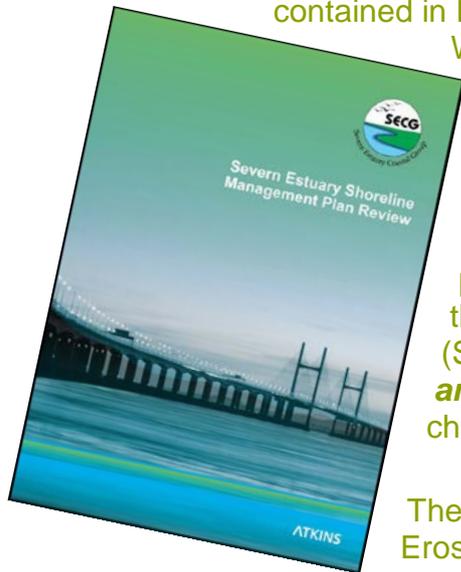


Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan

What does it mean for planning in the Vale of Glamorgan?

Coastal planning

Welsh Ministers are responsible for planning policy in Wales. Welsh planning policy is contained in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Minerals Planning Policy Wales (MPPW) with practical advice and support in Technical Advice Notes (TANs), clarification letters and other guidance issued by the Welsh Government.



Chapter 5 of Planning Policy Wales, TAN 14 (Coastal Planning) and TAN 15 (Development and Flood Risk) provide guidance on planning in coastal areas and other areas at risk of flooding. All three documents make reference to Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) and the **need to SMPs into local authority plan making and development control** to take account of the risk from physical changes and risks at the coast.

The Welsh Government National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management recognises that it is not possible to completely prevent flooding or stop coastal erosion. **Local Authority land use planning and development control have important roles to play in delivering the strategy.**

Your local Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)

What is an SMP for?

SMPs provide important information for **planners** and **regulators** to **plan for and manage** the way that the shoreline changes over time, including:

- An assessment of the way that the coast will change over time – taking account of sea level rise and climate change
- Identifying the risks to people, property, the natural and historic environment as the coast changes
- Policies for each stretch of coastline (Policy Unit) to manage the risks in a sustainable way
- Looking ahead at the short term (0 – 20 year), medium term (20 – 50 years) and long term (50 – 100 years)

SMP's have been developed by Local Authorities, Natural Resources Wales and the Environment Agency with other coastal stakeholders and through public consultation. They have been developed for the whole of the Welsh and English coastline.

The **Vale of Glamorgan** coast is covered by the **Severn Estuary SMP** (www.severnestuary.net/secg). The Vale of Glamorgan falls within **2 SMP Policy Units**. The SMP predicts some erosion to the cliffs at Lavernock and recommends a NAI policy here. Along the Penarth town frontage, HTL is recommended. **A HTL policy does not guarantee the defences will be maintained or raised in line with climate change.**

Hold the Line (HTL):
keeping the line of defence in approximately the same location as it is now

No Active Intervention (NAI):
no maintenance, repair or replacement of existing defence structures, or building of new structures

Managed Realignment (MR):
landward moving of defences, giving up some land to the sea to create a more sustainable defence in the long term

Advance the Line (ATL):
reclaim land from the sea by building new defences further seaward

How does the SMP work with the Local Development Plan?

The SMP supports and influences a whole range of regional, national and international policies, frameworks and strategies, not just those connected with managing the shoreline.

SMP to LDP: SMPs are non-statutory plans. They rely on the statutory planning process to help their implementation.

The policies in the SMP do not contain specific details for schemes – what they will be made of or the standard of protection. This will come from NRW and Local Authority flood risk management plans, the LDP, and other local development aspirations.

Coastal protection and planning are inextricably linked. The SMP can help Local Authority planning departments to **understand the risks in coastal areas** and take those risks into consideration when **developing Local Development Plans** and making **development control decisions**.

SMP's are developed through an understanding of coastal processes and defence needs, environmental considerations, planning issues and current and future land use.

Local Development Plans are a key statutory function of local planning authorities and set the context for decision making in line with national planning policy and the Wales Spatial Plan. Development plans set out objectives for the development and use of land, with policies to implement them. They should be effective in delivering local aspirations and guide growth within the context of sustainable development while protecting and enhancing local character and sensitive environments.

By using SMPs, local planning authorities can help ensure that:

- Adequate **provisions for flood and coastal erosion risk are included in LDPs** and development consents
- Current and future **communities are not at an increased risk** of coastal flooding and erosion
- Future generations are not burdened with **unsustainable defence costs**.

Although SMP2 policies are set out in specific Policy Units and timeframes ('epochs'), these should be seen as **guide to aid in planning for long term change**. The transition from one policy to the next should be a process that takes account of the physical characteristics of the coast and responds to the gradual changes at the coast over time. Change may take place earlier or later than set out in the SMP2 if it is appropriate to do so and is in accordance with the overall intent of the policies.

LDP to SMP: The SMP process is designed to inform local development plans and be informed by them.

In order to manage risks at the coast, the Vale of Glamorgan Council should use the SMP in conjunction with its LDP, Planning Policy Wales, TAN 14 and TAN 15 to help it to provide advice to others on how they may undertake works affecting the coastline, without conflicting with the Plans.

The SMP will help the Vale of Glamorgan Council look beyond the LDP time horizon to plan up to 2105.

Where can I find the SMP?

The Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG) has produced the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) for the Severn Estuary. The SMP and information on the coastal group can be found on the SECG website at: <http://www.severnestuary.net/secg/>

For more information on how the Vale of Glamorgan Council has been involved with the development of the SMP please contact Huw Morgans, hmorgans@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Vale of Glamorgan – the nature of the coast and associated risk

The *Vale of Glamorgan* crosses 2 policy units in the 'Penarth' theme area.



Coastal Flooding - The cliffs at Lavernock (PEN1) limit flood risk in this area. Wave overtopping along the Esplanade and Pier in Penarth (PEN2) may increase with climate change.

Coastal erosion - Erosion of the cliffs at Lavernock is difficult to predict. Erosion events can lead to relatively large losses of land quickly, followed by no erosion for many years. Policy is to allow the cliffs to evolve naturally, while managing risks to people.

Ecological Habitats - Allowing the cliffs to evolve naturally works with natural processes, helping to protect coastal Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Local Area	SMP2 Theme Area	SMP2 Policy Unit	SMP Policy		
			0 – 20	20 – 50	50 - 100
Comeston	Penarth	PEN1	NAI	NAI	NAI
Lower Penarth					
Lower Penarth		PEN2	HTL	HTL	HTL
Penarth					
Morristown					
Penarth Head					

SMP policies for Vale of Glamorgan

The area	SMP approach	Potential planning issues
PEN1 Lavernock Point to the shore south of Forest Road	The short, medium and long term policy is no active intervention . The cliffs should be allowed to evolve naturally, although erosion rates and events are difficult to predict.	Communication of no active intervention and the uncertainty of erosion rates and timing of erosion events. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk of potential erosion events to businesses, residents and recreational coastal users. Consider how safe distances from the cliff edge can be maintained over time.
PEN2 The shore south of Forest Road to Penarth Head	The short, medium and long term policy is hold the line . The policy should focus on key areas of risk (Esplanade) rather than the whole length of the Policy Unit. HTL is not intended to enable new defences to be built where there are currently no defences.	Communication of increased risk of overtopping with climate change, with potential risks to businesses and residents in localised areas. Investigation the economic case for increased management of overtopping is recommended. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents. Consider individual property defences, awareness raising and resilience.