


Christchurch Bay & Harbour FCERM Strategy

Equality Impact Assessment

<p>What is being reviewed?</p>	<p>Christchurch Bay & Harbour Strategy</p> <p>A report is being taken to BCP Cabinet in July 2024 (*see next section) in which a decision will be made to recommend that Council adopt a new Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for Christchurch Bay and Harbour. The Strategy will guide how the frontage from Hengistbury Head to Hurst Spit, encompassing Christchurch Harbour, will be sustainably managed for the next 100 years. The Strategy area is shown on the following map:</p>  <p>Christchurch Bay and Harbour FCERM Strategy area</p>
<p>What changes are being made?</p>	<p>The Christchurch Bay & Harbour Strategy identifies where, when, and broadly what type of works are needed to manage the risks of coastal flooding and erosion over the next 100 years, and roughly what they might cost. It also considers the effects of predicted climate change, including sea level rise and the increased frequency of storm events.</p> <p>If we ‘do nothing’ over the next century, it is estimated that the damage caused by coastal flooding and erosion will amount to over £1 billion. Damage will occur in coastal communities affecting residential properties, businesses, infrastructure, and open spaces. The Strategy identifies what the preferred options are to manage these risks. Without implementing measures to manage them it is estimated that over 1,600 properties are likely to be at risk of erosion and over 2,200 properties will be at risk of coastal flooding by 2133.</p> <p>*This new Strategy is being developed with our partners, New Forest District Council (NFDC) and the Environment Agency (EA). Support is provided by technical consultants, AECOM. BCP, NFDC and the EA will each take the FCERM Strategy through their own decision-making process for adoption. It is anticipated that it will be adopted by both Councils by Autumn 2024. The EA adoption will then follow and is anticipated to be adopted by the end of 2024 or early 2025.</p>

The **Strategy Development Approach**, is outlined here >

- **Stage 1 – Define the Problem:** *Data collection, site walkover, data review and gap analysis report, [Stakeholder engagement \(Phase 1\)](#)*
- **Stage 2 – Set the Objectives:** *Environmental baseline, SEA Screening and scoping, define and agree key objectives and critical success factors for the Strategy*
- **Stage 3 – Establish the Baseline Scenario:** *Coastal processes, breach modelling, holistic damage assessment, [Stakeholder engagement \(Phase 2\)](#)*
- **Stage 4 – Long List Options:** *Long list options, [stakeholder engagement \(Phase 3\)](#)*
- **Stage 5 – Short List the Options:** *Appraisal of long list, recommend short list options, appraisal summary document for consultation, [Stakeholder engagement \(Phase 4\)](#)*
- **Stage 6 – Develop the Short List:** *Detailed appraisal of short list options, produce short list options document for consultation*
- **Stage 7 – Compare and Select Preferred Options:** *[Stakeholder engagement \(Phase 5\)](#) to confirm preferred option, SEA, HRA, MCZa, WFDa*
- **Stage 8 – StAR Preparation & LPRG:** *Produce StAR and all appendices, implementation & action plan, future monitoring, carbon strategy, LPRG approval, [Stakeholder engagement \(Phase 6\)](#) to disseminate the final Strategy.*

Strategy Engagements & Consultation

Our Strategy approach ensured we gathered all relevant information and each phase of development considered stakeholder views. Strategy engagement has been led by the BCP FCERM team on behalf of the partners and conducted in collaboration with the BCP Research & Consultation team. All engagement / consultation materials and findings reports are hosted on the BCP Have your Say, Strategy web pages >

[Christchurch Bay and Harbour Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management \(FCERM\) Strategy | Have Your Say Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\).](#)

- **Summer 2021** – Phase 1: To support our data gathering process we asked people in the Strategy area to share their views and provide comments on the five key geographical areas covered by the Strategy area. You can see full details on Phase 1 [here](#).
- **Spring 2022** - Phase 2: We shared our initial findings from Phase 1 and asked people to tell us if we had missed anything. You can see full details on Phase 2 [here](#). We used the information to start developing the new coastal Strategy.
- **Summer 2022** - Phase 3: We presented the risks of a 'do nothing' scenario with the addition of climate change impacts to workshop groups. This helped us to identify a long list of options to 'do something' to manage coastal flood and erosion risks across the Strategy area. You can see full details on Phase 3 [here](#).
- **Winter 2022** - Phase 4: We asked people for feedback to help short list all the potential viable options that were developed in Phase 3. You can see full details on Phase 4 [here](#).
- **Summer 2023** - Phase 5: We held a formal 12 week public consultation to listen to views on the draft short-listed option appraisal to manage

the risks of coastal flooding and erosion. People could also view the draft Strategy document. You can see the full details on Phase 5 [here](#).

- **Late 2024** - Phase 6: We plan to inform people of the final Strategy once it has been adopted by both BCP Council, NFDC and the EA.

The feedback we received from members of the public and statutory consultees (e.g. EA, Historic England, and Natural England) was vital in helping us to consider realistic options to 'do something' to manage the risk of coastal flooding and erosion.

Engagement to develop the FCERM Strategy

From Summer 2021 to Winter 2022, for engagement phases 1–4, nearly 12,000 people viewed our website information, approx. 5,500 engaged with our social media posts, around 680 people attended our face-to-face and online events and over 250 people completed a survey.

Consultation on the Draft FCERM Strategy

During the 12-week public consultation in Summer 2023 (engagement phase 5), we pushed our on-and-off line promotional activities to give as many people the chance to comment on the draft Strategy as possible. Over 4,000 people viewed our website content, approx. 20,000 people viewed our social media posts, over 3,000 people interacted with our Facebook content, around 700 people came to our face-to-face and online events, and 91 people completed a survey.

Equality Issues

In terms of equalities issues, we are aware that by having an adopted Strategy we have identified options to reduce the risks associated with coastal flooding and erosion that benefit whole communities. By implementing future coastal defences we are ensuring that the coastline can continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

- The Strategy identifies a 'route map' to mitigate the risk of coastal flooding and erosion to resist the loss of community spaces, infrastructure and buildings including homes and businesses. This will help improve the mental health and wellbeing of those who may be affected by climate change.
- Maintaining good access to the coastline and surrounding open spaces, as well as identifying opportunities to improve the environment, helps improve physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Maintaining access to coastal areas encourages informal interaction, reducing loneliness and can improve community cohesion.
- Maintaining access to beaches provides 'free' enjoyment for all including parents, young children and people with age related conditions, and can help reduce social inequality.
- Maintaining coastal infrastructure such as promenades / paths / car parks retains access for older users or those with limited mobility, and parents with children in buggies. They can also encourage a healthy commuting lifestyle, helping to improve people's health and fitness.

However, despite everything that can be done, there will remain some locations where it is not possible or appropriate to defend against flooding / erosion or maintain existing defences. In these cases, communities need time and support to adapt to changes. The Strategy recognises this and identifies adaptive pathways that provide indication of the time available in which communities can be supported to plan and adapt to future changes.

Service Unit:	Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) – Commercial Operations
Participants in the conversation:	Catherine Corbin / Alan Frampton Sam Johnson / Vicky Edmonds / Equality Panel
Conversation date/s:	3 April 2023 / 4 April 2024 / 9 May 2024
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	<p>The impacts of climate change across the Strategy area will pose coastal flooding and erosion risks which affect all those in the general population, including people with protected characteristics. The approaches to manage these risks will also have some impacts on the same group.</p> <p>As a result, the FCERM team sought to engage with a wide audience (general population) across the strategy area and also identified over 450+ stakeholders who received targeted information, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Local Government Councillors, MPs and relevant officers • Residents and community groups including Beach Hut assoc.s • Local businesses and networks • Landowners and Utilities • Coastal and Environmental groups • Harbour and Marine safety groups • Fishing, leisure & recreation groups • Statutory stakeholders • Equalities groups (DOTSs Disability, Diverse Abilities, Dorset Race Equality Council and Space Youth Project). <p>We discussed our engagement plans with the BCP Community Engagement Manager in Housing & Communities to see if there were any corporate events / additional lines of communication we could make use of.</p> <p>We worked with the BCP Research & Consultation team to ensure that survey engagements were compatible with the law of consultation (i.e. Gunning Principles).</p>
Do different groups have different needs or experiences?	<p>At this stage we do not believe different groups are adversely impacted by the development of the Strategy. We continually reviewed strategy feedback (surveys), communications (polls, surveys, social media) and demographic data (surveys) at each step of the Strategy development.</p> <p>During the Phase 5 public consultation, we received feedback from people with disabilities who urged us to consider better disability friendly access to beaches and to listen to elderly people's comments. From analysis of demographic data during the Phase 4 engagement, we also recognised that young people were not actively engaging with us, so we approached the BCP Youth Forum to lead a session to enable the team to gather their views during the phase 5 consultation period. We have considered all comments and where appropriate have shared them with Council Seafront and Research and consultation teams.</p> <p>These kinds of comments cannot be directly addressed by the Strategy, as they will be scheme design level considerations when schemes are brought forward in coming years/decades to implement the Strategy; however the Strategy has captured these views so they can be used to inform future scheme design considerations (which will have further engagement and consultation when they are developed).</p> <p>Using the Measurement Framework for Equality and Human Rights (2017) and the six areas of life or 'domains' we have provided some examples to show how we considered different group needs as we developed the Strategy:</p>

Education – To promote fulfillment in educational achievement for young people and improve social and employability skills in the longer term, the BCP FCERM team are committed to developing STEM resources to share with school year groups studying coastal processes. As part of this project we worked with an educational specialist to produce GCSE and A-Level geography education packs that used the Strategy as a case study. Our STEM resources were downloaded over 25 times during the consultation period alone.

Improving environmental literacy and contributing to life-long learning. As an FCERM team we have been open, honest and realistic about what the Strategy can deliver using national funding rules. We also helped promote messages about certain aspects of climate change; i.e. flood and coastal erosion risk to all, including to groups with protected characteristics and encouraged people to share their views in a variety of ways.

- To communicate with young people, we developed STEM resources and promoted them to schools (as outlined above). We also presented the Strategy at Youth Forum to gather views and promote Climate Change as a potential project for those considering standing for Youth Parliament election.
- We encouraged all residents, including people with limited mobility to attend drop-in events at venues chosen for their accessible facilities. We also offered online meetings for those unable to attend in person and recorded online presentations, making them available on the website.
- To encourage older people without web skills to share their views, we held drop-in events, placed information and surveys in libraries, advertised in local community magazines and distributed over 2,000 leaflets in the Strategy area.
- At the consultation drop-in event we helped attendees and people with learning difficulties, to share their views using tokens to express their agreement / disagreement with the Strategy's proposed options in an accessible 'easy read' quick poll display.
- All written material such as Strategy information documents, displays and glossaries used plain English, pictures, and simple infographics to help aid understanding. Technical information was also provided for those who wanted more details.

Work – For people of working age, and selected stakeholders, we provided a range of options to help them share their views including:

- A number of face-to-face drop-in events, or online presentations (plus play-back recordings) over different weekdays, lunchtimes and evenings.
- An online survey, enabling people to complete the whole survey or simply the area they were most interested in.
- Two stakeholder workshops to develop an initial long-list of viable risk management options across the coastal frontage.

Living standards – Within the Strategy area, the Strategy sets out ways to limit a reduction in living standards. The risk of coastal flooding and erosion as the climate changes would reduce the living standards of people, and would impact properties, transport links and green spaces. However, the leading options seek to provide flood and coastal defences in many areas, helping to conserve existing properties and green spaces by ensuring the level of risk is sustained at about the same levels as the present-day climate conditions.

Health – Access to open space helps all people connect with nature and affects physical and mental wellbeing. The health spectrum covers both flora, fauna, marine life, and human health. During the development of the Strategy, the team has considered:

- Biodiversity and Geodiversity measures to protect and enhance habitats / species and identified opportunities for future coastal defences to incorporate environmental enhancements to increase

	<p>biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change impacts associated with coastal flooding and erosion to people, property, businesses, open spaces and the environment, and identified options that manage the risks to these areas in a sustainable way over the next 100 years. • How the character of the landscape and seascape could be protected and enhanced as part of designing, constructing and operating future coastal defences. • The best way to manage and enhance land, soil and water quality in the Strategy area, including options that seek to prevent historic landfill sites being flooded and eroded that would lead to pollution. <p>Justice and personal security – For the benefit of everyone in the Strategy area, we have done as much as we can to ensure the on-going management of coastal flooding and erosion risk helps provide security to properties (including homes and businesses), infrastructure and open spaces. We have identified ways that communities, people and properties can be made resilient to the potential risks of flooding as sea levels rise e.g. by introducing individual property resilience measures as well as community-scale solutions.</p> <p>Participation – We have strived to help people and local communities stay connected to their local environment. From the outset we have taken them on a journey. They have been able to influence Strategy decisions at every phase of the development. We engaged a broad range of different stakeholders to ensure all groups within affected communities had the opportunity to express and share their views. We have continually reported back on how we responded to feedback openly and transparently via feedback reports, presentations, webpages and information displays.</p> <p>We believe this approach helps to empower people and instill some pride. Together we have developed a Strategy which sets out a route map to sustainably manage the risks to our coastline into the future. Providing a clear direction should have a positive impact on community mental health and impart a stronger sense of belonging and care for that place, leading to more informal social interaction, especially when defence measures are delivered.</p> <p>The following shows a breakdown of the activities we carried out in the Phase 5 consultation (and is in addition to similar levels of activities during the first 4 phases of engagement):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senior Management briefing sessions – BCP Council and NFDC 2. Councillor briefings – BCP Council and NFDC – 169 invited, 27 attended 3. Employee / Councillor drop-in session – NFDC 4. Press release / media interviews – 4 positive press articles + radio coverage 5. Social media & e-newsletters – Almost 20,000 people viewed content posts 6. Stakeholders – email information sent to +450 contacts 7. Flyer distribution – +2,000 to council venues and local businesses / orgs 8. Community magazine adverts – 4 publications distributed to +23,000 homes 9. Online public meeting – 91 registered, 53 attended 10. Facebook campaign – reached +7,500 people with +3,000 interactions 11. Face to face events – 2 events attended by +120 people 12. New Forest County Show – +500 people viewed Strategy displays 13. BCP Council Youth Forum – Strategy discussion and feedback session 14. STEM Resources – +25 curriculum information downloads by schools 15. BCP consultation website – +3,000 users viewed the content 16. Strategy website – +1,000 new users viewed the content (twobays.net)
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	17. Online and paper surveys – 91 responses.
Will this change affect any service users?	<p>The Strategy will not affect service users at this time. Once it is adopted by all partners, it will enable BCP and NFDC to start developing Outline Business Cases (OBC) for the detailed scheme designs needed to implement the Strategy. Each project/scheme will be subject to their own EIA and be further supported by engagement / consultation, if required (Gunning Principles).</p> <p>Stakeholder feedback has helped the Strategy team identify a coastal flooding / erosion risk mitigation option for each area. For most of the Strategy areas, we have chosen up to three of the following options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Option (which follows EA guidance) 2. Local Aspirational Option (which considers local wants and needs to deliver wider benefits) 3. Back-up option (if a large funding shortfall has been identified, this option is what would be delivered if the required funding cannot be secured to deliver (1) or (2)). <p>It's important to note that this Strategy will afford BCP and NFDC access to public funding from central government. However, as funds for coastal flood and erosion risk management projects are not widely available, there is no guarantee that identified projects / schemes will be progressed unless funding from other sources can be secured. Delivery of the Strategy will therefore be subject to funding from a variety of sources.</p>
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the change on current or potential users?	<p>Adopting a Strategy provides the direction to enable the FCERM team to seek and secure the required partnership funding for future coastal defence works. Once funding is secured and measures are delivered, it will help lessen the risk of coastal flooding and or erosion in the Christchurch Bay and Harbour areas. As previously mentioned, we believe these measures will also encourage more community cohesion, interaction and improve mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Measurement Framework for Equality and Human Rights (2017) has been used to consider the benefits for current or potential users.</p> <p>Education – Using the development of the Strategy, the team have raised the profile of coastal flood and erosion risks in line with national curriculum targets. STEM resources for GCSE and A-Level have provided schools with real world examples to aid understanding. More broadly it helps young people understand that climate change will require them to adapt to a changing environment. Today's young people are also potentially tomorrow's coastal engineers, who will continue to implement the work identified in the Strategy over the next century.</p> <p>Work – The Strategy provides clarity on what defence measures can viably be implemented to manage the coastal flooding and erosion risks to business and infrastructure. This will minimise impacts of climate change on businesses, reducing the impact on operations or the requirement for businesses to close or relocate, helping retain employment within the local community.</p> <p>Living standards – The implementation of the Strategy ensures that the risk to communities and individual properties is minimised. A clear plan specifies which options should be delivered over the forthcoming decades and this can be reviewed as climate change predictions are known or updated. As well as reducing impacts on the living standards of people, the Strategy also benefits users of transport links and green spaces.</p>

	<p>Health – The Strategy sets out a clear route of the actions and measures required to minimise the risks of coastal flooding and erosion over the next century. Although it may not be possible to do this in every area, or potentially forever more, it affords people time to understand, assess and adapt to future environmental changes. Positive actions will help maintain the good mental health of both communities and individuals at risk in flood or erosion zones. Access to open space also helps all people connect with nature and can improve physical health and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Justice and personal security –The Strategy sets out a forward plan for the benefit of everyone in the Strategy area. It highlights as much as we possibly can at this strategic level, how the on-going management of coastal flooding and erosion risk will help provide security to residential homes, business properties, infrastructure and open spaces.</p> <p>Participation – We have engaged and consulted at every phase of the Strategy’s development. The level of participation achieved has influenced which coastal flooding and erosion risk management options were included in the Strategy’s National Economic and Back-up options. Importantly, it has also helped define the Local Aspirational Option which specifically identifies local wants and needs and the aspiration to deliver wider benefits for the community. The key difference between the national and local leading options is timing and/or cost, with local aspirational leading options typically needing to be implemented sooner and/or at greater cost than the national economic option. For either option however, the strategy identifies a significant funding challenge in order to deliver the national and/or local options. When the Strategy is adopted and funding is secured, further participation including stakeholder engagement will take place, where appropriate.</p>
What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	<p>Supposing that funds can be acquired to deliver either the National or Local Aspirational option (see reference for impacts on service users above), there are no identified negative impacts to current or potential users. Any new projects delivered as part of the Christchurch Bay and Harbour Strategy will be subject to their own EIA.</p> <p>If funding cannot be achieved, the risk of impact increases with climate change i.e., the risk of coastal flooding and erosion will become greater.</p>
Will the change affect employees?	<p>This is not a corporate/internal plan and would not have any direct impact on employees specifically.</p>
Will the change affect the wider community?	<p>Yes. The Strategy’s defence options would better protect those at risk who live in flood and/or erosion zones. The wider community e.g. visitors to coastal areas will benefit from the protection of open spaces and environmental enhancements, where these can be achieved. Neighbouring coastlines also benefit as the introduction of defence measures have been assessed to ensure that there would be no detrimental effects.</p>
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	<p>No negative impacts were identified, and no mitigation actions have been identified. As projects in the plan come forward to implement the Strategy in different areas, each will be separately assessed for their impact(s) on the local community including groups with protected characteristics.</p>

<p>Summary of Equality Implications:</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out a clear plan for managing the risks of coastal flooding and erosion across Christchurch Bay and Harbour over the next 100 years.</p> <p>The associated benefits of the Strategy help reduce the risk and impact on people, infrastructure and places. The delivery of projects will improve climate awareness in the general population and protection measures should have a positive impact on the community by improving mental health, physical health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Once adopted, we intend to inform stakeholders about the final approved Strategy, explain what it means, and what the next steps are to begin to implement the Strategy leading options in the areas identified as needing to be prioritised due to either the immediacy of risk and/or condition of existing defences.</p> <p>Another priority will be securing the necessary funding to make sure preferred options (National Economic or Local Aspirational) can be delivered to provide the widest benefits to the community in the long term. Additional stakeholder engagement and participation in the delivery of projects will encourage more community cohesion and interaction.</p> <p>Where the security of areas remain at risk, and it is not possible or appropriate to defend against flooding, erosion or maintaining the existing defences, in the long term, the Strategy identifies adaptive pathways. These help the awareness and understanding of local communities and provide the time and support to adapt to future changes.</p>
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