

Comhairle Contae Fingall Fingal County Council

Minutes of Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee

Wednesday, 13th March, 2024

PRESENT

Councillor E. O'Brien
Councillor B. Dennehy
Councillor R. O'Donoghue
Councillor P. Mulville
Councillor C. Boland
Councillor K. Power
David Fahey - OPW

Councillor T. O'Leary
Councillor A. Henchy
Councillor D. Healy
Maire O'Brien PPN
James Magrane IFA
Stephen Kennedy Chambers
Rory O'Leary MARA

Apologies for inability to attend were received for Councillor Brian Dennehy

The Area Chairperson, Councillor E. O'Brien presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

David Storey, Director of Services, Catherine O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, John Daly, Senior Engineer, Martina O'Connor, Administrative Officer, Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks Superintendent, Grainne Carroll, Administrative Officer, Maria Hand, Senior Staff Officer

MCM/26/24 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Marine and Coastal Management SPC meeting held on the 29th of November 2023

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29th November 2023 were **PROPOSED** by Councillor Eoghan O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Cathal Boland.

The minutes of the meetings of the 29th November 2023, were **AGREED**

MCM/27/24 (Agenda Item No 2)

Presentation by the OPW on Coastal Monitoring in Fingal

It was **AGREED** to take Item 4 on the Agenda 'Report on the Plans, Proposals and Status of the OPW Pilot Coastal Monitoring Survey Programme' submitted by Cllr David Healy and Item 05, 'OPW Update - Pilot Coastal Monitoring Survey Programme' submitted by Maire O'Brien with this Headed Item.

David Fahey from the OPW gave a presentation on the completed/ongoing projects and pilot coastal monitoring survey programme which monitors, quantifies and identifies coastal change. Mr Fahey also provided information on the National Coastal Change Management Strategy which was published in October (linked below).

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/274791/3629d224-a11d-479d-94e0-6e0e435999f3.pdf>

The presentation was **NOTED**

MCM/28/24 (Agenda Item No 4)

Councillor D. Healy - Report on the Plans, Proposals and Status of the OPW Pilot Coastal Monitoring Survey Programme

The motion, in the name of Councillor D. Healy, was proposed by Councillor D. Healy and seconded by Councillor E. O' Brien.

"That the Chief Executive present a detailed report on the plans, proposals and current status of the Office of Public Works Pilot Coastal Monitoring Survey Programme (https://www.floodinfo.ie/about_cmssp/) on the Fingal coast."

Report:

The Council is continuing to work with the Office of Public Works (OPW) on the development of a standard for National Coastal Monitoring. The process for the development of this standardised approach is nearing completion. To this end, Rogerstown Outer Estuary has been included by the OPW as a pilot site for coastal monitoring in Ireland. When the coastal monitoring process is extended countrywide, the data for Fingal from this monitoring will be made available to FCC and their consultants and used to assist future decision making in relation to appropriate management of Coastal Change for the entirety of the coastline in Fingal. When the monitoring process is in place, the Council will review how

best to use this information in the context of relevant Development Plan objectives and related policies. A presentation will be requested from the OPW to provide the relevant requested details.

The report was **NOTED**

MCM/29/24 (Agenda Item No 5)

PPN Representative M. O'Brien - OPW Update - Pilot Coastal Monitoring Survey Programme

This motion, in the name of M. O'Brien, was proposed by M. O'Brien, PPN and seconded by Councillor E. O'Brien.

"That the Chief Executive liaise with the Office of Public Works regarding the Pilot Coastal Monitoring Survey Programme and present an update to the Committee."

Report:

The Council is continuing to work closely with the Office of Public Works (OPW) on the development of a standard for National Coastal Monitoring. The process for the development of this standardised approach is nearing completion. To this end, Rogerstown Outer Estuary has been included by the OPW as a pilot site for coastal monitoring in Ireland. When the coastal monitoring process is extended countrywide, the data for Fingal from this monitoring will be made available to FCC and their consultants and used to assist future decision making in relation to appropriate management of Coastal Change for the entirety of the coastline in Fingal. When the monitoring process is in place, the Council will review how best to use this information in the context of relevant Development Plan objectives and related policies. A presentation will be requested from the OPW regarding the Coastal Monitoring Survey Project to provide the relevant details to the SPC.

The report was **NOTED**.

MCM/30/24 (Agenda Item No 3)

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)

Rory O'Leary from the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority gave a presentation/introduction to the Members detailing their role to manage the

occupation of the maritime area and to enforce the provisions of the new planning regime.

The presentation was **NOTED**

MOTIONS

MCM/31/24 (Agenda Item No 6)

Councillor P. Mulville - Report on An Bord Pleanála - Planning Application - Portrane/Rush

This motion, in the name of Councillor P. Mulville, was proposed by Councillor P. Mulville and seconded by Councillor E. O'Brien.

"That the Chief Executive report on the current status regarding An Bord Pleanála planning application required to carry out the permanent coastal protection measures at Portrane and Rush, in locations at imminent risk of coastal erosion and flooding, to include when a decision on the initial Maritime Area Consent (MAC) will be due back from the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA and whether the temporary interim emergency "Seabee" units are due to be re-aligned again this year."

Report:

The Council is awaiting the results of a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) from the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA). This application has been made in the first instance in relation to the proposed coastal protection works planned at The Burrow, Portrane. A Maritime Area Consent (MAC) provides a gateway into the planning system and confers a right on the applicant to occupy a part of the maritime area, conditional on securing other necessary approvals which in this case would involve Bord Pleanála approval of the planned works. If a MAC is approved the Council will proceed to apply for statutory planning approval for the planned coastal protection works. As the requirement for a MAC is relatively new, it is difficult to confidently predict how soon a result can be expected and how this process will impact the further timelines for the project. As regards the interim coastal protection works at The Burrow, Portrane, it is planned to relocate the SeaBee units during the coming Summer months to optimise their effectiveness to slow the process of Coastal erosion at this location.

Kevin Halpenny read the report and a discussion followed with the members. Kevin Halpenny confirmed that the MAC application was submitted in November 2023 and will now follow up on this.

The report was **NOTED**.

The Meeting concluded at 17:59

CHAIRPERSON

DATED

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MARINE & COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2024

ITEM NO. 04

COORDINATED RESPONSE TO COASTAL EROSION

Motion: Maire O'Brien

"That the Chief Executive implement a systematic and coordinated policy response to the threat to the County coastlines and estuaries, which arise from projected changes in sea levels and increased frequency of coastal storms."

Report:

National policy currently defines a limited remit for local authorities in response to threats from coastal change and its effects mainly relating to emergency interventions. In response to these limitations, the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and the County and City Management Association (CCMA) Climate Change subcommittee carried out two national audits among Irish coastal local authorities in 2016 to establish the extent of the coastal erosion at a national scale and investigate practices and policies in place to deal with the issue in Ireland at the local authority level. University College Cork was subsequently appointed by Fingal County Council to prepare a report in 2017 based on the findings of the two audits and to provide further clarification on several issues. In response to these audits and report and the evident challenges of coastal change, the Government established the Inter-Departmental Group (IDG) on Coastal Change to provide a framework for key decisions on how Ireland can best manage its coast, being aware of the future risks and the associated planning requirements. The IDG published a report in Autumn of 2023. This report contains a range of recommendations, structured across three strategic pillars, for the Government to consider. The three pillars are (1) Enhancing

Governance and Capacity Building, (2) Understanding the Risk and Identifying Potential Technical Risk Management Options and (3) Developing Management Responses to Coastal Change.

The recommendations in the report are centered on developing management responses to coastal change over the short, medium and longer terms and providing a comprehensive whole of Government approach to the development of the range of policy responses that the challenge of coastal change encompasses. It is expected that the report of the IDG will form the basis of new national policies for dealing with Coastal Change including clarification of the future roles and responsibilities of local authorities in dealing with this important issue.

Source of Report:

Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks & Landscape Officer, Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MARINE & COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2024

ITEM NO. 05

MARA APPLICATION FOR PORTRANE COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME – AI099455

Motion: Councillor P. Mulville

“That the Chief Executive report on the current position regarding the application to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority for the Portrane Coastal Protection Scheme.”

Report:

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) have acknowledged receipt of the Council’s Maritime Area Consent (MAC) application in respect of a Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management (CFERM) Plan which has been prepared to address the long-term coastal change impacts in the Rogerstown Outer Estuary. Responses have been provided to requests for additional information received from MARA. If consent for the CFERM is obtained, the Council will proceed to apply to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission to implement the coastal protection measures.

Source of Report:

Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks & Landscape Officer, Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department.

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