

John Sellgren
Executive Director of Place
Dorset Council
County Hall
Colliton Park
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1XJ

Our ref: Weymouth FCRM Strategy
Your ref:
Date: 20/07/2020

Dear John

Weymouth Harbour & Esplanade FCRM Strategy

I am writing in support of the recently issued Weymouth Harbour & Esplanade FCRM Strategy, which I understand is a non-technical document designed to obtain commitment to future strategic investment by Dorset Council in this important area.

Weymouth has been subject to detailed scrutiny in its attempts to establish a clear strategic approach to adapting over the next 100 years to the challenges posed by climate change. We support an adaptive pathway being developed and implemented, with trust that the Council can sign up to this way forward.

You may have noted that last week, the Environment Agency unveiled their Flood & Coastal Risk Management Strategy, setting out how it will better protect and prepare millions of homes and businesses from the risk of flooding caused by climate change (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england--2>).

This will see the investment of £5.2 billion of funding over the next 6 years to better protect 336,000 properties, along with an additional £170m announced to invest in 'spade ready' projects. There is an expectation that future works around Weymouth will be able to utilise some of this government funding to secure further investment in defences.

We have worked closely with the Engineering Projects Team over recent years to investigate flood and coastal erosion risk to Weymouth Town Centre and have funded and supported technical investigations to inform this report. If members can adopt the preferred strategic approach it will form an important cornerstone to securing a funding partnership to tackle long-term flood and erosion risk. Partnership funding contribution requirements have recently been revised and Cabinet members should be made aware of our ambition to secure a reliable commitment from partners.

Subject to the development and submission of a Strategic Outline Case with a range of options considered, grant-in-aid project funding formulas would then apply to the further development of an Outline Business Case for the preferred option.

I encourage you to take these steps at the earliest opportunity in order to refine the actual amount of Flood Defence Grant in Aid that any scheme would be eligible for.

Any future commitment may need to adapt as appropriate to changing circumstances during the course of the phased delivery programme outlined in your document.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ron Curtis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ron Curtis
Area Flood & Coastal Risk Manager, Wessex East