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Document Title	Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) - Update

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Sarah Fortune
Designation	Exec Dir for Council Resources
Date	22/09/25

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COMMITTEE:	Members' Library Services
MEETING DATE:	
BY:	Executive Director for Place
REPORT TITLE:	Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) – Update
REPORT STATUS:	Public

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the progress of the East Lothian Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the progress to date on the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan.
- 2.2 Note the proposed completion dates of the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 East Lothian's coastline is affected by coastal flooding and coastal erosion, affecting both the natural and built environment.
- 3.2 Over the last thirty years sea levels across Scotland have risen between two and three times faster than over the previous 100 years. Mean sea level is anticipated to rise by between 0.30–1.16 m by 2100.
- 3.3 In 2002, East Lothian Council (ELC) published a Shoreline Management Plan, which set out a strategy for managing the East Lothian coastline, taking account of natural processes and human and other environmental influences and needs. This plan involved the identification of coastal

processes, as well as what was valued around the coast. Four key issues were addressed – coastal processes, coastal defences and their condition, land use and natural environment. Once data was fully collated, the coastline was divided into 22 “management units” and a management option detailed for each unit.

- 3.4 In 2023, the Scottish Government published the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Guidance. This guidance is aimed at coastal local authorities and supporting authorities in the delivery of statutory functions in planning for our future climate at the coast and to support long term adaptation and resilience of our coastal communities. Nationally, it is intended that Coastal Change Adaptation Plans will supersede Shoreline Management Plans.
- 3.5 Scottish Government assigned General Capital Grant funding to “coastal change management” for the 2022–26 period, with East Lothian receiving funding in Years 1, 3 and 4 (2022–23, 2024–25 and 2025–26).
- 3.6 In November 2024, ELC officers engaged ELC Procurement Services to begin the process of awarding a consultant to deliver the CCAP on behalf of ELC.
- 3.7 Four consultants returned tenders, which were assessed in accordance with the Council’s Corporate Procurement Procedures.
- 3.8 Jacobs were the preferred bidder through the procurement process and the project is proposed to run from 31 March 2025 to 8 August 2026, split into two phases – the initial data collation and scientific assessment of the coastline (Phase 1) and the creation of the Plan (Phase 2).
- 3.9 A consultancy contract was awarded to Jacobs with a start date of 31 March 2025.

Progress since the Award Date

- 3.10 The following activities have been progressed:
 - Creation of an internal Project Steering Group, incorporating officers from the Structures and Flooding, Countryside, Climate Change, Environmental Health and Planning teams
 - Establishment of the eight key objectives of the Plan
 - Structural inspection of the full coastline, with Red-Amber-Green status of structures assigned.
- 3.11 In addition the following documents have been developed:
 - a) Communications and Engagement Plan
 - b) Coastal Processes Report

- c) Flood and Coastal Erosion Report
 - d) Built and Natural Defences Report
 - e) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Documentation.
- 3.12 Completion of Phase 1 community engagement “Call for Information” has been achieved. The public and stakeholders were asked for information on “the risks and impacts of coastal erosion, flooding, sea level rise, and other natural processes” to supplement the initial stages of the report. This consultation ran from 14 July to 2 September 2025.
- 3.13 The project is currently running to programme and on budget. CCAP updates will be fed back to wider Council departments through the Climate and Nature Emergency Group (CNEG).

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The CCAP supports East Lothian Council Local Development Plan and supporting Technical notes, which outlines the approach that ELC will take to land use planning on the coast.
- 4.2 The CCAP supports East Lothian Council Plan 2022–2027 and Climate Change strategy 2025–2030.
- 4.3 The CCAP supports the actions outlined within the 2022–28 Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan to deliver flood studies in the coastal areas of Cockenzie and Port Seton, Dunbar, Longniddry, North Berwick, Prestonpans and West Barns.

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: Scottish Government have committed £11.7 million to “Coastal Change Adaptation” over 5 years, with ELC having received the following:
- 2022–23 (Year 1) – £160,000
 - 2024–25 (Year 3) – £85,064
 - 2025–26 (Year 4) – £121,425

Our Year 4 and part of Year 3 allocation are being used to take forward the CCAP. The proposed cost of the CCAP is £138,472.

Please also note that ELC applied for case study funding over and above the Year 4 distribution and were allocated £45,000 in 2025–26 to carry out two local coastal adaptation projects, in Dunbar and Port Seton.

5.2 Human Resources: None

5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): None

5.4 Risk: N/A

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 **Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

or

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	
Storage/collection of personal data	
Other	

[Enter information on impacts that have been identified]

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

7 APPENDICES

7.1 None.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022–2028

8.2 East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2025–2030

8.3 East Lothian Council Local Development Plan 2018

8.4 Scottish Government Coastal Change Adaptation Guidance

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

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Date	19 / 09 / 25

Head of Service Approval

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Designation	Executive Director for Council Resources
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	Confirmed
Approval Date	22/9/25