Shoreline Management Plan Refresh

Priscilla Haselhurst

Lower Medway IDB

Vice Chair SECG

Agenda

- What are Shoreline Management Plans?

- What is the SMP Refresh?

- Work to date

- Next steps

What are Shoreline Management Plans?

- Policy framework for managing flood and coastal erosion risk

- Short (0-20), medium (20-50) and long-term periods (50-100)

- Developed by seven strategic coastal groups

- Consider the developed, historic and natural environment

- Hold the Line, No Active Intervention, Managed Realignment, Advance the Line.

- Must be technically feasible, environmentally acceptable and economically sustainable

Our coastal risk

LOWER MEDWAY
INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

1.8 million homes at risk from sea flooding and erosion

2014: storm closes mainline railway for 2 months with £1.2bn economic impacts

85% of saltmarsh lost since the 1850s

1,300 known landfills on the coast

Environment Agency

Challenges and Opportunities

- Widely accepted and embedded in planning policy?
- Provides a 'route map' to formulate planning strategies and guide future development
- Achieving multi-benefits
- Non-statutory documents
- Fragmented ownership around the coastline
- Economic viability of schemes

Quick overview of SMP-R Project

- 20 SMPs cover England – developed between 2006 and 2011

- SMPs mainly remain sound documents outlining the 'most appropriate thing' to do at the shoreline

- But changes have occurred since, such as:

    - *new guidance and legislation*

    - *changes in coastal evolution/management*

    - *coastal strategies and schemes*

    - *social attitudes*

    - *environmental designations*

- Also, we are now coming towards end of 1st epoch – are we 'epoch 2 ready'?

Aims of the refresh

- Provide guidance on how SMPs can incorporate new knowledge, legislation etc.

- Improve overall quality, deliverability, and consistent application of key principles across SMPs – but recognising local nuances

- Ensure SMPs remain technically robust but adaptable to future change

- Promote the principle that SMPs should be 'living' and provide a clearly defined route-map with actions to be 'epoch-2 ready' and enable delivery of the policies over the coming decades

This is not SMP3 and it will not change policies, short cut the SMP policy change process or take away any local ownership or decisions on SMPs.

What is involved in the Refresh?

SMP Refresh is both a **Project** and a **Process**:
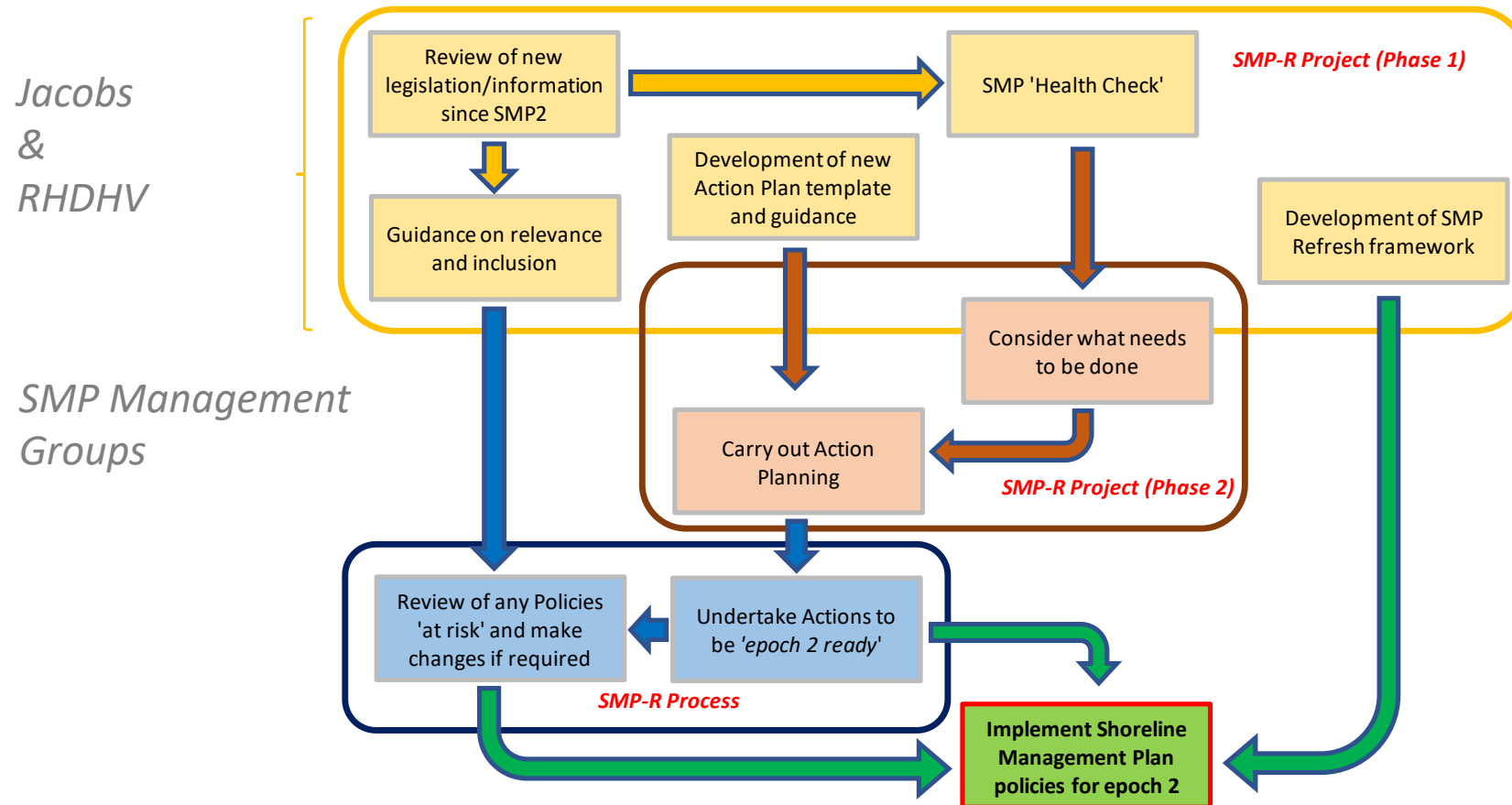
Next steps

- EA developing online digital platform

- Launch expected December 2023

- Accessible evidence base to increase understanding

Overview of Digital Platform

https://defra-smp-staging.publishmydata.com/
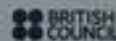
Questions?

priscilla@lmidb.co.uk