

Record of meeting

Project title Central Rhyl Coastal Defences

Subject Planning and consents update with DCC and NRW

Location Remote Teams Meeting

Date/time of meeting 25/03/21 12:00 to 13:00

Project number 100420823

Attendees

D Shaw (Denbighshire County Council)

W Hope (Denbighshire County Council)

J Pullen (Natural Resources Wales)

S Davies (Natural Resources Wales)

I Beckett (Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Ltd)

N Price (Mott MacDonald)

N Spofforth (Mott MacDonald)

V Deakin (Mott MacDonald)

Apologies

Recorded by N Price, N Spofforth, V Deakin

Distribution Attendees plus apologies

Item	Text	Action
1	Introduction and Objectives NP introduced the workshop and outlined the key objectives as follows (PowerPoint presentation used); • Provide a review of the options from OBC • Update DCC and NRW on the current concept proposals • Identify and agree on the Environmental Statement approach for both the terrestrial and marine elements • Identify and agree on the timescales for the Marine Licence and Planning Application	
2	Background to project and the Central Rhyl OBC VD presented the previous options for the Rhyl frontage from the Outline Business Case (JBA, 2019). IB indicated that the nearby Prestatyn Scheme that was presented on the presentation slide was from the OBC and has now been refined in length. IB also clarified that the Prestatyn scheme has little marine impact as is primarily landbased.	

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3	Current Concept design VD presented the current Centra Rhyl scheme. VD noted that, for much of the length of the scheme, there is existing part-buried concrete stepped-revetment so the scheme as proposed is not taking as much new land (beach) as it might initially appear. IB stated that the promenade needs to be widened to allow the scheme to be constructed safely and allow space for the minimum crane size for the construction works. IB noted that the rock toe protection is on a much smaller scale than at adjacent East Rhyl scheme, and it will be part-buried (subject to fluctuations in beach level). VD confirmed the revetment will be stepped not sloped. IB provided an overview of the proposed construction programme and highlighted that the revetment works and the toe protection works are likely to commence at the same time. However, the revetment works could take between two and two and a half years to construction whereas the rock toe could take half that time. It is likely that the rock toe works will commence in the east and move in a westward direction and the revetment would be constructed from west to east. IB highlighted that owing to the access constraints the works were likely to be continuous. It was also stated that we are aware of the impact the scheme may have on the local businesses. There is currently ongoing communication with the SeaQuarium (and others) as they will be directly affected by the works.	MM (NS)
4	ES approach JP indicated that Rochdale Envelope is best approach for Marine Licence, if the scheme design is not finalised when the ML application is submitted. SD commented that the maximum envelope for the scheme needs to be included in the Environmental Statement. DS said this is also acceptable to DCC, as a worst-case approach. It was also advised to make sure the approach is documented upfront in the Environmental Statement and in the Non Technical Summary (NTS) to make sure all parties are aware that the assessment is based on the worst case. JP advised that if significant changes were proposed then there would need to be a new application for the scheme. DS said that, for the East Rhyl scheme, the public struggled to engage with the scheme via the ES as it was written in technical language. NS asked what the preferred approach would be, as the NTS is quite high level. DS recommended making good use of visualisations – this is much more effective communication than words. NMP and NS acknowledged that there will be environmental impacts that are undesirable (e.g. impinging on beach) and emphasised that there were reasons for this, and the project had followed a best-practice approach of considering the merits of various options. Also the full	MM (NS) MM (NS)

Item	Text	Action
	range of environmental effects needs to be taken into account e.g. wellbeing, economy, and connection of Rhyl town to the beach.	
5	Programme JP thought that six months is quite ambitious for the Marine Licence determination (though not unheard of), and noted that there is a 42 day consultation period. There is no Service Level Agreement for a band 3 Marine Licence because the timing cannot be reliably predicted. SD advised that the best way to mitigate this is to make a very robust and complete submission, as this will minimise questions and “back and forth”. The RIAA and WFD assessment should be completed and minimise the number of issues or loose ends that may prompt questions. It was also identified that mitigation for the scheme should be considered in the ES. Early engagement (such as this meeting) also helps. IB noted there is a Coastal Concordat process in England, and asked if we could follow an equivalent approach in Wales to enable efficiencies by avoiding duplication of effort and minimising collective workload on DCC and NRW. SD noted that NRW’s jurisdiction is only up to MHWS in relation to the Marine Licence. DS stated that there are so few consultees in Wales that Coastal Concordat approach would be of no benefit, this was also considered to be the case for the East Rhyl scheme. VD confirmed that the project is targeting a submission date of June 2021 for Marine Licence and Planning Apps. SD / JP to include in the NRW pipeline of work following this meeting. SD said that, early notification of submission date will help NRW plan and allocate resources to it. The case officer for the Marine Licence won’t be confirmed until the submission is made, it is likely it won’t be JP, however, JP will communicate knowledge of the scheme in the weekly catch up meetings internally in NRW.	ACTION: MM (VD/NS) to keep NRW and DCC informed of progress via regular communication, and invite to regular short meetings to provide updates and enable feedback SD / JP VD to update SD on any programme updates
6	AOB DS advised that DCC will need to seek an extension of time for response to Screening/Scoping Opinion, as still have not received some internal consultee responses. Opinion in early April is likely.	DS
	WH thanked DCC and NRW attendees for their time, inputs and support on this project.	