

## Record of Decisions

### Paignton and Preston Community Seafront Masterplan

#### Decision Taker

Cabinet on 10 January 2023.

#### Decision

1. That the Paignton and Preston Community Seafront Masterplan, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved.
2. That further design work be commissioned, in line with RIBA stage 3, so that a full planning application can be submitted later, in 2023.
3. That the Director of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, be requested to submit appropriate planning applications for the phased works set out in the Paignton and Preston Community Seafront Masterplan.
4. That, subject to gaining the appropriate planning consent, the Director of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, be requested to implement the phased works set out in the Paignton and Preston Community Seafront Masterplan.
5. That, given the current availability of capital funding, the coastal defence works at Paignton Seafront should be prioritised as flood modelling has shown that residents, businesses and critical infrastructure are more at risk from coastal flooding in this area than at Preston Seafront.
6. That officers continue to monitor and proactively seek funding opportunities for the delivery of all the schemes set out in the Masterplan.

#### Reason for the Decision

As our climate is changing, sea levels are rising and more storms are hitting Torbay, the Environment Agency and the Council commissioned an assessment of the Bay's existing coastal defences. This assessment has shown that the sea defences we currently have on the seafronts at Paignton and Preston will only provide protection from flooding from storms for up to another 10 years. A community backed scheme was therefore required to address this challenge.

Masterplans set the vision and implementation strategy for a development or scheme. They are therefore, by nature, high-level strategic documents and although they indicate the intended arrangement of buildings, infrastructure and the public realm, they have a limited level of detail. Masterplans often apply to schemes that could be developed over a longer timeframe and so may need to be reviewed from time to time and be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances. Due to the current funding constraints this was likely to be the case with this Masterplan.

#### Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 28 December 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

## Information

Whenever Torbay experience storms like Storm Emma in 2018, a number of residential and commercial properties are at risk of flooding. The Torbay Coastal Defences report estimates that, with another 50 years of climate change, the total number of properties at risk of flooding would be 352. By acting now, we can rapidly reduce this risk to properties.

In February 2022 the Council commissioned an independent design consultancy, they were tasked to undertake a collaborative public consultation process and involve as many people as possible in the co-design of a new Paignton and Preston Seafront Masterplan, which would incorporate the appropriate sea defence infrastructure, along with improvements to the wider public realm.

The Paignton and Preston Community Seafront Masterplan, charts the design and engagement process, culminating in a community-led Seafront Masterplan that has overwhelming public support. It presents a bold vision to deliver long term transformational change, acknowledging it was likely to need additional funding to the monies already identified and would need to be a phased process.

At the meeting Councillor Cowell proposed and Councillor Carter seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

## Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

## Is this a Key Decision?

No

## Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

## Published

13 January 2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet