



working in partnership  
along the Norfolk  
and Suffolk coast



Looking back, moving forward  
Second annual partnership report 2017 - 2018

# Our Vision

Our coast, its communities and its environment deserve a lasting future. Striving to achieve this drives our Partnership and empowers us.



# Introduction



Looking back to when I became Chair of the CPE Board in June 2017 I said that we had an exciting and challenging year ahead. As you will see from our second annual report this has proven to be true. We have embedded our new team structure, strengthened our management team to include two coastal managers and a coastal engineering manager and benefitted from the enthusiasm of two coastal apprentices, a graduate and intern, all bringing a new perspective to our work. Our whole team, alongside the Operational Officer Group and the Board, continually work hard to make our new Partnership a success to ensure that we can deliver our vision of a lasting future for the coast, people and the environment.

We are progressing well with some important capital projects such as the Bacton sand scaping project and the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project. Our capital programme includes several smaller, but no less important projects and we must not forget the vital role of our repair and maintenance programme, looking after almost 1000 assets and 60km of linear defences. There has been the added challenge of a harsh winter, bringing with it increased storminess, which has meant real difficulties for some coastal communities. I know that our CPE team continue to work hard on their behalf. The ever-present challenge of course is that of funding. As you will see in the funding section of the report,

we are exploring all avenues, linking locally and nationally. It is important that flood and coastal risk management is recognised for the importance that it plays in achieving economic growth and regeneration.

I said, in last year's report, that we would have delivered even more value for the people that we serve. I was pleased to note that we have delivered over £3 of benefit for every pound that CPE invest. I am sure that we will work hard to increase that value even further over the coming years.

***Cllr David Ritchie***

Portfolio Holder for Planning and Coastal Management, Waveney District Council

CPE Board Chair  
(June 2017 to June 2018)



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# Who is Coastal Partnership East?

Coastal Partnership East brings together the coastal management expertise from four local authorities into a single team. The Maritime Local Authorities of Great Yarmouth Borough with North Norfolk, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils face significant, diverse but also common challenges of a dynamic coastline. Individual authorities lacked staff resilience, challenges in recruitment and career progression, expertise being fragmented and constrained within individual authorities across Norfolk and Suffolk. The inability to justify the resourcing of critical specialist roles reflected the lack of scale of any individual authority to influence and engage with regional and national bodies.

However, the demands for management of coastal change, from coast protection to adaptation, far outstripped the resources available. Responding proactively to this situation and seizing the opportunity, a joint Norfolk and Suffolk coastal shared services team was formed in June 2016 – Coastal Partnership East.

Our team works as an equitable partnership, overseen by a formal governance structure. The partnership enables resources to be managed more effectively and with a higher degree of efficiency resulting in more positive and sustainable outcomes for our communities in the long-term.

Coastal Partnership East is responsible for 92km of the 173km of coastline in Norfolk and Suffolk, from Holkham in north Norfolk to Landguard Point in Felixstowe. There are approximately 352,000 people who live in the direct coastal zone and many more that work on and visit our coast. The Norfolk and Suffolk coast is of recreational,

environmental and cultural importance but it is also home to industry (energy, ports and logistics, digital, food and drink and creative sector) agriculture and tourism. In addition, there are a large number of second and holiday homes situated in our coastal towns and villages.

Whilst some areas of the Norfolk and Suffolk coast can be affluent, the urban coastal towns of Gt Yarmouth and Lowestoft are both recognised as areas of regeneration, requiring inward investment.

The demographic of the communities served by Coastal Partnership East is diverse and our challenge is to make sure that the benefits of our partnership are communicated in a way which is clearly understood and absorbed.

Our second annual report is designed to help provide an understanding of the partnership, our work and our direction for the coming months and years.



## Our Board

The Coastal Partnership East Board consists of an appointed member representative from each council in the Partnership.

Its purpose is to champion the Partnership and be responsible for providing strategic direction for the management of Coastal Partnership East. It ensures the effective and equitable delivery of coastal management services across the partnership area and agrees the overall work programme and facilitates appropriate resources. The Board does not have decision making powers. It makes recommendations to each partner authority.

From time to time the Board may invite other key stakeholders to attend meetings such as the Environment Agency and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Board is supported by the Operational Officer Group and the Partnership Manager. A relevant officer from each partner authority is invited to take part in the meetings.



**Cllr Carl Smith**  
Great Yarmouth  
Borough Council  
Chairman of CPE



**Cllr David Ritchie**  
Waveney District Council



**Cllr Hilary Cox**  
North Norfolk  
District Council



**Cllr Andy Smith**  
Suffolk Coastal  
District Council

## The Operational Officer Group

Operational office group (OOG) is made up of a senior officer representing each local authority and the Partnership Manager.

Its purpose is to provide operational guidance to the Partnership Manager and considers staffing matters and holds the Partnership Manager to account for delivery in their respective areas. Alongside the Partnership Manager the OOG supports the functions of the Partnership Board.

The OOG is chaired by a member of the Group, with the chairman role changing between the Councils based on a mutually agreed timescale. They meet at least four times a year, with additional meetings taking place if needed.



**Steve Blatch**  
North Norfolk  
District Council



**Jane Beck**  
Gt Yarmouth  
Borough Council



**Nick Khan**  
Suffolk Coastal  
and Waveney  
District Councils



**Philip Ridley**  
Suffolk Coastal  
and Waveney  
District Councils



**Bill Parker**  
Coastal Partnership East  
(Partnership Manager)

# Strengthening our partnership



**Bill Parker**  
Head of Coastal  
Partnership East

The second year of any new partnership is a period of consolidation and presents its own challenges. The scale of the task becomes clearer and no less daunting but we are building greater confidence within the team to tackle the task ahead.

The team is now maturing and has been restructured to respond to the needs of the coast and our communities. The recruitment of a new coastal engineering manager from the private sector has provided both new expertise and fresh ideas with a remit which stretches across all four authorities focussing on the delivery of maintenance and new projects. We now also have two coastal managers. They are developing their local knowledge and provide specialist expertise across CPE such as communications and coastal adaptation. Their

geographical areas of responsibility intentionally overlap to ensure we build resilience for the future.

We have taken advantage of local authority apprentice schemes. Our two apprentices have brought new energy and talent. Looking to the future, we hope to welcome new apprentices into our team so that we continue to take a fresh approach to all that we do. I believe that coastal management is a great career opportunity and providing pathways in is one of our responsibilities. I am delighted that our foundation degree placement, Nick Reeves, now has a full-time post with the Environment Agency in the southwest. Thanks to his efforts we now have a single comprehensive database of our assets for the first time and I am confident that his experience with CPE provided him with an experience to launch his career.

The development of the 10-year capital investment plan across the four authorities crystallises our need to invest in the team, not just for coastal engineers but also all the other skills needed including funding, community engagement, planning and so on. Our next year will be about building our internal capacity to deliver investment along the Norfolk and Suffolk coast.

We are putting in place Public Sector Co-operation Agreements between all the authorities, the Environment Agency and the relevant Internal Drainage Boards. This will enable CPE to access expertise and capacity from other Risk Management Authorities rapidly, efficiently and cost effectively.

This year we have begun a trial use of the Project Development Units (PDUs) in a joint project with the Environment Agency (EA) to see if this new approach by the EA to accelerate projects, is suitable for us.

Whilst there are a range of procurement options available to enable us to deliver our work, we have been developing a more flexible approach through a new Dynamic Purchasing System. Utilised in other sectors, this will cover; repairs and maintenance, consultancy services, monitoring as well as capital works. The new system was launched in the summer 2018.



Currently underway we have keystone projects. The Bacton to Walcott Sand Scaping Scheme is a £17m scheme to protect the Bacton gas terminal and neighbouring villages of Bacton and Walcott through an innovative sand scaping approach. It will be delivered in 2019. The Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project is a £63m project delivering increased protection from all forms of flooding. We hope to present it to the Environment Agency's Large Project Review Group later in 2018, with the first phase of works starting in 2019. It is expected to be complete by 2023. Further projects identified over the next 10 years targets an additional £115m of investment in coastal defence along the Norfolk and Suffolk coast.

Coast defence is of course not the only option when managing our coast. Our partnership has been working with and on behalf of the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG) on coastal adaptation. The Pathfinder project at Happisburgh has now been concluded with the completion of a land sale and at Easton Bavents, whilst discussions are ongoing on a range of relocation matters, there has been progress with new moveable holiday lets to be built, improved access and extended car park arrangements are all part of a wider plan. Work with the Defra team has made some progress and a number of research projects are underway to feed into the review of the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy that is being co-ordinated by the EA. This is due to be consulted upon in the Spring 2019. Some of the biggest challenges faced by the formation of a new cross authority team are internal and in particular with information technology. The team working with the IT teams from the authority have now developed a way forward. In addition, we are now the first local authority partnership to access directly the Defra / EA Graphical Information System (GIS) as a partner. This not only ensures the use of the same data but also enables web based access and the ability to integrate databases with the EA in future. A small but strategically important step forward.

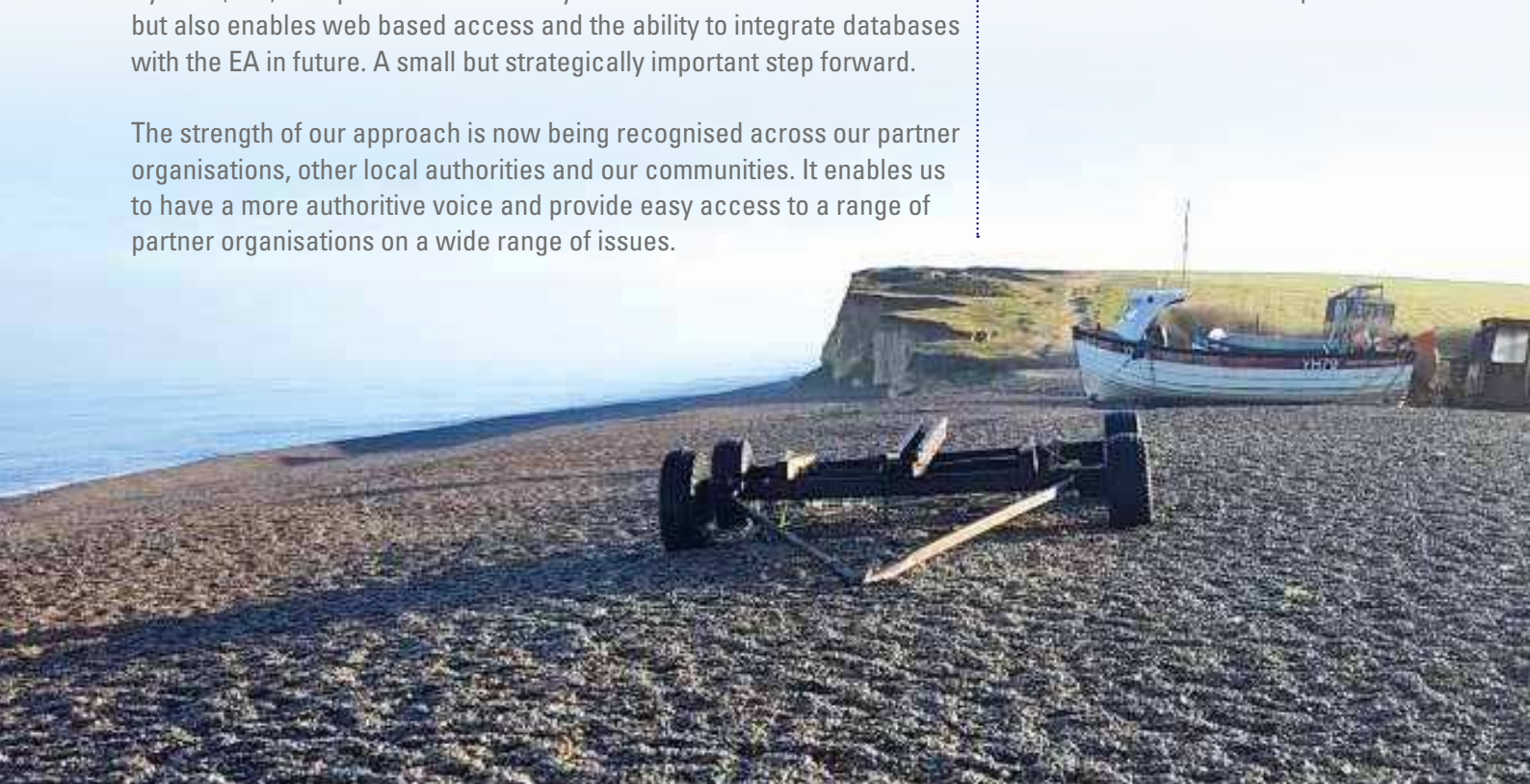
The strength of our approach is now being recognised across our partner organisations, other local authorities and our communities. It enables us to have a more authoritative voice and provide easy access to a range of partner organisations on a wide range of issues.

The benefit of having a wider team with greater resource was highlighted following the devastating effects of the winter weather at Hemsby. We were able to mobilise staff and expertise to support a community that was suffering from a significant spike in coastal erosion. This resilience has enabled us to support the community effectively and bring together other expertise to help find a way forward. We continue to support Hemsby and other communities along our coastline, it is an important part of the work we do.

Looking to the future, this year will be about building our capacity and a pipeline of projects for delivery in the coming years. It will also be about helping to shape the future national strategy for our coast and most importantly delivering solutions for our most vulnerable communities.

**Bill Parker**

Head of Coastal Partnership East



## The Coastal Management Team



**Bill Parker**  
Coastal Partnership East  
(Partnership Manager)



**Tamzen Pope**  
Coastal Engineering  
Manager



**Sharon Bleese**  
Coastal Manager  
(South)



**Rob Goodliffe**  
Coastal Manager  
(North)



**Bernard Harris**  
Coastal Manager



**Brian Farrow**  
Senior  
Coastal Engineer



**Paul Mackie**  
Coastal Strategic  
Funding Manager



**Kellie Fisher**  
Flood and Coastal Risk  
Management Senior Advisor



**Keith Roper**  
Coastal Officer  
(Repairs & Maintenance)



**Paul Patterson**  
Senior Coastal  
Engineer



**Nathalie Harris**  
Technical Administration  
Officer



**Lucy Williams**  
Partnerships and  
Engagement Officer



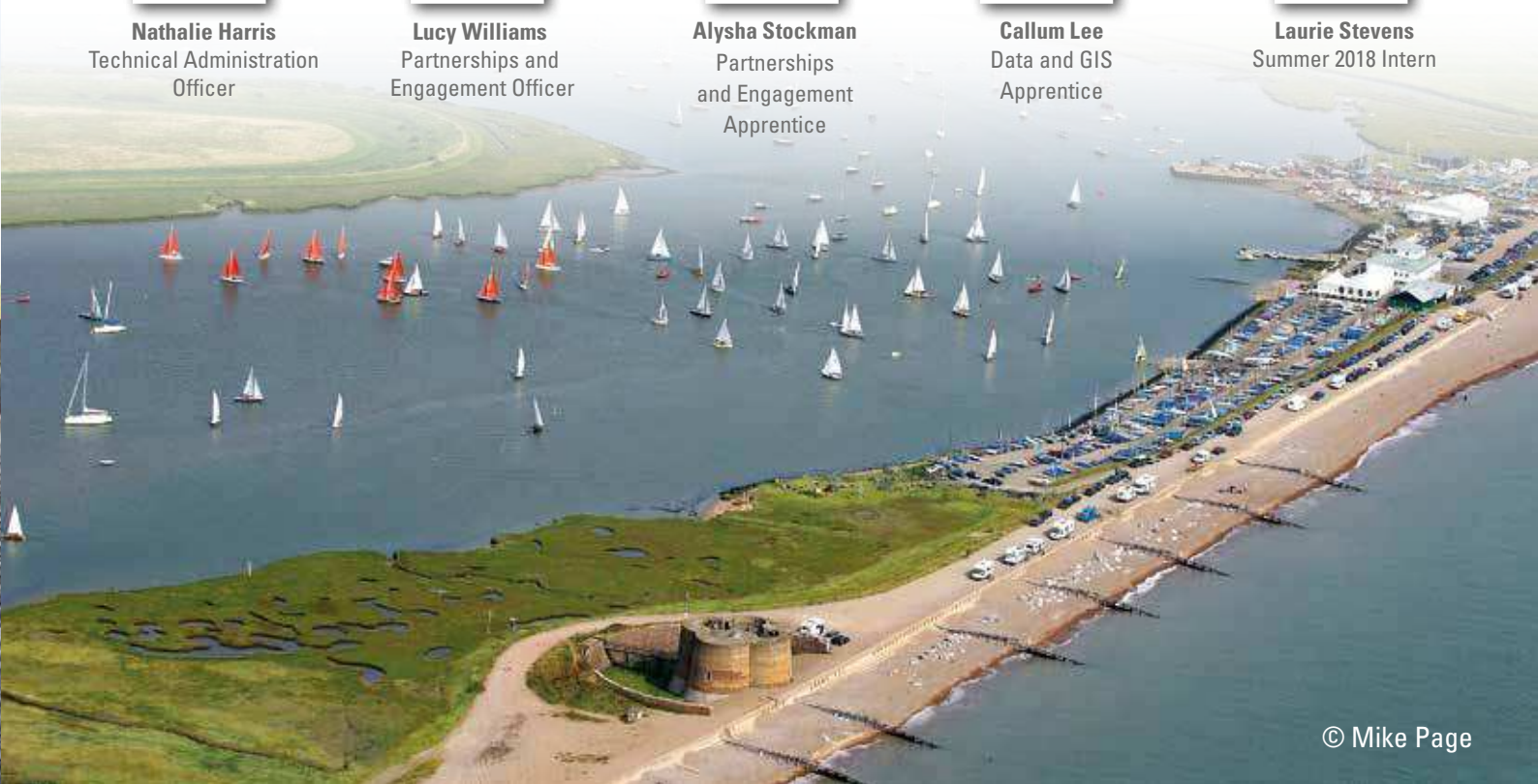
**Alysha Stockman**  
Partnerships  
and Engagement  
Apprentice



**Callum Lee**  
Data and GIS  
Apprentice



**Laurie Stevens**  
Summer 2018 Intern



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## Capital investment programme

A 10 year capital investment programme has been drafted and includes a diverse range of interventions, ranging from traditional 'grey' infrastructure and use of rocks, to innovative and sustainable approaches that work with natural processes to deliver resilience to communities and assets at risk. The programme incorporates the project development, design, community and stakeholder consultation, licences and consents, securing funding and delivery of the schemes.

The draft programme currently includes £115m capital investment along the CPE coastline in the next 10 years. We have not included the Bacton Sandscaping or Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Projects which will add a further £75m to the programme.

The programme does not capture the entirety of CPE's work. The significant areas of work required to deliver repairs and maintenance as described in the Repair and Maintenance section of this report have not been included.

The programme has been developed incorporating our aspirations for capital works around the CPE coastline. The projects to be delivered within the next 3-5 years are either ongoing or are in planning and are equivalent to the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood and Coast Committee (RFCC) 'Pipeline Building' phase. Examples of projects included in this first phase of the programme include the development of the Cromer Phase 2, Mundesley, Hemsby to Winterton and Southwold North frontage.

Projects beyond 3-5 years' time are included as an indication of when the projects will commence and will be updated as our planning progresses. This is equivalent to the RFCC 'Horizon Scanning' phase. Examples of projects included in this first phase of the programme include the development of Southwold Harbour, Thorpeness and Felixstowe North.

The programme is a working document which will be updated on a regular basis and will incorporate project programmes as they are developed. Monitoring of the programme will help CPE plan our staffing requirements and involvement in projects. In addition this will help prioritising our efforts in terms of community engagement and securing funding to support projects being progressed.



## Bacton to Walcott Sand Scaping

**The Bacton to Walcott Sand Scaping Scheme has progressed rapidly this year. The scheme will use sand scaping to protect the terminal and enhance the coastal management of the neighbouring villages. It involves the placement of sand on the foreshore at Bacton, which over time, will move in a predominantly south-easterly direction down the coast. The sand is expected to increase beach levels and extend the life of existing defences.**

We are now in the process of obtaining the necessary consents, tendering for a main works contractor to deliver and place the sand and, as always, seeking further funds to enhance the scheme further. The delivery of the scheme is planned for 2019.

We have worked and continue to work closely with businesses and the local community ensuring that people know what is happening where they live and work.



**Rob Goodliffe**  
Coastal Manager  
(North)

**I have specialist knowledge of planning and coastal adaptation. I support the partnership to deliver practical coastal management approaches for business and communities including traditional coast protection and pioneering coastal change adaptation projects.**



**Nathalie Harris**  
Technical  
Administration  
Assistant

**I have a background in geography and environmental science. I am responsible for providing technical support to the coastal engineers and managers, overseeing marine licencing and planning consent applications as well as assisting with community engagement.**

## Trimingham

We have been working with the British Geological Survey (BGS) to better understand the cliffs at Trimingham, which in turn will help with planning for the future. BGS joined CPE and the North Norfolk Coastal Forum to visit the cliffs and we spent an interesting time in the New Trimingham Village Hall - a great example of a community facility that has not only rolled back from the coast, but also now provides a 21st century facility.

**Kellie Fisher**  
Flood and Coastal  
Risk Management  
Senior Advisor



**I work for both Coastal Partnership East and the Environment Agency. I lead on adaptation to coastal change, from delivery of adaptive coastal management to shaping longer term strategy and policy.**

## Mundesley and Cromer

The Mundesley Coastal Management Scheme is included in the Environment Agency's capital programme. To help this work move forward, government funding (Grant in Aid) needs to be secured. The business case to support the allocation of Grant in Aid has been completed and was submitted for Environment Agency review during the late summer. We are now preparing for the detailed design of the Mundesley scheme and works to complete the Cromer Phase 2 capital works in order to seek the necessary consents. Both schemes have similarities so where we can we will be looking to combine our approach.

**I have well over 35 years coastal experience, working on the north Norfolk coast. I deliver all the revenue and maintenance projects within north Norfolk and support the development and management of capital works. I also support and advise on storm surge response.**



**Brian Farrow**  
Senior Coastal  
Engineer



## Winterton to Hopton frontage

CPE continues to work with the Tidal Defence Business Partnership, the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and EA to secure the delivery of effective sustainable defences along the quays of Great Yarmouth.

It is intended that this work will protect existing business and jobs and to promote new investments, both by the Authorities and new companies into the area.

We continue to monitor changes along the coastline, working with communities and businesses to develop long term management methods to match their aspirations. Ongoing work with Potters Bourne Leisure and others at Hopton to help deliver their long term objectives for this area in line with the recent developed Coastal Strategy.



## Hemsby

This winter and its extreme storminess impacted upon a number of coastal communities, none more so than the community in Hemsby. Here 13 properties are no longer liveable in following falling beach levels and cliff failures and 5 have since been demolished. Our Partnership have been working closely with the community to understand what can be done in the short and long-term. This work began with a study of the Winterton to Hemsby frontage.

The study provides important information to help support conversations with government and to enable the Council and communities to make informed decisions regarding future management of this shoreline. It looked at possible approaches for managing the coast and what actions would be needed to carry these out.

Two community events have been held to date, the first helping to shape what the study looked at and the other to share the study's findings. The community's response is being reviewed and further engagement will be done to make sure that they are involved in and informed of next steps including, amongst other things, forming a community advisory group.

## Scratby

During the months of March and April 2018 the coastline has been under additional pressure on two occasions. The spring tides together with strong easterly winds has led to wide spread beach loss along our coastline. The wave action has cut large steps (greater than 3m in places) into the front of the beach at Scratby near Great Yarmouth. A section of the gabion baskets collapsed following the loss of the beach foundation. Starting in May



Following storm damage

we had contractors on site to make the area safe by pulling down the gabion baskets which were about to collapse and rebuilding the section that was lost.

CPE have been supporting local communities at Hemsby and Winterton before, during and following erosion events looking to help them find solutions for the immediate and long term. We have secured funding for and delivered a coastal study which engaged with the

communities to understand the coastal change drivers and possible options for future management of this area. This work is just the start of this complex project.

Other areas affected by the storm events of early 2018 have also suffered damage. We have been carrying out repairs to the defences at Scratby which are nearing completion.

During repair work

**Bernard Harris,**  
Coastal Manager  
Great Yarmouth



**I have an engineering background and have been working on coastal management with Great Yarmouth Borough Council for over 30 years and am part of the CPE team. I have worked, with others, on the development of the Shoreline Management Plans for this area, coastal strategies and on the delivery of capital defence projects and repair and maintenance works.**

## Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project

Since Lowestoft was flooded from the sea in 2013 and from rivers and extreme rainfall in 2015, project partners have been involved in working to reduce this risk to the community. By protecting homes and businesses from flooding and improving opportunities for regeneration, the project will support economic growth.

The project team have undertaken extensive consultation with key stakeholders, businesses and the community; particularly around methods of construction for tidal flood walls and tidal barrier. We are pleased to report that all partners have been working together closely to find a solution that enables the port of Lowestoft to continue to operate whilst the work is in progress and allow Lowestoft to be a strategic point for the wind energy projects. The

solution is complex and innovative. It will also be the first of its kind in the country.

We hope to submit planning applications in November 2018 and the Outline Business Case to the Environment Agency's Large Project Review Group in December 2018. It is anticipated that construction of the tidal flood walls will begin in late Spring 2019.

The tidal barrier will require a Transport Works Act Order and preparation for this has already begun. At this stage it is anticipated that work will begin in 2020 and complete in 2023. The designs to reduce the flooding from rivers and extreme rainfall are progressing. Extensive engagement has been undertaken with residents and landlords about options. It is encouraging to see

that many of the eligible residents have indicated that they would like to protect their properties using simple but effective measures.

Work is progressing on detailed design for all elements of the project, enabling us to have greater certainty over construction costs.

An extremely important part of the project is to involve local people in its development and legacy. We were particularly keen to engage local schools. Working with Flipside, a creative arts company and as part of Watertight Words, Greater Places work, we have involved over 1,000 students in a literacy-based initiative, exploring what the sea and flood risk means to them. The words the students have crafted will be engraved in a glass floodwall, which will be installed on the South Pier section of the tidal flood walls.



The project is also embedded into the regeneration work commissioned by Waveney District Council around the Lowestoft sea front. This is being done in partnership with designer and town planner Wayne Hemmings MBE. See information online at [www.lowestoftfrmp.org.uk](http://www.lowestoftfrmp.org.uk)



**Sharon Bleese**  
Coastal Manager  
(South)

I am a communications and engagement specialist and an experienced project manager, responsible for the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project. My team provides communications and engagement planning and support and funding and economics support to the Partnership and to partners.



**Alysha Stockman**  
Partnerships  
& Engagement  
Apprentice

I joined in September 2017 and am quickly proving my ability in managing branding, websites and social media. I have also trained the team to make better use of social media to promote our work.

## Southwold

CPE is working in partnership with the Environment Agency to develop a capital scheme to address increasing erosion pressure and defence degradation over the Southwold north and Easton Bavents frontages. Consultant Jacobs have been employed under the Environment Agency's Professional Development Unit

(PDU) framework to produce an Initial Assessment which is expected to lead to an Outline Business Case.

Subject to the Initial Assessment findings, it may also be necessary for both the Environment Agency and Waveney District Council to undertake more immediate damage limitation works in advance of the major capital works that are

expected within 3 years. Monitoring of the defence conditions and beach levels is being undertaken to help inform management decisions.



## Sizewell C

In November 2016 EDF Energy launched the Sizewell C Stage 2 public consultation, Suffolk Coastal District Council working jointly with Suffolk County Council submitted their response prior to the deadline in February 2017, this is available on the Suffolk Coastal website. The joint response was clear that the information presented for the consultation was inadequate to fully comment on the proposals. The joint

authorities are seeking to work closely with EDF Energy to ensure adequate information is provided in advance of a Stage 3 public consultation, anticipated to be early 2019.

The activity of the marine technical forum, which is attended by CPE on behalf of Suffolk Coastal District Council, remains suspended at this time but is anticipated to recommence in due course prior to a Stage 3 public consultation.



**Tamzen Pope**  
Coastal  
Engineering  
Manager

**I joined the team in January 2018 after many years' of working in consultancy, delivering projects both in the UK and internationally. I manage our team of engineers and am responsible for providing technical advice during the development of options and leading the design and delivery of repair and maintenance as well as capital projects.**

## Brackenbury, Felixstowe

Brackenbury is situated towards the north of Felixstowe on a south-east facing part of the Suffolk coast. Following completion of the Central Felixstowe Coastal Defence project in 2012, access from the Central to North Felixstowe frontages was improved. However the part between, stretching from Jacob's Ladder steps and Golf Road below Brackenbury cliff, has no promenade and is only passable at favourable states of tide.

The most significant obstruction to public access over that part is a rock armour revetment built around 1990 after a seawall failure.

Increased public use of this section of beach led to more frequent incidents of trespass over private land. As a result, Suffolk Coastal District Council began negotiation with landowners in order to create a path around the rock slope.

Agreements with landowners took time to resolve but when completed allowed CPE to design a path passing to landward of the rock slope.

The work was carried out between December 2017 and April 2018 and has proved to be very popular with



beach walkers. Whilst this work has made along-beach access here more reliable and secure it remains an ambition to provide a similar standard of access over the remainder of this frontage.



**Paul Patterson**  
Senior Coastal  
Engineer

**I have over 30 years' experience of managing our Suffolk coastline. I lead on the delivery of capital and repair and maintenance projects within Suffolk. I am also one of our experts on Shoreline Management Plans, development management and planning policy matters.**

# Repairs & Maintenance

**I lead the planning and delivery of the repair and maintenance required to our coastal assets within Suffolk. I also respond to queries from the public and liaise with other Risk Management Authorities.**



**Keith Roper**  
Coastal Officer  
(Repairs and  
Maintenance)

Coastal Partnership East is responsible for repairs and maintenance on in excess of 58km coast protection defences along the coastline between Holkham in north Norfolk to Languard Point in Felixstowe. We maintain structures such as access points, groynes, revetments, promenades, seawalls, beaches and rock armour.

As well as repairs and maintenance the team carry out regular and important inspections so they understand what condition the structures are in and this informs future coastal management plans. We set out the work required and then appoint and manage the contractors. We also monitor beach levels, health and safety for the public and the conditions of the cliffs.

This year has been busy with inspections and some works following the 'Beast from the East' and subsequent storms in March 2018. Significant reductions in beach levels along large sections of our coast have increased the wave energy impacting on our assets. This has resulted in the loss of some access steps / ramps and damage to some of our assets. Our teams have been busy monitoring and acting where required.

## Particular repair and maintenance works have been undertaken at:

### **Bacton timber revetment**

Repairs to the Bacton timber revetments and the Bacton Terminal revetment have been ongoing. The Terminal Operators will be contributing to the Terminal revetment.



### **Happisburgh access ramp**

We monitored the cliff losses at Happisburgh during the spring and summer whilst liaising with the MMO to obtain a licence to roll back the rock which is located parallel to the coastline. The ramp was recut again at the end of June 2018 and a 30m section of the rock sill was rolled back under an Emergency MMO licence. The rest of the rock sill will be rolled back once we receive the 10 year MMO licence described next.



### **Marine Licence**

Applications have been submitted for generic 10 year maintenance works that fall outside existing exempt activities. Likewise a 10 year planning application has also been submitted for Happisburgh to continue recutting of the ramp and roll back of the rock sill.

### **Scraby gabions**

A section of the gabions failed in April 2018 as a result of the beach lowering which caused significant health and safety hazards for beach goers. We are currently on site rebuilding these gabions.



*continued..*

# Informing the future

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Our annual repairs and maintenance have been ongoing in parallel to the works described above. We have been busy with repairs which include promenade repairs at North Denes and Hamilton Road, timber groyne repairs in Felixstowe and Gunton, beach level management at Felixstowe and Southwold, tidying up the geotextile bags at Thorpeness and many others.

We have also been busy developing software to help us record our asset inspections to improve the way we manage the assets that we are responsible for and provide a consistent picture right across the Norfolk and Suffolk coast. Further information can be found in the Informing the Future section of this Annual Report.

The first two contracts we will be awarding through our Dynamic Purchasing System will be the repair and maintenance contracts for the Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council areas (see Dynamic Purchasing System section of this Annual Report for further information). We are now in the process of developing the tender documents for the repair and maintenance contract for the Great Yarmouth Borough Council area. North Norfolk District Council's contract will continue for the next few years.

We are responsible for the repairs and maintenance of almost 1000 coastal assets along the coastline between Kelling in North Norfolk and Landguard Point in Felixstowe. Critical to the repairs and maintenance work that we do on these assets is our monitoring and inspection programme; this work allows us to understand the condition of structures, ensure public safety and inform future coastal works programmes.

This summer, CPE have been working to improve the monitoring of coastal assets by replacing current inspection methods with an online asset inspection tool. A workshop in June at the Environment Agency (EA) in Ipswich introduced the team to the capabilities of ArcGIS Online in conjunction with the ESRI Collector app. This workshop also gave a demonstration of how the EA are already using this software as part of their flood risk management projects. Due to the majority of management responsibilities along our coastline being shared by CPE and the EA, the

CPE asset database was updated to be as compatible with EA asset data as possible, allowing future decisions to be as well informed as possible by both management authorities. Once complete, the updated data was uploaded to GIS software and the Collector app was configured to CPE's needs so that all our coastal assets can be inspected using a mobile device in the field, with inspection data being uploaded to an online spatial database. The new inspection tool is currently in a period of testing and following this all CPE asset inspections will be carried out using the app, allowing improved and more efficient monitoring of coastal assets.



**Laurie Stevens,**  
Summer 2018  
Intern

**I have been with CPE for the last 3 months and have developed their new asset inspection tool using GIS. I have worked with the Environment Agency during the development and the tool is now being trialled in CPE. I am going back to university this autumn.**



**Callum Lee,** Data and  
GIS Apprentice

**I joined the team in September 2017 and my focus has been on developing our GIS capability. I have spent time working with the Environment Agency and also Cranfield University.**

# Ready to respond

Our team have a role to play in supporting each of the partner local authorities before, during and after adverse weather affecting the coastline. This could be a tidal surge, such as December 2013 and more recently January 2017 or it could be increased the storminess with high winds that we experienced earlier in 2018.

In Lowestoft and Felixstowe, we have specific roles to play during an emergency.

In Lowestoft we are responsible for ensuring the safe and timely installation of temporary flood barriers. We do this in partnership with the Water Management Alliance who provide operation resource and expertise.

The temporary flood barriers were delivered in November 2016 and are now operational. We have worked closely with all professional partners such as the blue light services, the Environment Agency, Associated British Ports and the Suffolk Resilience Forum to develop a deployment plan and operational protocols. This plan and the deployment of the barriers were tested during the tidal surge that happened on Friday 13th January 2017. Although the tide did not reach the heights predicted, the barrier deployment has been tested in some extreme weather conditions.

In Felixstowe we work in partnership with the Environment Agency and Suffolk Coastal Norse. Here we have a protocol in place that helps to inform us and our partners when the flood gates in Felixstowe need to be closed. The protocol not only covers the closing of the gates in the event of a tidal surge but also high winds which may cause the tide to overtop the promenade.

Resilience is also extremely important, and our Partnership is proud to be the leading partner helping to provide better resilience through plans and actions to businesses across the Norfolk and Suffolk Coast.

This is done through the Business Efficient Resilience Toolkit - BERT. Since its launch in November 2015, Business Efficient Resilience Toolkit (BERT) has helped over 300 businesses become resilient to business interruption events such as flooding. Free support is provided by Groundworks into 2019 and businesses can access the toolkit online at [www.getbusinessresilient.co.uk](http://www.getbusinessresilient.co.uk)



# Working with partners, working with you



**I specialise in communications and engagement and as part of my role act as co-ordinator for the Suffolk Coast Forum Conference. I am responsible for planning communications and engaging with our coastal communities. I also provide support for the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group**

**Lucy Williams**, Partnerships and Engagement Officer

## Suffolk Coast Forum Conference

As part of its role to support the Suffolk Coast Forum, our team works hard with partners such as Suffolk County Council, the Water Management Alliance and the Environment Agency to bring together an interesting and attractive programme for its annual conference. The Valuing our Coast 2017 conference was no exception. It focused on why our coast is so important to our communities, businesses and our economy. Attracting over 170 delegates and 35 students, the conference benefitted from speakers such as Wayne Hemingway MBE, speaking about the benefits of coastal regeneration, Minette Batters, Deputy President of the NFU, focusing on the importance of the coast to farming and Mark Pendlington, Executive Director for Anglian Water who described the coast as the 'golden thread running through Suffolk's economy'. Feedback from the conference is always good and extremely useful in shaping how we bring together the programme for the next year.



## Benacre and Kessingland

CPE has been working with the Water Management Alliance on a project here to better understand the issues on this stretch of coastline and with the landowners, parish council and the community, work towards possible solutions for the area. We have been providing technical, planning and communications support to the project alongside other partners such as the Environment Agency and Natural England.

## Slaughden SMP Review

Shoreline Management Plans provide a high-level view of how our coast should be managed for the next 100 years. The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) from Lowestoft Ness to Landguard Point in Felixstowe was

completed in 2012 with the understanding that when the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan was completed, then a review of the SMP for Slaughden would be undertaken. During 2017/18 studies were begun to review the appropriate policy for this stretch of coastline. On behalf of Suffolk Coastal District Council, we are working with partners and presenting the study findings to the Suffolk Coast Forum for their decision. Phase 1 and 2 of the study have been completed and Phase 3 is due to begin in autumn this year. The studies will be presented to the public as part of a comprehensive public consultation. The findings of this consultation and the studies will help inform any recommendations for change.

## Thorpeness

Maintenance work to beach defences seaward of North End Avenue was undertaken in the spring and early summer in response to damage suffered by the bag defences and stone filled mesh cages.



CPE is preparing a Policy Implementation Plan (PIP) that will inform decisions on the detail of how this section of coast is managed in the future. The PIP will be the subject of community consultation following review by stakeholders through the Suffolk Coast Forum.

An Inquest was held in late April following the tragic death of a beach walker at Thorpeness in January 2017. CPE had previously provided a statement to the Coroner who required a CPE officer to give evidence. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. Feedback was invited from legal staff that represented the Council's insurer at and before the inquest. This will be reviewed as part of a lessons learned process.

## The bigger picture

The Coastal Partnership East team continue to support the work of Board Member Cllr Andy Smith in his role as Chair of the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG). The SIG brings together more than 60 coastal local authorities, sharing knowledge and lobbying Government on issues of specific interest to coastal authorities. Our team not only provide the SIG secretariat but also lead on a number of national issues including coastal adaptation, capacity development, marine management licencing, partnership working between local authorities and long-term funding of capital and revenue works. For the first time the SIG was represented at the Flood and Coast Conference. As well as an exhibition

stand it developed and facilitated a workshop, providing feedback to the Environment Agency on some of the difficulties faced by coastal local authorities relating to funding and policy and procedure.



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## Dynamic Purchasing System

Coastal Partnership East work closely with a number of suppliers to support us with the management of our coastline and the repairs and maintenance of our coast protection defences along the coastline. To help us make new relationships, develop existing relationships and to make our procurement of suppliers more streamline, we have developed a new Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).

The system gives suppliers the opportunity to prequalify and then bid for tender opportunities available on our coastline. The system has been divided into four Lots namely Repair and Maintenance, Capital Works, Consultants and Surveys and Specialists. For some lots work is anticipated generally to be locally delivered and may be in smaller parts which, gives greater opportunities for smaller businesses to get involved in working with the authorities.

The DPS streamlines procurement for both suppliers and authorities; suppliers do not have to demonstrate suitability and capability every time they wish to compete for a public sector contract, and the award of individual tenders can be quicker than under some other procedures. The DPS is more flexible in some respects than frameworks, particularly as suppliers may join it at any time during its period of validity, meaning that suppliers are not locked out for the duration as they are with traditional frameworks.

The Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) prequalifies a number of contractors who are then eligible to bid for the subsequent tender opportunities linked to the agreement. There will be no minimum or maximum number of contractors qualifying for any lot. If a contractor fulfils the minimum criteria threshold required, they have access to bid on subsequent tenders.

Tenders under the DPS will be purchased on a project-by-project basis unless otherwise notified, and through a competitive tender procedure only – no direct selection of providers is available.

The new approach to procurement provides CPE and our providers flexibility and successful applications gives providers access to work in as much or little of our region. The new system will standardise documents and simplify our relationships with providers.

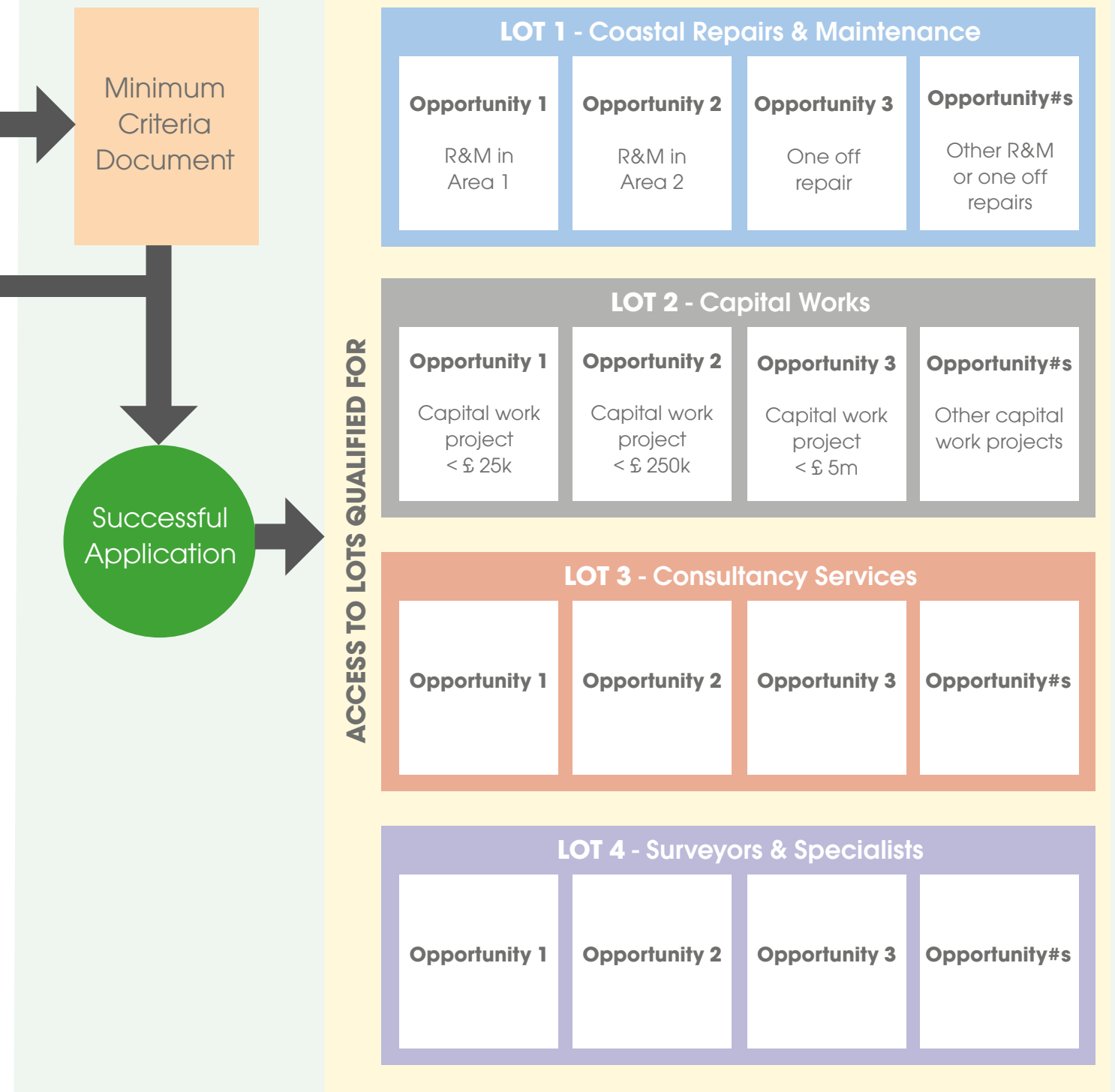
Develop business model and reapply at next opportunity

Not to required standard  
REJECTED

We held two introductory days with contractors, consultants and specialists to promote our new approach. All attendees were very supportive and interested in the approach.

We are currently appraising tender submissions for our first two contracts under Lot 1 (Repair and Maintenance) and the new contracts will commence by the end of September. We are also in the process of developing the tender documents for five projects to be bid through Lot 3.

# Coastal management DPS



# Funding Flood & Coastal Resilience



**I lead on securing funding for the partnership's projects: making the case for investment in flood and coastal resilience requires engagement with a range of local and national government agencies, businesses and NGOs. To do this, I draw on my experience working with the international finance sector and policy makers.**

**Paul Mackie** Coastal Strategic Funding Manager

Flood and coastal infrastructure is not only critical for providing resilience to families and their homes, businesses and essential utilities, it can also create and secure significant new opportunities, such as unlocking land for development or new beaches and tourism assets that deliver growth in areas of our country that often need it the most. Our challenge of course is to prove it – and gather evidence and engage potential investors and partners to turn this narrative into funding.

Over the last year it has been extremely heartening to see this 'multi-benefit, multi-partner, multi-funder' approach become a much more embedded part of the national approach and conversation about flood and coastal infrastructure. Indeed, 'Funding the Unfundables: Long term solutions for delivering multi-benefit FCERM infrastructure' was the theme of the session I co-presented with Anusha Shah, Chair of the Thames Estuary Partnership at this year's Flood & Coast Conference in March 2018.

Taking this more strategic and integrated approach was also the core theme of the session Bill Parker and I delivered to Defra & Environment Agency FCERM National Stakeholder Forum in November 2017.

The launch of the Defra 25 Year Environment Plan in January 2018 was an important milestone for our sector and CPE, as much of the coastline we manage included natural assets such as shingle ridges, sand dunes and saltmarsh. However, if we are to protect, restore and create these critically important assets, we must find new ways to fund them, as they typically attract low levels of Government funding.

That's why it was so exciting to be invited to be a member of the Defra Natural Environment Impact Fund Steering Group. The Group aims to deliver this new facility that will blend public and private capital to issue a mix of grants and loans to nature-based schemes. Essentially, in the absence of sources of funding and finance for these projects, it seeks to create a new one.

We were able to put our thinking on the value of coastal management to the regional and national economy into practice by building a successful business case for £1.08million of Growth Deal funding for the Bacton Sand scaping Project, which was approved by New Anglia LEP in January 2018. Building on previous successful studies for Lowestoft, we collaborated with Mott MacDonald to measure the value of the Bacton Gas Terminal to the economy, the critical role it plays in the nation's energy security and transition to a low carbon economy, in addition to the jobs protected and enabled. The LEP's significant support for the project, when combined with the large contributions from the private Terminal operators plus local and national public funding completed the funding package.

There is an emerging body of anecdotal evidence that shows how investing in flood and coastal resilience in our coastal towns can light the spark of regeneration that many seaside

resorts so desperately need, reversing decades of decline. To date, there have been few studies conducted to capture and quantify the financial benefits from these projects. As a result, we collaborated with Jacobs during the summer of this year to study the effects of regeneration in Felixstowe, Suffolk to put some hard numbers behind these claims, plus tell the stories of the businesses and people that have benefitted.

In August of this year, the legal agreement with New Anglia LEP to secure £10million of Growth Deal funding for the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project was signed. The LEP's confidence in the project, as the current majority funder, demonstrates the significant economic value of LFRMP, which will unlock land for development, support the growth of the offshore renewable energy sector and support the multiple regeneration and other infrastructure projects in development.

To secure the remaining funding required to deliver a project, we have commissioned three Jacobs national FCERM funding experts, whom we met following engagement with colleagues securing funding for the River and Tidal Thames flood resilience schemes. We will work together closely to deliver the 40-page funding strategy and secure further investment from local and national

organisations for this critical project, which continues to be an exemplar for applying everything we have learned around funding into practice.

In June 2018, following the development and submission of a technically demanding funding business case, Anglian Water have signalled their support for the Mundesley Coastal Resilience project and intention to provide the remaining funding required to address the risk of erosion and loss of beaches in the historic and popular village.

July 2018 saw the completion of the first phase of a partnership with The Crown Estate, who commissioned CPE to research the funding options for innovative nature-led coastal management projects across the UK. This significant piece of work has led to two reports being produced and has delivered much valuable future learning, as well as important income for CPE. The hope is to continue the collaboration in the form of a second phase of the project.

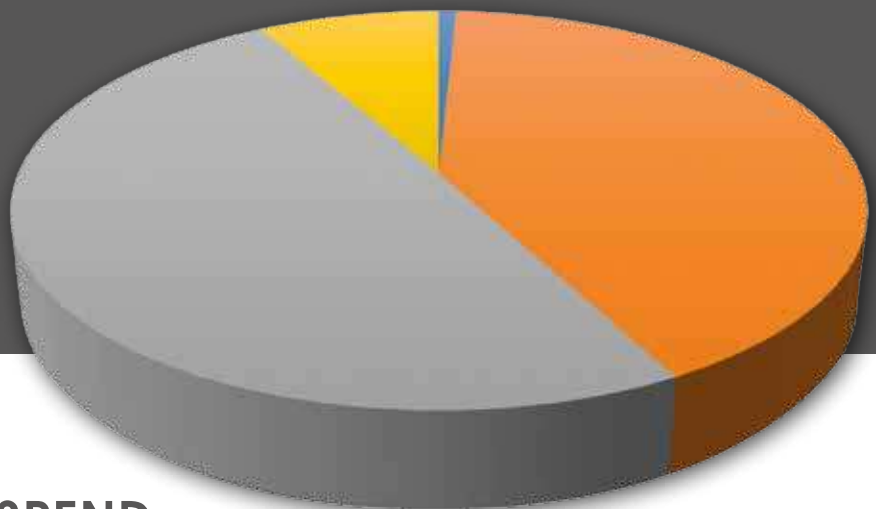


Coastal Partnership East continues to invest in coast protection for its vulnerable communities along the Norfolk and Suffolk coast. In 2017/18 the total invested

was in excess of £2.6m. This included both capital investments (£1.8m) to improve the level of coast protection and (£777k) to maintain existing coast protection assets.

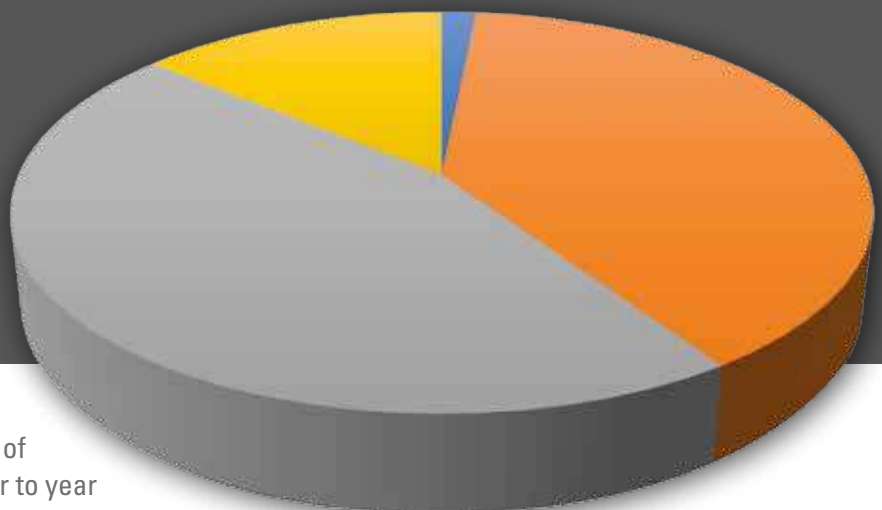
## 2017 - 2018 CAPITAL SPEND

Great Yarmouth BC	£ 15,000
North Norfolk DC	£ 780,000
Suffolk Coastal DC	£ 155,000
Waveney DC	£ 935,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2, 662,000</b>



## 2017 - 2018 REVENUE SPEND

Great Yarmouth BC	£ 12,000
North Norfolk DC	£ 303,000
Suffolk Coastal DC	£ 108,000
Waveney DC	£ 354,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 777,000</b>



It is worth noting that the nature, in particular of capital investment, is highly variable from year to year depending on both need and the pipeline of projects. Coastal Partnership East received income in excess of £660k in 2017-18 and has secured more than of £29m during this financial year from a range of funders to support future investment for the following schemes; Bacton sand scaping, Lowestoft Flood Risk Management and Mundesley coast protection. These

projects will be delivered over the next few years. Demonstrating value is extremely important for our Partnership. During 2017/18 for every £1 invested in our team we delivered £3.40 of investment into coastal communities.

# Moving forward



A message  
from our new  
Chairman,  
Cllr Carl Smith

**We have completed our second year as a Partnership and I hope that you have found this report helpful and informative. Our aim has been to offer insight into our work and provide highlights of what is to come through our 10-year programme. Before looking ahead at what is to come, I would like to thank our outgoing Chairman, Cllr David Ritchie for his hard work and dedication to this role.**

We have made much progress over the last year with, for example, how we purchase our services and how we approach funding and finance and we continue to learn and develop as the Partnership grows. We have a fantastic dedicated team at CPE and we are always looking to recruit staff to help strengthen the team's capacity and capability. We will also continue to invest in training and development for our existing team to enable them to be the best they can be.

Our capital programme, including our two major projects in Bacton and Lowestoft, will continue to make progress in 2018/19 and other capital projects in our 10-year programme will continue or begin development. We will also award our repairs and maintenance contract through our new procurement system this financial year. Winter 2017/18 was exceptionally harsh and this summer has been the hottest on record since 1976. Exceptional weather brings with it increased challenges in coastal management and our team continue to adapt and change how we manage the coast.

I look forward to my year as Chairman and know that when I look back I will be able to reflect on how we have met our challenges and further developed our Partnership. As our vision states, our coast its communities and its environment deserve a lasting future.

We are committed to making sure that this happens.



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