafront-masterplan-spd-review-consultation-doc.pdf
Seafront Masterplan SPD Review consultation document (February 2019)	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/sea-sm-consult1-booklet-a4-print-for-web.pdf

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

.....