

**DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**COAST PROTECTION POLICY
AND STRATEGY**

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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Outline Principles	4
Powers	4
Management Arrangements	5
Policy on Priorities	5
Other Matters	6

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Coast Protection Act 1949 (

2.0 OUTLINE PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 The Council, through the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services, will:-
- a) Draft, adopt and amend policy and strategy for Coast Protection;
 - b) Develop an inventory of the Roads and Amenity Services' coast protection assets;
 - c) Develop an inspection regime;
 - d) Design, procure and supervise any works required in accordance with the priorities set out within this document;
 - e) Set up a register of coastal events pertaining to ground not belonging to the Council;
 - f) Provide responses on Planning Applications that may affect the coast
 - g) Consider and determine applications submitted to the Council for consent for persons to carry out any coast protection work, other than work of maintenance or repair.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER COAST PROTECTION

- 3.1 Responsibility for management and prevention of erosion rests with the landowner of the land concerned.
- 3.2 The powers given to Local Authorities under the Act are permissive only, i.e. there is no duty placed upon the Local Authority to Act. The Authority:
- a) Carry out such coast protection work as appears to be necessary or expedient for the protection of any land in its area;
 - b) Carry out that work itself or engage someone else to carry out the work on its behalf;
 - c) Acquire land for, or associated with, such coast protection work;
 - d) Grant consent to coast protection works, other than work of maintenance or repair, to be carried out by others (and contribute to the cost of such works if appropriate). - As required by the Act, any works being carried out to provide E [7a.'k'G-)7f.(G::k'E,)b"7d.(-:,)b"7 .

Where it appears to a coast protection authority that works are urgently necessary for the protection of land the authority can carry out repair works. The coast protection authority can take all necessary steps and carry out works without having served notice on the owners,

- g) Carry out survey and design works to prepare schemes for implementation.

4.0 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services is responsible for implementing the Council's Coast Protection Policy.
- 4.2 The Head of Roads and Amenity Services has overall responsibility for ensuring that the Council's Coast Protection activities are carried out in line with the policy.
- 4.3 The Infrastructure Design unit is responsible for the day to day operation of the Council's Coast Protection policy. The unit is responsible to the Head of Roads and Amenity Services for the inspection and recording of the condition of the coast protection assets, the design, procurement and undertaking of any works required in accordance with the policy and allocated budget.

5.0 POLICY ON PRIORITIES

- 5.1 Each financial year the allocated coast protection budget will be divided between the following:-
 - Inspections and recording of asset information, planned works and emergency works.
- 5.2 Inspections shall be undertaken to establish a full inventory of all Roads and Amenity Services' coastal assets. The inspections shall record the condition and list any works required. The planned works programme shall be based on the condition of the assets and shall consist of value for money proportionate works. All locations where the rate of encroachment means that the road/infrastructure/property is in danger of loss/damage will be prioritised for treatment.
- 5.3 The emergency works shall be dealt with as the need arises. The extent of any emergency works are often as a result of a rough sea state and storm conditions. Random weather conditions make it difficult to accurately predict the extent and location of damage that can occur in any period of time.
- 5.4 Argyll and Bute has 4197km of coastline when measured at Mean High Water Springs. As at 4 September 2014, there is 214km of public road adopted by the Council with a centre line within)7e.(-.;)'b'),b"70.':k'G-)71.(-.;)'b"74.(-.;)'b"7.,(G:k'b"b7 .b:,-Gv-7t.

software system used by the Council to hold inspection reports and enable asset management decisions to be made based on prolonging the life of coastal protection assets and mitigating the risk of unnecessary costs). The assets typically comprise retaining walls and other means of protection such as rip rap embankments or reinforced soil solutions such as gabion baskets and mattresses.

- 5.5 Each year the condition of the known assets will be reviewed and a programme of work prepared for appropriate repairs/renewals. Also to be included in this will be areas of coastline that do not have any means of protection but are considered to be at risk of encroachment or erosion. Business cases will be prepared if any proposed works are of the scale or nature that may justify capital expenditure. In general the priority for works to be funded from the Coast Protection Budget will be:-
1. Adopted public roads/footways maintained by Argyll and Bute Council;
 2. Amenity land, infrastructure and buildings owned by Argyll and Bute Council;
 3. Land maintained by the Council that is public open space, and is of benefit to the community but not necessarily owned by the Council;
 4. Other land open to the public;
 5. Other land – This would usually be limited to providing some advice to owners about how they may approach organising coast protection works. No expenditure on private land in this category will be made without appropriate authorisation through the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 5.5 In general, associated infrastructure, such as railings and parapets will be included as coastal assets. Adjacent assets such as parks, footways, lighting etc. will be excluded.
- 5.6 Repair and maintenance of coast protection works is the responsibility of the landowner except where government grant was made available for their construction.
- 5.7 The Council will require to consent to any works on other ground promoted by parties other than itself.

6.0 Other Matters

- 6.1 The Council's powers under the Act to carry out coast protection work do not extend to the removal of carcasses and litter from the shore and as such the cost of such work is the responsibility of the landowner.

- 6.4 The Scottish Government has first claim on all 'Royal Fish', being those stranded whales measuring more than 25 feet from the snout to the middle of the tail, found dead and stranded on the shoreline of Scotland. Where the Scottish Government does not wish to claim a Royal Fish, it will liaise with the Local Authority's Environment Health Department, who may wish to arrange for disposal of the carcass.
- 6.5 The Scottish Government has no legal obligation to assist with the costs of disposal of 'Royal Fish' but funding may be provided at its discretion to assist Local Authorities with difficult disposal cases.
- 6.6 Guidance in respect of the procedure to be followed upon the stranding of cetaceans and their disposal can be found in the 'ROYAL FISH: GUIDANCE FOR DEALING WITH STRANDED ROYAL FISH (e.g. WHALES OVER 25 FEET) IN SCOTTISH WATERS' issued by Marine Scotland

Appendix 1

Map of Argyll and Bute showing areas where the centre line of public roads is within 25m of Mean High Water Springs in plan view. Note that only roads where Argyll and Bute Council is Roads Authority (as at 4 September 2014) are shown.

