

Lyme Regis, Dorset

Profiling Partnership Funding

August 2013

Summary

This coastal erosion management scheme will protect 480 properties, the main road into Lyme Regis and access to the Jurassic Coast - a UNESCO site. Construction of a new seawall and stabilisation measures will be delivered by West Dorset District Council (WDDC) with local contributions of up to £4.9 million.

The opportunity to reduce coastal risks

West Dorset District Council are developing and delivering 390 metres of new seawall, piling and drainage of the cliff slope to reduce the impacts of coastal erosion and avoid further landslips. When complete the scheme will improve protection to 480 properties and mains gas supplies to 2,700 properties. It will also avoid the loss of a significant section of the A3052, the main route into and out of Lyme Regis.

Vital statistics

Total scheme cost - £19,471,000

Total FCRM economic benefits - £86,400,000

FCRM GiA - £14,977,000

Contributions: total £4.9 million

Dorset County Council - up to £4,270,000

West Dorset District Council - £600,000

Work has been accelerated, due to the high erosion risk, by WDDC providing advance funding.

Key issues

The coastal slopes behind the sea walls form one of the UK's most dynamic geological features and a valued heritage landscape - the UNESCO designated Jurassic coast. The town and its coast attracts over 1 million visitors a year.



Environmental improvements support a strong leisure and tourism economy

The existing 1950s sea wall is in poor condition and under threat from storm impacts and foreshore lowering. Any breach of the sea walls would lead to rapid reactivation of the landslide systems that encroach into the east of the town, resulting in loss of properties, critical infrastructure and damage to the coastline.

Engagement & partnership working

This is the fourth of five phases of the WDDC's Lyme Regis Environmental Improvements Strategy. The phased Strategy has addressed the inter-related issues of coastal erosion, flood risk, land instability and environmental quality - sustaining the unique attractiveness of Lyme Regis to visitors.

Local consultation and participation in the development and design of this and previous phases has been ongoing since 1990. The Lyme Regis Town Council hosts a Coastal Forum which was established to keep local people informed and include them in the development of the coastal schemes. Extensive consultation with the local community, and the success of earlier phases,



has helped increase local understanding of coastal risks and land instability, and confidence in implementation of the scheme.

Extra local outcomes

Previous phases have won Civic Trust and Construction Industry awards. They have helped Lyme Regis to thrive as one of England's most vibrant and successful seaside towns. Phase 1 included working in partnership with South West Water and construction of sewerage improvements and new sewage treatment facilities.

Partner perspective

Nick Browning, Head of Engineering Projects at West Dorset District Council, said: *"The district council will be keeping residents informed of the progress of the works and will be working alongside the town council, emergency services, residents, local businesses and the contractor to minimise disruption."*

Robert Gould, leader of West Dorset District Council, said: *"Lyme Regis is on an actively eroding stretch of coast and faces huge challenges from coastal erosion and consequent land slips, which is why this work is so important".*

"The scheme will protect the eastern side of Lyme Regis. Without it, substantial areas of housing and the main road into the town would be lost over the next 50 years."

People

WDDC, Head of Engineering Projects - Nick Browning

Environment Agency, Area Flood & Coastal Risk Manager - Nick Lyness, Wessex Area

TIMELINE

1990 - 1995

Consultation begins on Lyme Regis Environmental Strategy. Phase I construction completed.

1996 - 2002

Preliminary study. Shoreline Management Plan - preferred strategic option is to 'hold the line'.

2003

Full Strategy Plan agreed by Defra.

2007

Phase II, incorporating viable elements of phase III (stabilisation & improvements to the Cobb breakwaters & main town sea wall) completed.

2010

Phase IV scheme appraised and approved.

2011

Shoreline Management Plan updated and published. 'Hold the Line' policy confirmed for next 100 years.

2013

Phase IV construction begins.



The final scheme (indicative only, produced by the Jurassic Coast team)



customer service line
03708 506 506

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188