

# Conclusions and Recommendations

Caveat:

*The information contained in this document is for information only and not for Development Control or other purposes. The information was accurate at time of writing in October 2006 however this may have been superseded by new information. The Eastern Yar Strategy is ongoing and as such the thoughts and conclusions outlined may have changed following further work. As such these are draft project outputs and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Isle of Wight Council and the Environment Agency.*

## Strategy Options

This Phase has identified over 60 flood management options for the harbour and catchment area. These have been categorised into 4 overarching policies, namely:

- Coastal Protection (the Duver)
- Sea Defence (consequences of inundation between Embankment Road to upstream of Alverstone)
- Fluvial Defence (Embankment Road to Godshill)
- Localised fluvial management (Alverstone to Niton & Whitwell/Wroxall)

These have been sub-divided into the following categories of:

- Do nothing, do minimum, hold the line, retreat the line (coast protection and sea defence), and
- Hold the line, flood peak reduction, fast evacuation, land management (fluvial defence)

The individual options have been through a broad-scale assessment from the different technical disciplines and from an economic perspective to understand the likely flood/erosion risk reduction and economic benefits each option can deliver.

The Phase 1 assessment has shown that a number of the fluvial defence options are more appropriate to be taken forward as land management improvements through catchment management mechanisms and are not appropriate for the processes of a flood management strategy. It is recommended that these are taken forward using other funding mechanisms.

Furthermore, there are a number of site specific improvements which could be made that will improve local flooding issues but which are not within the jurisdiction of a strategic flood management strategy. These relate to surface water flooding due to topography in the upper reaches of the catchment and improvements to road culverts at Horryford and downstream. Any scheme to reduce the flooding in these areas would not impact downstream flooding and as such are not strategic in nature.

## The Strategy team recommends the following:

- The strategic issues and flood management/coastal protection options that need to be addressed are primarily downstream of Alverstone Weir.
- The three major strategic issues are the long term management of Embankment Road, St Helens Duver and the flooding around Sandown/Yaverland.
- The flooding mechanisms around Sandown appear to be linked to the need for better use of Brading Marshes as a flood storage area rather than the need to reduce flood peaks upstream.

- Policy advice from English Nature<sup>1</sup> and the Environment Agency has indicated that Embankment Road needs to be maintained as long as it is sustainable to do so. This period is likely to be in the short and medium term but a move to realignment may be required in the long term (50-100 years). The Strategy, in liaison with English Nature needs to determine what 'sustainable' means in the context of Embankment Road.
- It is possible that the Strategy could recommend Embankment Road having 1 in 10 year SOP in 2110 (i.e. hold the line for the 100 year life time of the Strategy), or identify shorter timeframes for the hold the line policy prior to realignment. This should be reviewed as part of the development of the Strategy preferred options and following the revised climate change and sea level rise predictions.
- The site specific issues in the upper catchment should be reported separately within the first two months of Phase 2 to be taken forward separately by the Environment Agency and the IWC.
- The land management and river restoration options will be reported separately as a 'Catchment Management Report'. The options will be outlined and following discussions with key organisations such as Island 2000 and Natural England, will recommend options for the way forward. This will be submitted as a stand alone document three months into Phase 2.
- The Strategy will therefore focus upon the Strategy issues from the outer harbour to just above Alverstone.
- The potential habitat compensation needs under the EU Habitats Regulations is likely to remain within the scope of the Strategy in conjunction with the South Coast Regional Habitat Creation Programme. The Appropriate Assessment will be a key document in support of the Strategy and the options appraisal will be tailored to fully incorporate the legislative and economic implications of working within the Regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> English Nature has been superseded by the new organisation Natural England. It should be noted that Natural England may not adopt English Nature policy and therefore the findings and assumptions of this paper may change.