

REPORT TO: Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Dave Cowans

DATE: 4 June 2015
9 June 2015

LEAD OFFICER: Geraint Edwards
Head of Environment, Roads and Facilities
geraint.edwards@conwy.gov.uk
01492 575207

CONTACT OFFICER: Dyfed Rowlands
Flood Risk and Infrastructure Manager
dyfed.rowlands@conwy.gov.uk
01492 575108

SUBJECT: Llandudno Coastal Forum Update

ELECTORAL DIVISION: Craig-y-Don, Gogarth, Mostyn and Tudno

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To update members on the work of the Llandudno Coastal Forum, review the consultation and consider any future steps in developing any new proposals.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. Llandudno Coastal Forum has been meeting to formulate ideas for the future beach management of Llandudno for the past 8 months.
- 2.2. The Forum presented its ideas for Llandudno North Shore at a public consultation event in February 2015. 901 responses were received during the consultation period.
- 2.3. The existing beach management for North Shore received a high level of criticism from some members of the public; however, alternative ideas were all supported overall.
- 2.4. It is recommended that all alternative beach management ideas be taken forward to assess their feasibility and compare them with the existing management regime.

- 2.5. All amenity ideas consulted upon received general support and most received greater support than the alternative beach management ideas.
- 2.6. The Forum would like to continue in order to develop ideas for West Shore and carry out an additional consultation phase. As this is beyond the timeframe set out for the Forum a decision on continuation of Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) support will need to be made.

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)/OPTIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the work of the Llandudno Coastal Forum is acknowledged and used to support a study that considers the feasibility of alternative ideas to develop a comprehensive beach management plan for Llandudno.
- 3.2 It is recommended that CCBC officers and councillors continue to attend and support the Forum to develop further plans for the planned consultation event for West Shore for a limited period, not exceeding 3 months as described in paragraph 4.14.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1. Following Cabinet on 8th July 2014, the Llandudno Coastal Forum was established comprising representatives of CCBC and other interested groups including Llandudno Town Council, and the Restore Our Beach.
- 4.2. The Forum agreed following terms of reference:

Develop a Sustainable Beach Management strategy for Llandudno, which seeks to;

- provide beaches that are fit for purpose
 - provide appropriate flood and coastal erosion risk management,
 - improve the natural environment, recreational space and aesthetics
 - create opportunities for commercial activities for the town
- 4.3. The Forum have met fortnightly over a period of eight months and have considered the varied issues affecting the town and, particularly, its beaches.
 - 4.4. A website was developed (llandudnocoastalforum.co.uk) to share information more widely, encourage debate, share opinions and provide opportunity for information to be received by the Forum for further discussion.

- 4.5. After hearing evidence and a number of presentations on topics including commercial interest and activities, flood risk, heritage and tourism the Forum identified the coastal zones shown in Appendix A and mapped out their issues and ideas for the town's beaches in each of these zones.
- 4.6. CCBC provided data to the Forum to assist in their knowledge of coastal defence history in Llandudno. This included extreme high tide data, historic reports which formed the basis of past coastal defence changes and beach monitoring history and analysis.
- 4.7. Ships' Timbers provided a presentation on heritage features present at North Shore. The Forum acknowledged the importance of historic heritage sites. Where possible they should be protected as part of any future beach management proposals.
- 4.8. The Forum presented their findings at a public consultation event held between Saturday 21st February 2015 to Friday 27th February 2015 in the vacant shop at 1 Mostyn Broadway. The material for this event comprised drawings of each of the zones with the ideas referred to in 4.5.
- 4.9. Visualisations of the different ideas were provided by an independent forum member, brought into the group for the consultation phase. CCBC provided more technical drawings of the ideas including photographs of local examples. These drawings originally also included pros, cons and uncertainties for each zone (similar to those used for the Colwyn Bay Waterfront consultation) but the Forum made the decision to omit this information from the plans to allow for a more open consideration of what was being illustrated.
- 4.10. Members of the Forum including officers from CCBC were present at the consultation event to answer any questions or queries from the public.
- 4.11. The consultation attracted 901 responses and a summary of the results is given in Appendix B.
- 4.12. The Forum have requested not to provide any commentary on or analysis of the feedback received following the public consultation within this report in order not to unduly influence or sway the views provided by the general public.
- 4.13. A number of amenity ideas were also raised during the consultation. New toilet facilities were the most popular idea and, in general, the amenity ideas received more support than all of the beach management ideas. The exceptions were the beach huts, bike hire, new slipway opposite Vaughan Street and the lengthening and raising of Venue Cymru slipway which received a similar level of support to the alternative beach management ideas.

- 4.14. The Forum consider that further more detailed work is required for West Shore and an additional consultation event is planned. However this should not delay progress on formulating any study proposals related to this report. Following a recent meeting Forum members stated that they would like to reconvene their meetings and resume with their work for West Shore following the summer holiday period, commencing in September 2015.
- 4.15. Whilst approaching the end of the 6 month working period with Llandudno Coastal Forum it was considered appropriate by CCBC officers and local councillors to extend the length of time offered to support the Forum to enable them to finalise and complete consultation material in readiness for the public consultation event for North Shore.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1. The Cabinet Member for Highways & Sustainability has attended the meetings of the Forum and has been supportive of the work that has been carried out to date. The Cabinet Member is also supportive of the recommendations within this report.
- 5.2. In addition, local members from Llandudno, Cllr Frank Bradfield and Cllr Dewi Miles, have been a valuable part of the Forum and have offered their support and views on numerous occasions.
- 5.3. The Forum itself promoted the consultation initiative and the work referred to has been consulted widely using local press, flyers, websites and social media as well the public consultation event. The results of the consultation are given in Appendix B.
- 5.4. Llandudno Coastal Forum, with its diverse membership of relevant stakeholders including resident groups, Public interest groups through to major land owners, has spent considerable time exploring the history and viable options for the North Shore and has been fully engaged in the production of this report. The proposals put to public consultation, and the large number of positive responses received for various options, represent the best choice of realistic ideas that now need developing into practical schemes for the protection and development of the North Shore at Llandudno. The Forum members now wish to see a feasibility study take place so that the suitable options can be fully identified and costed.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Forum intends to take forward ideas for West Shore as a Phase 2 consultation. As the Forum was originally formed with a 6 month mandate to identify ideas for the whole of Llandudno, CCBC will need to consider if they are willing to support the Forum beyond this point.

- 6.2. The commitment to undertake a comprehensive beach management plan for Llandudno following completion of the Llandudno Coastal Forum consultation period was made by the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7th July 2014. Given the results of the consultation it is recommended that all alternative ideas are included in the study with the existing management forming the baseline.
- 6.3. The cost for the production of a comprehensive Beach Management Plan considering the ideas supported by the general public during the consultation is estimated to be in the region of £50k - £75k. A contribution of £30k has already been provided by CCBC through a reserve provision that was agreed last year. Llandudno Town Council have also confirmed that they would be willing to contribute £5k towards the cost of the study. It is hoped that other members of the Forum may also contribute towards the cost.
- 6.4. The remaining amount will be sought from Welsh Government through a grant application submission to the Flood and Coastal Defence branch. If the grant application to Welsh Government is not successful a Business Case will need to be prepared and submitted through the Business Planning Framework process.

7. RISK

- 7.1. Given the level of public unhappiness with the existing beach management in Llandudno, should the findings of the Llandudno Coastal Forum and public consultation not be taken forward there would be a risk that further maintenance or emergency works at North Shore could be disrupted by public protest. In turn this could compromise the flood protection of the town if works could not proceed and have a negative impact on the authority's reputation.

8. DRIVERS AND IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Links to the Corporate Plan and Risk Register

- Outcome 2 - People in Conwy are safe and feel safe
- Outcome 3 - People in Conwy live in safe and appropriate housing
- Outcome 4 - People in Conwy are healthy and independent
- Outcome 5 - People in Conwy live in a County which has a thriving economy
- Outcome 6 - People in Conwy live in a sustainable environment
- Outcome 8 - People in Conwy are informed, included and listened to

The Corporate Risk Register identifies Flood Defence as a High risk.

8.2 Impact on the Building Resilient Communities and Tackling Poverty agenda

None at present.

- 8.3 Equality Implications (Outline any key equality impact issues that have been identified within the Equality Impact Assessment.)

None at present.

- 8.4 Sustainability Implications

The impacts of Climate change is predicted to increase flood and coastal erosion risks through rising sea levels. Any future beach management proposals will need to take this into account.

- 8.5 Biodiversity Implications

None at present.

- 8.6 Effect/Impact on existing policies and procedures

Current beach management policy is being continued until other options are presented however, there are potential implications from any decisions taken for the Shoreline Management Plan and the operational activities associated with beach management.

9. PUBLICATION

- 9.1 The outcome of the decisions made by this Committee and subsequent meeting(s) will be published on the Council's web site and are also likely to be publicised on the Llandudno Coastal Forum website. The minutes of the meetings of the Forum itself are publicised on its website.

10. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 10.1 It is clear that there is significant amount of public dissatisfaction with the existing beach management in Llandudno. All alternative ideas presented at the public consultation received a good degree of support. It is, therefore, recommended that all alternative ideas are taken forward to assess their feasibility through the production of a Beach Management Plan.
- 10.2 To seek support for officers and councillors to assist Llandudno Coastal Forum to carry out a consultation event for West Shore.

11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

12. REPORT REVIEW GROUP (RRG) COMMENTS

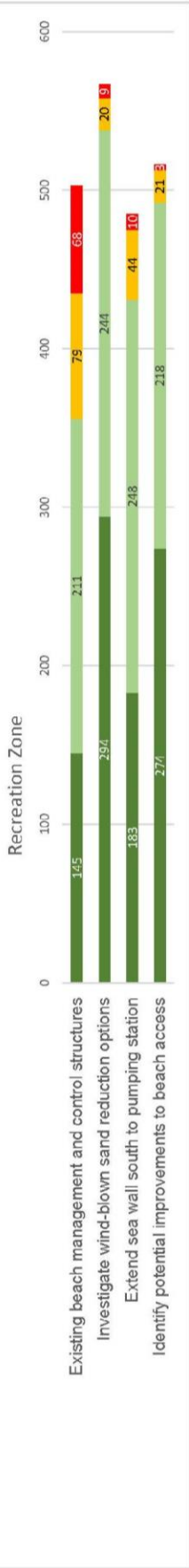
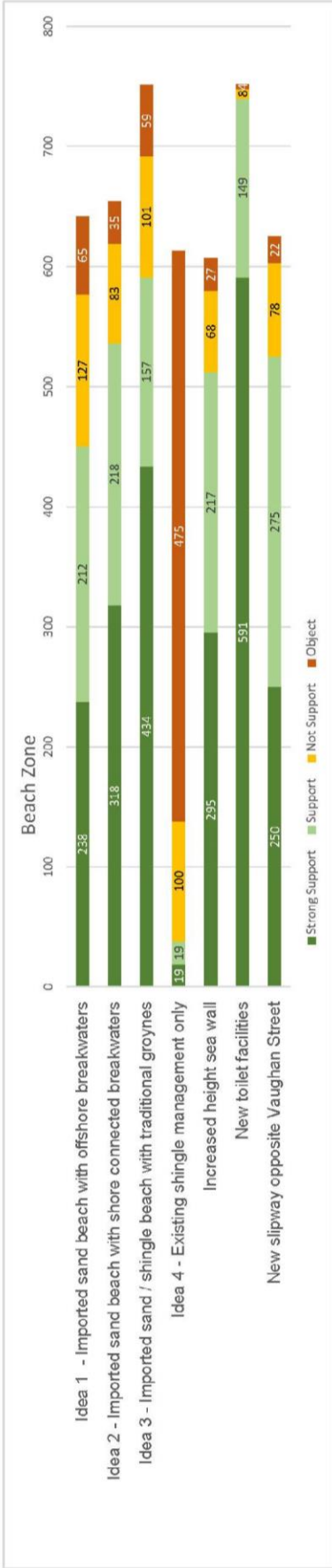
- 12.1 RRG supported the recommendations within the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.
Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes 7 July 2014	CCBC Intranet	http://cm-modgov02:8070/mgAi.aspx?ID=49079
Cabinet Minutes July 2014	CCBC Intranet	http://cm-modgov02:8070/mgAi.aspx?ID=49080
Llandudno Coastal Forum Website – provides up to date information including Llandudno Coastal Forum Minutes	Internet	www.llandudnocoastalforum.co.uk
Submitted Consultation Questionnaires	CCBC and Llandudno Coastal Forum	N/A

Appendix A – Zone



Appendix B – Consultation



Beach Zone	Strong Support		Support		Not Support		Object		Overall response rate			Ratio +ve:-ve												
	Total	% of total responses	Total	% of total responses	Total	% of total responses	Total	% of total responses	Total Responses	No Response	% Response		Total +ve	Total -ve										
Idea 1 - Imported sand beach with offshore breakwaters	238	26.4%	212	23.5%	127	14.1%	19.8%	65	7.2%	10.1%	642	259	71.3%	901	450	192	2.3							
Idea 2 - Imported sand beach with shore connected breakwaters	318	35.3%	218	24.2%	83	9.2%	12.7%	35	3.9%	5.4%	654	247	72.6%	901	536	118	4.5							
Idea 3 - Imported sand / shingle beach with traditional groyne	434	48.2%	157	17.4%	20.9%	101	11.2%	13.4%	59	6.5%	7.9%	751	150	83.4%	901	591	160	3.7						
Idea 4 - Existing shingle management only	19	2.1%	3.1%	19	2.1%	3.1%	100	11.1%	16.3%	475	52.7%	77.5%	613	288	68.0%	901	38	575	0.07					
Increased height sea wall	295	32.7%	48.0%	217	24.1%	35.7%	68	7.5%	11.2%	27	3.0%	4.4%	607	294	67.4%	901	512	95	5.4					
New toilet facilities	591	65.6%	78.6%	149	16.5%	19.8%	8	0.9%	1.1%	4	0.4%	0.5%	752	149	83.5%	901	740	12	61.7					
New slipway opposite Vaughan Street	250	27.7%	40.0%	275	30.5%	44.0%	78	8.7%	12.5%	22	2.4%	3.5%	625	276	69.4%	901	525	100	5.3					
Boating Zone																								
Idea 1 - Imported sand beach with shore connected breakwaters	375	41.6%	57.5%	190	21.1%	29.1%	54	6.0%	8.3%	33	3.7%	5.1%	652	249	72.4%	901	565	87	6.5					
Idea 2 - Imported sand / shingle beach with traditional groyne	390	43.3%	56.0%	177	19.6%	25.4%	89	9.9%	12.8%	41	4.6%	5.9%	697	204	77.4%	901	567	130	4.4					
Idea 3 - Existing shingle management only	21	2.3%	3.8%	29	3.2%	5.3%	104	11.5%	18.9%	397	44.1%	72.1%	551	350	61.2%	901	50	501	0.10					
Increased height sea wall	315	35.0%	51.9%	198	22.0%	32.6%	59	6.5%	9.7%	35	3.9%	5.8%	607	294	67.4%	901	513	94	5.5					
New toilet facilities	591	65.6%	78.2%	155	17.2%	20.5%	9	1.0%	1.2%	1	0.1%	0.1%	756	145	83.9%	901	746	10	74.6					
Improved play area	483	53.6%	67.9%	205	22.8%	28.8%	20	2.2%	2.8%	3	0.3%	0.4%	711	190	78.9%	901	688	23	29.9					
Water play area	439	48.7%	64.6%	196	21.8%	28.8%	37	4.1%	5.4%	8	0.9%	1.2%	680	221	75.5%	901	635	45	14.1					
Lengthen and raise Venue Cymru slipway	263	29.2%	42.9%	259	28.7%	42.3%	66	7.3%	10.8%	25	2.8%	4.1%	613	288	68.0%	901	522	91	5.7					
Beach huts	333	37.0%	48.8%	206	22.9%	30.2%	114	12.7%	16.7%	30	3.3%	4.4%	683	218	75.8%	901	539	144	3.7					
Cafe	441	48.9%	61.7%	204	22.6%	28.5%	57	6.3%	8.0%	13	1.4%	1.8%	715	186	79.4%	901	645	70	9.2					
Bike hire	350	38.8%	51.5%	212	23.5%	31.2%	89	9.9%	13.1%	29	3.2%	4.3%	680	221	75.5%	901	562	118	4.8					
Fishing Zone																								
Idea 1 - Existing shingle management only	174	19.3%	27.7%	329	36.5%	52.4%	49	5.4%	7.8%	76	8.4%	12.1%	628	273	69.7%	901	503	125	4.0					
Recreation Zone																								
Existing beach management and control structures	145	16.1%	28.8%	211	23.4%	41.9%	79	8.8%	15.7%	68	7.5%	13.5%	503	398	55.8%	901	356	147	2.4					
Investigate wire-down sand reduction options	294	32.6%	51.9%	244	27.1%	43.0%	20	2.2%	3.5%	9	1.0%	1.6%	567	334	67.9%	901	538	29	18.6					
Extend sea wall south to pumping station	183	20.3%	37.7%	248	27.5%	51.1%	44	4.9%	9.1%	10	1.1%	2.1%	485	416	53.8%	901	431	54	8.0					
Identify potential improvements to beach access	274	30.4%	53.1%	218	24.2%	42.2%	21	2.3%	4.1%	3	0.3%	0.6%	516	385	57.3%	901	492	24	20.5					
Marine Zone																								
No active intervention	218	24.2%	42.9%	233	25.9%	45.9%	32	3.6%	6.3%	25	2.8%	4.5%	508	393	56.4%	901	451	57	7.9					
Other considerations																								
Beach Zone Idea 3			74																		Revised positive and negative totals if idea is not feasible with sand only	517	234	2.2
Boating Zone Idea 2			74																		Revised positive and negative totals if idea is not feasible with sand only	493	204	2.4