

4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

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4.1 Introduction

This Chapter aims to lead the reader through the process of how the plan has been developed (it has been frequently stated that there is as much value in the thought process of developing the SMP as there is in the actual policies themselves).

The plan has been developed on the basis of ten high-level objectives agreed by the Client Steering Group at the outset of the review. The ten high-level objectives are as follows:

1. To support the essential diverse character of the landscape & seascape of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
2. To allow natural evolution of the shoreline wherever possible
3. To minimise impacts upon the historic environment, without unduly preventing natural coastal processes
4. To support existing nature conservation values and minimise impacts upon habitats, while allowing adaptive response to natural change
5. To support the viability and core values of coastal settlements, in a manner consistent with the Government's sustainable development principles
6. To support diversification of tourism and recreational opportunities
7. To support the adaptation and resilience of regional and county wide transport links
8. To manage the risks to communities from flooding and support their adaptation and development of resilience
9. To manage the risks to communities from erosion and support their adaptation
10. To establish a long-term action plan which helps to minimise and reduce the reliance on defences in the future.

The Chapter starts with a discussion of large segments of the coast (called Policy Development Zones (PDZ)). Within these zones the coast is described and the way in which the coast might behave is explained if:

- A) no further defence work was undertaken (the NAI scenario)
- B) present management is continued into the future (the With Present Management (WPM) scenario).

These are defined as the two baseline scenarios in undertaking the review. Consideration of these scenarios develops an understanding of the pressures which may develop on the coast under different approaches to management. It allows an assessment to be made of how under each scenario the SMP objectives are achieved or not.

From this assessment, alternative approaches or scenarios are examined and from this the preferred draft Plan is developed. To achieve this Plan individual policies for sections of the coast are derived (Policy Units (PU)). These units are finally grouped into areas of management (Management Areas (MA)), pulling together policy units which have a basic interdependency (although this is limited in some areas).

For each MA, statements are prepared setting out a summary of the plan intent, the necessary actions over different time scales, and the impacts of the preferred policies.

The mainland coastline has been divided into 17 PDZs, within which there are 41 MAs and 199 policy units. The Isles of Scilly have been identified as their own PDZ (PDZ18), with the islands that we are considering grouped in to 5 MAs. In total there are 60 policy units within the Isles of Scilly PDZ.

The PDZ boundaries are shown on the map below.

