

**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.