



DRAFT

Workshop on Coastal Planning in the Severn Estuary:
Conducting Strategic Environmental Assessment for Coastal
Issues in Development Plans

Compiled as part of the COREPOINT WP4.6 Project
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WORKSHOP AIMS AND GOALS

The Severn Estuary Partnership, in collaboration with the COREPOINT research project <http://corepoint.ucc.ie/> hosted a half-day workshop with the aim of identifying key information sources for Coastal Planning. The workshop specifically focussed on conducting Strategic Environmental Assessment for coastal issues within Development Plan Documents, as this is a topic which is presently of great interest around the estuary.

INTRODUCTION

Natasha Barker, Severn Estuary Partnership, introduced the afternoon by reminding delegates of the work of the partnership– from preparation of the Strategy for the Severn Estuary (2001) to a range of services now provided by the Partnership to help implement the Strategy. Natasha explained that we are at an important time for the future development of coastal planning, with opportunities for marine spatial planning through the Marine Bill and ICZM Strategies currently under consultation for England and Wales. Natasha encouraged leadership from the local level from those that have the most knowledge of the Severn Estuary. She explained that the aim of the workshop, enabled by the EC COREPOINT project, was to consider how best local authority planners and the statutory agencies can be supported through the provision of information for coastal planning.

1. PRESENTATION: COASTAL PLANNING AND GUIDANCE FOR THE ESTUARY

Simon Coop from Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners set the scene by looking at the evolution of coastal planning and policy over the past decade or so. He highlighted the high value of the coast generally and specifically the need to consider the Severn Estuary holistically. This was seen as a challenge across the administrative boundaries of 14 Local Planning Authorities, 3 Environment Agency Regions, and 2 National Administrations. He identified the key aim for Planners at the coast in balancing the needs for development with protection of the environment, as well as protection from flood risk. This should be reflected with a proper emphasis on the coast in Development Plan Documents, identifying the specific policy responses required in each of the scenarios outlined by current planning guidance: undeveloped / partially developed / developed coast / despoiled coast. The coast forms a complex, multi-faceted topic, but coastal issues can sometimes not get the treatment they deserve due to pressure on resources, yet complexity cannot be an excuse for inaction. Simon suggested there was a need for Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to take the lead, in questions of design, regeneration, and in setting clear and transparent policies for development at the coast. There are presently no plans to update PPG20 or TAN14, but this may change with the introduction of a Marine Bill. He supported partnership approaches as the basis for strategic management and identified the opportunity for Regional Spatial Strategies to provide an overview, and for public involvement in coastal issues through Community Strategies. Simon identified the following hot topics on the Severn:

- Increased effects of climate change
- Flood risk
- Economic and social changes (but continuing demand for coastal location)
- Regeneration
- Green energy
- Pressure for major developments
- Continued need for protection and environmental improvement

2. PRESENTATION: APPLYING STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TO THE COAST

Lesley Punter from the Welsh Assembly Government described the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. It aims to help achieve sustainable development through the development plan process and applies to all plans and programmes. It means that every Local Planning Authority now has to take account of sustainability criteria in the production of Development Plan Documents. SEA (as part of Sustainability Appraisal) offers the opportunity to look again at local development and consider how strategic development across and around the Severn Estuary could

be co-ordinated. It should aim to make the development plan process more transparent in relation to environmental impacts and choices. It was noted that the planning framework on either side of the Estuary is now markedly different with LDPs/LDFs (See Appendix B). However, the application of Strategic Environmental Assessment in both frameworks is guided by the SEA Directive. SEA has already been conducted on the Wales Spatial Plan, which provides an example and a framework for plans on the northern coast of the estuary. Guidance from Welsh Assembly Government (2006) and Department of Communities and Local Government (2005) has been produced to outline best practice. It was also noted that from October 2006 all Development Plans have to go through Appropriate Assessment under the Conservation (Natural **Habitats**, & c.) Regulations 1994— Appropriate Assessment will have to be undertaken for every plan surrounding the Severn Estuary.

A written report was made available by the SW Regional Assembly, (unfortunately unable to be present at the workshop) outlining the development of Coastal Policies in the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy.

3. PLANNING ISSUES ON THE SEVERN ESTUARY

Questions and Responses

DW (Bridgend) *asked the speakers for their views on the Marine Bill proposals, especially with regard to a potential Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on the English side of the Estuary and a different administrative structure on the Welsh. What would be the strategic planning implications?*

LP responded that although she was not involved in the Marine Bill response, the Strategic Planning team were well aware of the issues, as they are within the same administrative portfolio.

SC recognised that there is potential for chaos if there is no integration between the different systems on both sides of the Estuary and the need to look at the Severn Estuary as a whole.

NB noted that if the same planning units are adopted that were used in the Irish Sea Pilot, then we could end up with a different planning unit(s) for the Estuary to that used before.

NB noted that if ICZM receives statutory backing in the Marine Bill then the Severn Estuary Strategy document will need to be subjected to an SEA. NB recognised that the document is currently used in an unmonitored way and that something more formalised may be required if ICZM is given a statutory basis in the Bill.

VG (Cardiff) *asked if there was a role for Supplementary Planning Guidance documents to be provided for the coast, and whether in Wales these would be subject to SEA?*

LP replied that this was a grey area. The advice was to screen your SPG for SEA requirements – strategic search area for windfarms may be one example. Each individual SPG to be looked at on its own merit. Planning Policy Wales will give clear advice on what is required / what's not.

General Discussion

- Extent of Coastal Issues Reflected in LDPs/LDFs

Delegates discussed how to work more effectively together; and a vision to identify and deal with strategic issues. A hardcopy of all the coastal sections of Local Plans was provided to delegates. The extent of strategic and emerging coastal issues in particular highlighted potential gaps in the Local Plan system e.g. onshore windfarms, proposals such as the Severn barrage and climate change response, which all have major implications for coastal sections of plans in LPAs around

the Severn. It is important that local authorities work with their neighbours on such issues – there are limited examples but it was suggested that the West Wales Waterfront Master Plan was a good example. There is need for more certainty in relation to climate change and achieving targets – especially for flood risk, local planning authorities will need to work more closely together.

DW (Bridgend): Identified a major strategic issue as the Severn Barrage, although recognised that this will be a national decision based across numerous departments – and it is therefore difficult to reflect this kind of strategic issue in LDP.

VG (Cardiff): Identified offshore windfarms and marine renewable energy in general as a hot strategic issue, although many of these applications are not within the jurisdiction of the Local Planning Authority – example of Scarweather Sands off Porthcawl – the landfall element of development including electricity substation are. Also recognise that there is a seascape impact associated with these developments. WAG is pushing the renewable agenda, and it is looking increasingly likely that we will have to contend with new technologies such as tidal ponds / lagoons as well as windfarms in future.

CP (English Nature): At the moment experiencing a plethora of applications for land-based windfarms close to the Estuary. Noted that LPAs have the right to comment upon any development outside the LPA's jurisdiction (i.e. below MLWM) which has impacts inside their jurisdiction. Need for a more integrated approach in this respect. Wind turbines on the far shore have implications for residents on the nearshore because they look at them every day.

DW (Bridgend): In response to comments relating to the extension of LA jurisdiction, DW questioned the rationale for any new boundary – issue was raised at Marine Bill consultation meeting (Cardiff) where 10 different potential offshore limits were identified. Windfarms can be brought within the scope of LDFs. LPAs, in selecting strategic search areas, are asked to work across LPA boundaries to identify areas that straddle boundaries. Can take the same approach in applying this to the marine environment and plan for “least worse areas”.

NB (SEP) commented that the English LGA response to the Marine Bill recommended that LA jurisdiction in MSP should extend to 12nm, although unaware of the extent of consultation on this, or the view of the Welsh LGA on this matter.

- Application of SEA to Coastal Issues in LDPs/LDFs

Delegates discussed a systematic approach in applying SEA (as part of Sustainability Appraisal) to the major issues facing our coastal zone. Discussion started by identifying some of the major issues, and begun to explore how these might be reflected in an SEA of coastal issues LDF/LDPs

NB (Bristol): LPAs do work across boundaries, but this is not done in a systematic way – under-resourced. There is great potential to use SEP as vehicle for collaboration on SEA in the coastal zone.

DW (Bridgend) highlighted role of West Wales Waterfront Master Plan (Bridgend to Carmarthen), which includes new water usage / energy installations etc. but not happening eastwards.

VG (Cardiff) highlighted aggregate dredging as a strategic issue of concern – dredging sites sit between England and Wales – no legal boundary. On the Welsh side dredging is co-ordinated through the WAG's IMADP, but this draws an artificial boundary down the middle of the estuary, whereas the Estuary is one dynamic system.

How does SEA process address / facilitate inclusion of these issues and are there any other key potential influences?

EA: The Agency is in a privileged position – can help by providing guidance on which SEAs demonstrate best practice.

COREPOINT WP 4.6 Working Session Report – SEA and Development Plans on the Severn Estuary

RS (Sedgemoor DC): Early days with respect to the LDF. Danger here of picking up on strategic issues that need to be tackled on a broader front. RSS does not have a strategic view on how to tackle flood risk management. Not convinced of the merits of “picking out the coast as opposed to flood risk in general”

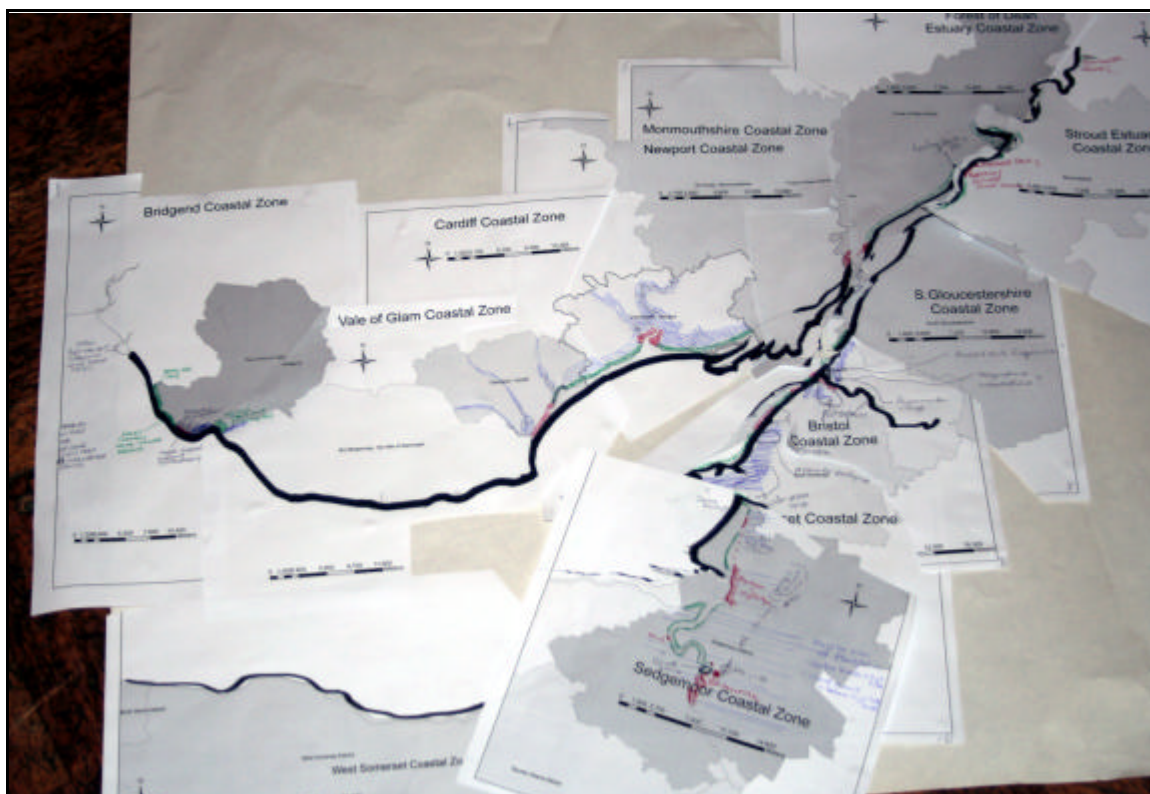
JH (Newport): Responded that there is a need for a greater degree of certainty and a reasonable period of time to address these strategic issues. Huge implications for sea-level rise and associated impacts in the terrestrial development plan.

Overview of Issues: focusing on each authority coastal zone

Workshop participants were each given a GIS generated map of the coast corresponding to the jurisdictional boundaries of their local / unitary authority within the Estuary. Representatives of the statutory agencies present were also invited to provide their perspective on the key issues affecting the Estuary. Participants were then asked, either individually or in collaboration with their colleagues, to highlight on their map the following:

- Developed areas
- Undeveloped areas
- Flood risk areas
- Other significant development issues.

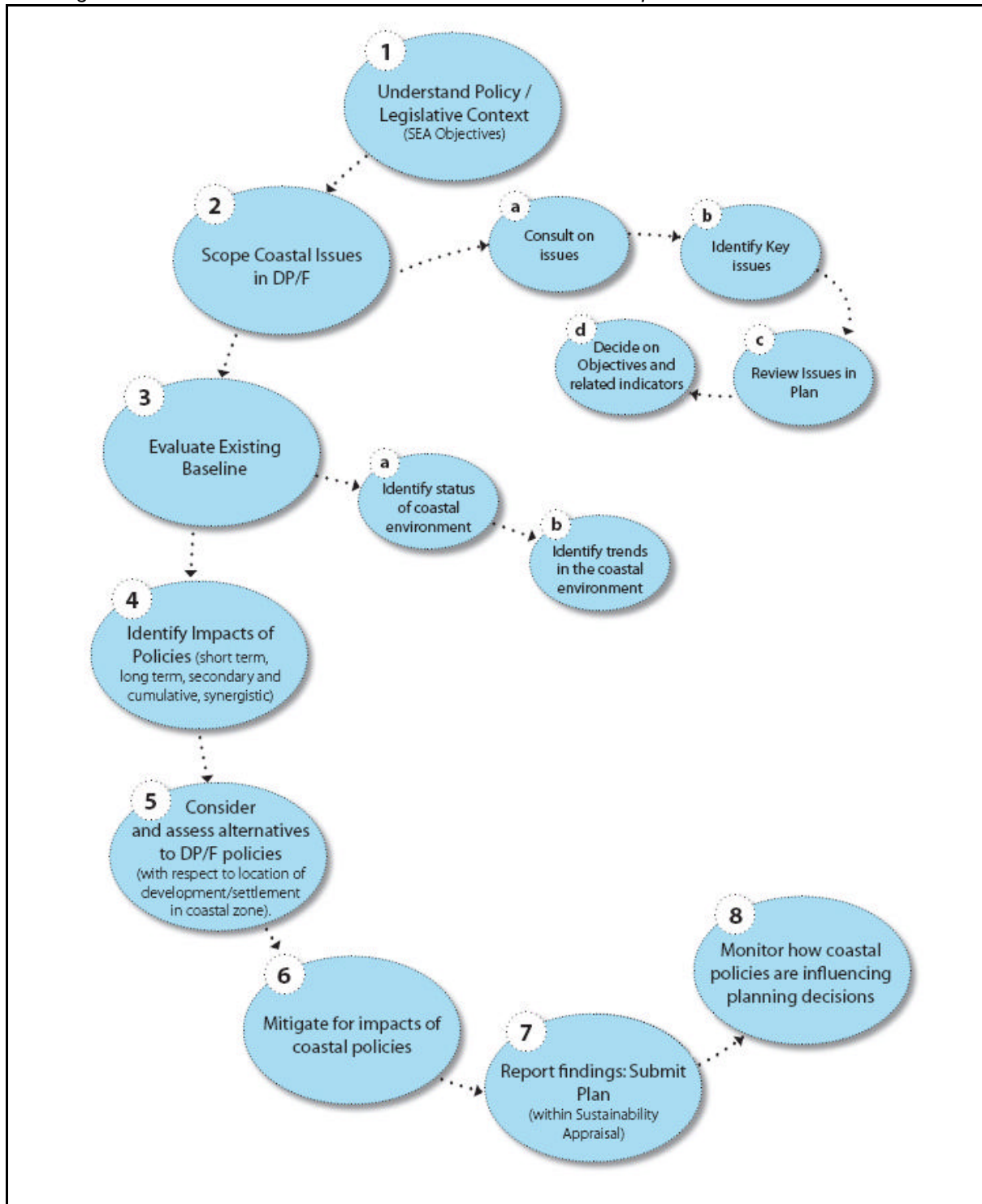
Notes of the feedback are provided in Appendix C. Individual maps showing these highlighted areas were then assembled to create a ‘jigsaw’ of the Severn Estuary. The Severn Estuary Partnership is willing to undertake further work, to utilise this information and develop the exercise e.g. through a supplementary article for [Severn Tidings](#) and/or information on the SEP website.



4. OUTPUTS OF AN INTERACTIVE EXERCISE ON INFORMATION SOURCES

A presentation from Dr Tim Stojanovic, Cardiff University, led the technical officers into a structured consideration of the SEA process. Three models of the SEA/Development Plan process were produced as part of an interactive exercise, and these have been combined and integrated into a fourth model of the SEA process as applied to Development Plans shown below:

Strategic Environmental Assessment of Coastal Issues in Development Plans/Frameworks



Sustainability Issues at the Coast

The following key sustainability issues for the coast were identified from the workshop participants and from the topics included in coastal sections of Development Plans.

- Reducing offshore impacts of development: water quality, physical disturbance, landscape, recreational pressures.
- Coastal Access
- Flooding/Erosion
- Marine Nature Conservation Impacts- designated marine/coastal areas
- Accommodation of accelerated sea level rise
- Impacts of Development from offshore (e.g. Barrage! Renewable Energy)

It was suggested that unless the coast was highlighted as a specific topic within SEA, these issues may not be adequately considered.

Key Information Sources

Delegates began to consider information sources and co-ordination services that may be useful to support coastal planning. These included:

- South West Observatory <http://www.swenvo.org.uk/environment/> (including marine link)
- SeaZone integrated basemapping data provided by UKHO
http://www.seazone.com/seazone_hydrospatial_launch.htm
- South West Coastal Observatory (Coastal Monitoring project focussing on Coast Defence and physical processes) [Will be an extension of <http://www.channelcoast.org/>] Data freely available to Bridgewater / Bideford Bay cut-off point, with some potential to extend it further towards Avonmouth. This will help SMP2/3 work much better. Delegates raised the possibility of a project on Welsh side – SEP to follow up.
- English Nature highlighted two initiatives: i) simulation modelling – pulled together in electronic form on CD and ii) Inaugural marine aggregates group looking at impact of dredging as contribution to CHAMP.
- ICAN – used by Forest of Dean District Council
- Severn Estuary Partnership metadatabase (collation mainly of EA/WAG/SMP1 data) that has not (yet) been distributed and could be developed into a more user-friendly tool.
- [CoastWeb](#) portal offers an example of technology that could be applied or linked in this case
- I Gather SW Regional Planning tool <http://www.swrpm.org.uk/OSSAS/>

5. THE WAY FORWARD

The way forward for developing the work undertaken in the workshop related to:

1. Possible creation of a Local Information System
2. The need for an estuary- wide strategic view of planning issues

Local Information System

The SEP and COREPOINT project team will evaluate the results of the workshop, and feedback from participants, to identify the way forward and assess whether there is value in developing a new Information System to support coastal planners around the Severn Estuary. At the final stage of the workshop, participants begun to identify data sources for each stage of the SEA process. The SEP will continue this work by developing a table of information sources as a first step to inform decision-making.

Delegates raised a number of points:

- Data and information requirements are also big issue identified in the Marine Bill consultation. (Will the MMO have a data co-ordinating role on a regional basis?)
- There is a need to link with existing information resources e.g. UK Hydrographic Office hold a lot of data, but it is also sometimes difficult to get access to this data or there may be prohibitive costs.
- Much of the necessary data is out there, but there is a need to know where it's held and in what format.

- The point was made that whilst data access is as important issue, it is vital to have to have added value and correct interpretation. This is where an information system could help with the co-ordination of data – if you're going to share data, also by helping to make the contacts with the right expertise, so that you are 'signing from the same hymn sheet.'

It was noted that any new Information System could benefit from working alongside another element of the COREPOINT project; the Severn Estuary Research Strategy on climate change, e.g. by linking with climate change impacts for LDPs/LDFs.

Strategic Planning

The workshop also raised concern over the need for more strategic planning for accelerated sea level rise and flood risk management among LPAs. Future changes to legislation, may mean that LPAs have to revisit the Severn Estuary Strategy document in a statutory context. SEP are willing to facilitate building a vision in the light of new / changing policy context. Even without a change of legislation, the SES document will need to be revised within the next few years. The SEP are keen to see the jigsaw exercise expanded – as technical officers seemed to recognise the value of looking at a variety of planning-related issues in a more strategic, estuary-wide context

Climate change and accelerated sea level rise emerged as a major issue – the need for more certainty, e.g. on targets etc. There is currently no systematic approach for the 14LPAs to work together on this issue. It was recognised that since the Strategy document started being prepared 10 years ago, the intensity of pressures and the policy context have also changed.

REFERENCES AND LINKS

Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Environment Agency, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (2004) [Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners](#). Prepared by South West Ecological Surveys, Levett-Therivel sustainability consultants and Oxford Brookes University

Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, Environment Agency (2005) [Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning](#); Incorporating the natural, built and historic environment, and rural issues in plans and strategies.

DCLG (2001) PPS25- [Development and Flood Risk](#)

DCLG (1992) PPG20- [Coastal Planning](#)

Department of Communities and Local Government (2005) [Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents](#).

Department of Communities and Local Government (2005) [Summary of Requirements of the SEA Directive](#)

Severn Estuary Partnership (2001) [Severn Estuary Strategy](#)

Welsh Assembly Government (2004) [Technical Advice Note 15. Development and Flood Risk](#)

Welsh Assembly Government (2002) [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) of Unitary Development Plans - Interim Good Practice Guide](#)

Welsh Assembly Government (1998) [Technical Advice Note \(TAN\) 14. Coastal Planning](#)



APPENDICIES

- A. Agenda
- B. Comparison of English/Welsh Planning Framework
- C. Notes on Coastal Issues in each Authority Coastal Zone
- D. List of Participants
- E. Description of overall COREPOINT project and Local Information System workpackage



A. Agenda

Severn Estuary Partnership

Workshop: Coastal Planning in the Severn Estuary

Wednesday 5th July 2006, 1200-1645
Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon

Agenda



1200- 1230	Lunch	
1230- 1245	Introduction	Natasha Barker, Severn Estuary Partnership and Tim Stojanovic, Cardiff University
1245- 1315	Coastal Planning and Policy	Simon Coop, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners
1315- 1345	Strategic Environmental Assessment	Lesley Punter, Welsh Assembly Government (Written representation from <i>South West Regional Assembly- Dave Fletcher & Jane Lavick</i>)
1345- 1420	Questions for Clarification & Discussion	Chaired by Dr Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University
1420- 1430	Issues in Your Coastal Zone	Interactive Session
1430- 1445	Coffee Break	Interactive Session Continues
1445- 1515	Information Sources for Coastal Planning:	Dr Tim Stojanovic, Cardiff University
1515- 1630	Small Group Interactive Exercise on Information Sources	Facilitated Exercise
1630- 1645	The Way Forward	Natasha Barker, Severn Estuary Partnership

B. Comparison of English/Welsh Planning Framework

<p>Welsh Assembly Government Planning Division P3a</p> <p>THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WALES AND ENGLAND</p>		
Wales	England	
Pre-deposit	Pre-production	
▪ Delivery Agreement (Reg 10)	▪ Local Development Scheme	
▪ Pre-deposit participation (Reg 14)		
▪ Pre-deposit public consultation (Reg 15)	Production	
	▪ Prepare issues and alternative options in consultation (Reg 25)	
	▪ Representations on preferred options (Reg 27)	
Deposit	▪ Submission of DPD -6 weeks consultation -alternative site allocations (Reg 28) (Reg 32)	
▪ Deposit of Proposals -6 weeks consultation (Reg 17)		
▪ Site allocation representation (Reg 20-1)		
Submission and Examination	Examination	
▪ Submission of LDP (Reg 22)	▪ Pre-Examination Meeting	
▪ Pre-Examination Meeting	▪ Independent Examination	
▪ Independent Examination (Reg 23)		
▪ Publication of the Inspector's Report (Reg 24)	▪ Binding Inspector's Report (Reg 35)	
Adoption	Adoption	
▪ Adoption of LDP (Reg 25)	▪ Adoption of DPD	
▪ Annual monitoring report (Reg 37)	▪ Annual Monitoring Report (Reg 48)	
[The report must be based upon the period 1 st April to 31 March and submitted to WAG by 31 October each year]	[The report must be based upon the period 1 st April to 31 st March and submitted to the SoS no later than the end of the following December]	
▪ Full review of LDP (every 4 years) (Reg 41)		

ODPM Publications:

- Planning Policy Statement 12
- Creating Local Development Frameworks: A Companion guide to PPS12

WAG Publications:

- LDP Wales
- LDP Manual (and cd-rom)
- Planning your community
- A Guide to the Examination of LDP (PINS)

Other Publications:

- Policies for Spatial Plans: A guide to writing the policy content of LDDs (POS)
- The LDF: learning and dissemination project (PAS) – 10 pilot authorities

Welsh Assembly Government
Planning Division P3a

THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN SYSTEMS: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WALES AND ENGLAND

WALES	ENGLAND
Local Development Plan to have regard to 'Welsh Spatial Plan' prepared by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)	Local Development Framework to have regard to 'Regional Spatial Strategy' prepared by the Regional Planning Body
Local Development Plan (LDP) – a single document comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction; Strategy based on a vision; Area-wide policies for all development and/or development types; Allocations of land and related sites; Specific policies and proposals for key areas of change or protection Reasoned justification for policies; Proposals map on a geographical base 	Local Development Framework (LDF) – comprising local development documents (LDD): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Plan Documents (DPDs): Adopted Proposals Map; Core Strategy; Site Specific Allocations; Area Action Plans (Optional); Other Development Plan Documents (Optional) Supplementary Planning Documents Statement of Community Involvement Sustainability Appraisal (SEA) Timetable
Delivery agreement (DA) between LPA & WAG comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timetable for preparation and adoption of Plans; Community involvement scheme (CIS) 	Local development scheme (LDS) & Minerals and waste development scheme (MWDS) to be prepared by LPA, SoS must agree LDS or direct amendments. It comprises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> list of various LDDs and DPDs, and those documents that are prepared jointly with other LPA(s); the subject matter and geographical area related; LDDs preparation & revision timetable.
Community involvement scheme (CIS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to LDP preparation Set out how the LDP will be developed and then monitored and reviewed in an end to end process in partnership with stakeholders and the community 	Statement of community involvement (SCI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to both LDD preparation and Development Control, with independent examination (like an LDD); A clear public statement enabling the community to know how and when they will be involved in the preparation LDDs and how they will be consulted on planning applications.
Initial sustainability appraisal report (which incorporates the Environmental Report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be prepared in the pre-deposit participation stage Sustainability appraisal report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be prepared after the pre-deposit public consultation stage 	Sustainability appraisal report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be issued in the pre-submission public participation stage * Sustainability appraisal is required when preparing a SPD

C. Notes on Issues in each Local Authority Coastal Zone

Workshop participants were each given a GIS generated map of the coast corresponding to the jurisdictional boundaries of their local / unitary authority within the Estuary. Participants were then asked, either individually or in collaboration with their colleagues, to highlight on their map the following:

- Developed areas
- Undeveloped areas
- Flood risk areas
- Other significant development issues.

Individual maps showing these highlighted areas were then assembled to create a 'jigsaw' of the Severn Estuary. The following provides a summary of the key features and development issues affecting each authority's coastline, as revealed by the exercise. Representatives of the statutory agencies present were also invited to provide their perspective on the key issues affecting the Estuary.

Bridgend County Borough Council

- Significant undeveloped section of coast with national and international nature conservation designations, including Kenfig National Nature Reserve.
- The coastal resort of Porthcawl lies in the middle of the authority's coastline, where a significant regeneration project is underway consisting of housing, marina and associated development.
- The long arm of Port Talbot Steelworks causes some problems associated with the interruption of longshore drift, resulting in inadequate beach recharge in the area.

Cardiff Council

- Key features are Cardiff Bay Barrage and docks area, with major industrial development in the form of the steelworks – construction of a new facility is underway here.
- Moving east, there is further development including a waste tip, which is now being remediated.
- The undeveloped Gwent Levels occupy the most eastern part of the authority's coastline. These are below sea level and are at flood risk.
- Flatholm island also lies within the authority's jurisdiction.

Newport City Council

- The undeveloped coastline adjoins Cardiff, much of which is designated as a SSSI.
- Key features in the coastal zone include Uskmouth power station and a wetland bird reserve.
- All regeneration sites occupy brownfield land which are designated as C1 flood risk areas.

Forest of Dean District Council

- One project likely to affect the Estuary is a proposal for the regeneration of Lydney Docks.

Gloucestershire County Council

- Coastline is largely undeveloped and consists of rural pasture.
- Major development consists of Sharpness Docks; major redevelopment of Gloucester Docks is underway.
- The future of the nuclear power station remains undecided.

South Gloucestershire Council

- Decommissioning process underway at Oldbury power station.
- Proposals for wind turbines arise on a regular basis.
- There are proposals for two turbines to be installed at Avonmouth.

Bristol City Council

- Heavily developed area in the floodplain adjacent to Avonmouth.

North Somerset Council

- Half the authority's coastal area occupies a floodplain; this area is the most likely candidate for further development.
- There is some conflict between recreation and nature conservation, but this is handled sensitively.
- Port of Bristol Portbury Dock is expanding rapidly and there is a continuing need for additional land. Further expansion west onto undeveloped land is likely in the future.

Sedgemoor District Council

- The River Parrott is tidal throughout the authority's area. Flood defence is the major issue.
- There is talk of some form of barrage or sluice structure for the R. Parrot although it is understood that no definite proposals have been put forward.
- The Somerset Levels / Moors border the authority's area – these are below sea level and are at flood risk.

Countryside Council for Wales

- Flooding issues are a major concern, particularly within statutory designations.
- Some concerns over proposed development, particularly in relation to plans for a new power station at Uskmouth.
- Other issues relate to raising of sea defences at Caldicott sites, proposals for wind turbines (mainly on English side of the Estuary) and for various business parks within SSSIs.

English Nature

- There are 2/3 major issues in addition to numerous, more localised specific concerns.
- The key issue is the impact of sea level rise upon SSSIs and designated European habitats. The issue of how to roll-back these habitats needs to be addressed.
- The other important consideration is the impact of recreation / disturbance upon bird populations around the Estuary. There is a need to identify important bird refuges that can be secured for the long-term. Greater emphasis upon sustainability is needed.

Environment Agency

- All open areas require flood defences. There is a need for a review of flood defences as they are all at different stages.
- There is a plethora of interest in barrages – Avon, Parrott and Severn to name a few. The flood risk implications of barrage construction require further research.
- Increasing interest in tidal and wave technology for renewable energy generation, as evident from trials of a small wave energy device off N. Somerset.
- Managed retreat in the Sedgemoor area is also occupying the EA.

From EA Wales perspective, the key issues are climate change, flood risk and renewable energy.

D. List of Participants

Dave Llewelyn, Bridgend
Rob Jones, Bridgend
James Clemence, Cardiff
Vaughan Grantham, Cardiff
James Hooker, Newport
Alistair Chapman, Forest of Dean
Rob Nibblet, Gloucestershire
David Ingleby, Gloucestershire
Nikki Broomfield, Bristol
Rob Shuttleworth, Sedgemoor
John Taylor, Sedgemoor
Allan Davies, North Somerset
David Robins, North Somerset

Gary Purnell, (Development Control, SE Wales Area) Environment Agency
Richard Derrick, (Asset System Management, SE Wales Area) Environment Agency
Caroline Drayton, (Planning Officer, SE Wales Area) Environment Agency
Tracey Braithwaite, (T/L Planning Liaison, SE Wales Area) Environment Agency
Rhys Morgan, Severn Estuary Officer, Environment Agency
Barry Smith, (Planning Liaison, North Wessex Area), Environment Agency
John Buttivant, (Asset System Management, North Wessex Area) Environment Agency
Rex Thomas, (Development Control Officer, Lower Severn Area) Environment Agency
Matt Kerry, Development Control Officer, Lower Severn Area) Environment Agency
Niall Hall, (Flood Risk Management, Lower Severn Area) Environment Agency
Jessica Poole, CCW
Charlotte Padgenham, English Nature
Rhys Morgan, Environment Agency
Lesley Punter, Welsh Assembly Government
Simon Coop. Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners
Natasha Barker, Severn Estuary Partnership
Cardiff University Research Team

Other Invitees

Vale of Glamorgan
Monmouthshire
South Gloucestershire
Welsh Assembly Government (Planning)
Countryside Agency
South West Regional Development Agency
Somerset
Stroud
Tewkesbury
Bristol Channel Ports Representative
South West Regional Observatory

E. Description of overall COREPOINT project and Local Information System workpackage

Key aims and objectives

The COastal REsearch & POLicy INtegration (COREPOINT) project aims to:

- establish North West Europe as an Internationally Recognised Region of Excellence in Coastal Management.
- promote the development and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management across the North West Europe region
- raise awareness and cultivate support for the sustainable management of the coastal regions of North West Europe
- bring research centres and local authorities closer together and enable them to work in partnership to improve planning for local coastal areas
- provide solutions for current problems in the Northwest region using current best practice approaches and identify models for sustaining ICZM initiatives
- develop an integrated coastal information management system for Northwest Europe
- build local capacity to assist the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management; and
- raise awareness amongst all citizens as to the value of our coastal resources.

General COREPOINT activities

The proposed key actions to be undertaken by the partnership are to:

- *Determine effectiveness of current spatial policies for coastal management* – This action will review international approaches to ICZM; quantify the economic benefits of natural coastal ecosystems; identify financial models for sustaining ICZM initiatives; review the EU ICZM Stocktake process; analyse key coastal issues and conflicts in NW Europe; determine the status of ICZM as an approach to spatial planning in NW Europe and extend networks of coastal practitioners in NW Europe.
- *Implement the principles of best practice in ICZM* – This action recognises the importance of spatial planning and decision-making at the local level for bringing real change to coastal communities. This action will *implement* ICZM initiatives in local study areas throughout NW Europe, by building on the lessons learned from the EU Demonstration Programme on ICZM. It will use the collective skills of the partnership to address local coastal issues and problems.
- *Establish the Northwest Europe Coastal Resource Centre* – This action will result in the development of a virtual Coastal Resource Centre for NW Europe. The centre will house the following features: a Digital Coastal Atlas for NW Europe; Local Information System decision making tools for local authorities; a Media Information Resource Centre and a Coastal Zone Youth Club. Materials collected and produced during the project will also be included in the centre.
- *Engage European decision makers and citizens in ICZM* – This action aims to cultivate support for sustainable management of our coasts by engaging with political entities, existing coastal networks, industry, NGOs and schools. A series of workshops, open days, field trips and networking activities will take place. Expert ICZM surgeries directed at elected local representatives will promote the benefits of pro-active coastal management. This together with positive outcomes from the local studies implementing ICZM and support for the process among citizens will help influence decision-makers and national policy.
- *Attain excellence in ICZM for NW Europe* – This action aims to build capacity for coastal management in NW Europe by educating decision makers and strengthening links between local authorities and university research centres. An ICZM training course will offer a range of courses for Politicians, Local Authority employees and coastal practitioners to increase their knowledge of the benefits of ICZM. This, coupled with exchange programmes between research centres for young researchers should increase the ICZM knowledge base across the North West Europe region.

COREPOINT website: <http://corepoint.ucc.ie/>



LOCAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (Nov. 2005 – October 2007)

This work package focuses on getting coastal partners and stakeholders to 'buy into' and to get involved in using information systems and will complement and build on the current GIS component of the Severn Estuary Partnership's other INTERREG project, the COASTATLANTIC project. The aim will be to develop a positive, systematic, easily communicated and clearly understandable 'common methodology' for information use. Thus, a Local Information System will be developed which will identify how to avoid developing information technology that simply gets 'left on the shelf' or only understood by a tiny group of experts involved in the development process.

The LIS will consider how existing tools and technology relevant to information management can be embedded into the working practices of coastal stakeholders. The LIS will be developed and derived from the joint experience of relevant coastal practitioners and decision-makers through a series of workshops. The Severn Estuary Partnership has been one of three case studies chosen from across North West Europe to pioneer this new 'appropriate' technology. (The other case studies are the Sefton Coast and Essex Estuaries).