

Wash East Coastal Management

Agreed ways of working for project delivery

Background

The Wash East Coastal Management Strategy (WECMS) is nearing completion and its official sign-off is anticipated summer 2015. This has followed a public consultation process and focused engagement through the WECMS Stakeholder Engagement Group.

The Strategy has been extremely effective in starting the discussion on how the section of coast from Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek is managed in the future. It is now important that we continue the momentum through engagement with stakeholders in the transition between strategy sign-off and project start-up, as well as clarifying arrangements around project definitions, timescales and roles.

This paper sets out how projects in this location will be delivered.

Basic principles

Unit A and B projects

All projects within Unit A (Hunstanton Cliffs) and Unit B (Hunstanton Town) will be led by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN).

Unit C projects

Project 1 – Wash East CMS Works Arising (shingle bank recycling¹)

The first project for Unit C from the WECMS needs to address the situation after February 2016, when there is no further funding identified to replenish the shingle bank sea defences.

The short delivery timescale for this project means that the Environment Agency will manage the scheme, working in partnership with BCKLWN, who will be represented at Project Board level. The Environment Agency will coordinate and administer a Project Board and Project Team, and will procure consultants and contractors, as required. Appraisal and design work will need to start immediately after the WECMS is formally approved, anticipated summer 2015.

It is intended that the Environment Agency's operational teams will manage the delivery of the annual shingle bank recycling in the same way as is done currently, subject to a procurement review.

¹ Some beach recharge is required at approximately 10 yearly intervals to replenish lost material. An element of recharge may be required as part of this project, and this would form part of the required capital maintenance works.

Some central government funding from the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCRM GiA) funding will be available for the project (approximately 25% of costs), subject to the majority of the cost being provided through partnership funding. The scheme cannot proceed without the partnership funding being secured.

Project 2 – Improve defences

This project is a potential additional step, if sufficient partnership funding is available and there is the local ambition to improve the standard of defence. The majority of funding for an 'improve' option would need to be sourced from partnership funding. If there is the appetite to progress an 'improve' scheme, this can be parallel tracked with the latter part of Project 1, with construction following on from the recycling works. If there are insufficient funds to carry out an 'improve' project, a continuation to Project 1 can be sought to continue maintenance of the shingle bank after the 5-year capital maintenance project is completed.

The management structure to deliver Project 2 would need to be discussed and agreed if this project moves forward.

Stakeholder Forum

A Stakeholder Forum (SF) will be set up and led by BCKLWN, drawing on stakeholder representatives from the WECMS.

This group will provide a sounding board to aid delivery of projects and management of issues and risks within the area covered by the strategy (Units A, B and C), and will comprise similar membership to the current WECMS Stakeholder Engagement Group which has included local elected members, conservation groups and other statutory agencies such as Natural England.

The SF will meet biannually to receive an update on project progress and / or to provide comment on project consultations.

Funding Group

Multiple funding sources will be required to progress projects to deliver the WECMS across Unit A, B and C. To this end, BCKLWN will set up and lead a Funding Group. This Group will comprise representatives of organisations that may provide funding for projects and will include as a minimum:

- Ray Harding – Chief Executive, BCKLWN
- Julie Foley – Area Manager, Environment Agency
- Tom McCabe – Director of Environment, Transport and Development, NCC
- Mike McDonnell - Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Kerry Rhodes - Anglian Water

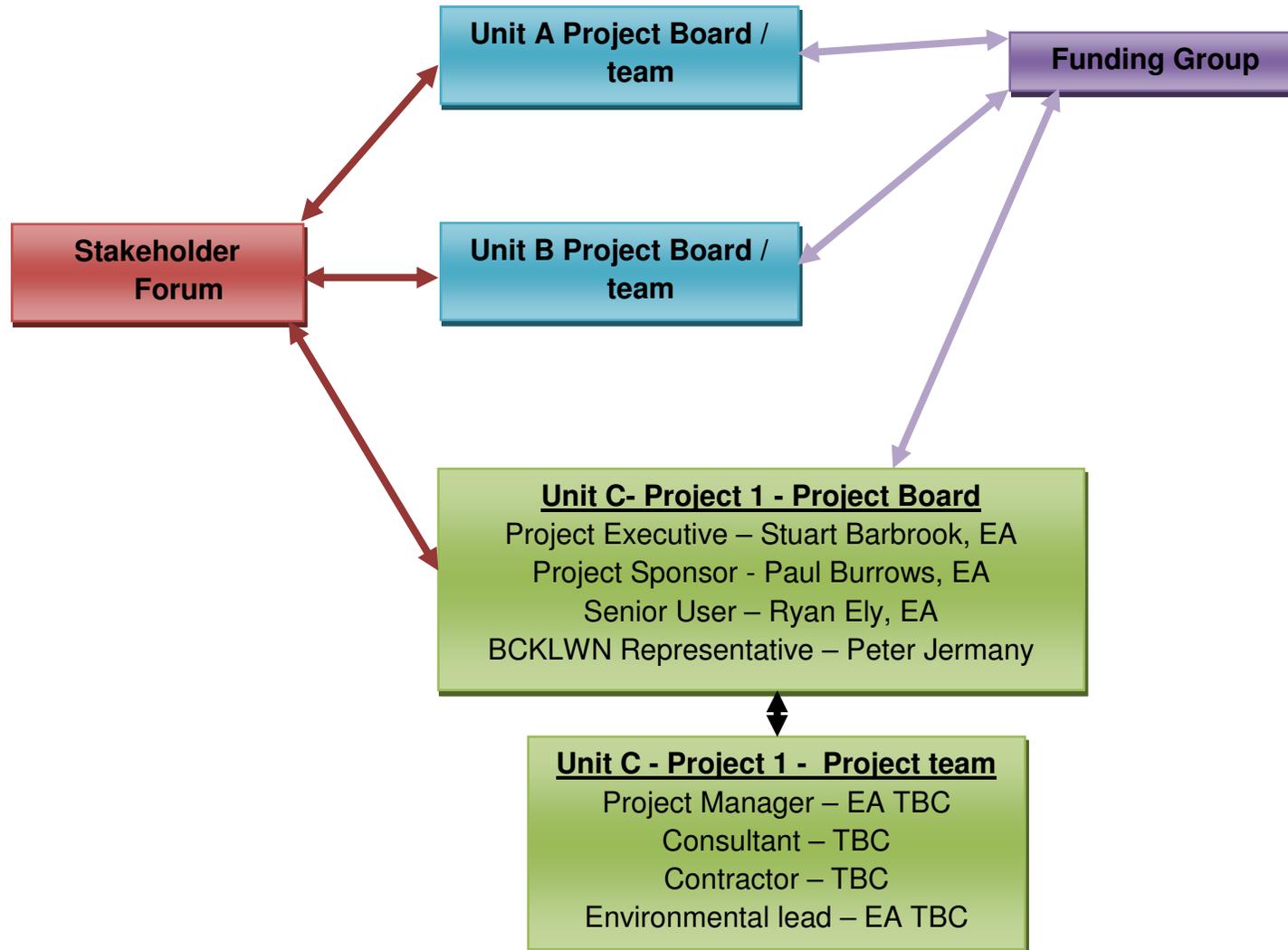
The purpose of this group will be to:

- Develop and maintain a funding strategy for all projects following on from the WECMS
- Manage risks and opportunities
- Discuss funding routes, values and availability
- Investigate and coordinate bids for other potential sources of funding e.g. European (LEP) funding

The Funding Group will meet biannually and by correspondence as appropriate.

Interaction between groups

The Funding Group and Stakeholder Forum will operate strategically. Outputs from both groups will feed in to projects at Board level through the BCKLWN representative on the Project Board(s).



Working with the CIC

The CIC is being set up by local businesses and organisations benefitting from the existing flood defences to fund the shortfall in project costs in Unit C. The CIC will operate as a private funder, providing a funding contribution to the flood risk management works in Unit C.

The Environment Agency will remain separate from the CIC's business of seeking funds from local stakeholders and would not form part of the CIC's board.

The Environment Agency will provide technical flood risk management advice (associated with the delivery of the strategy and associated projects) to the CIC, when requested, but will be unable to provide the CIC with financial, business or legal advice.

The single point of Environment Agency contact for the CIC will be Claire Jouvray.

Nigel Woonton will continue to provide Environment Agency lead for the WECMS through to its approval. Nigel will provide continuity and advice to the Unit C Project Team. Nigel will also help BCKLWN establish the Stakeholder Forum and Funding Group and support them with advice as appropriate.

Actions going forward

The Environment Agency and BCKLWN will meet with the CIC to confirm how the three organisations work together.

BCKLWN will set up the Funding Group and the Stakeholder Engagement Group before June 2015.

The Environment Agency will establish a Project Board and Project Team for Project 1, Unit C before June 2015.