

5 Strategic Options

Strategic options for Walney Island are overviewed in this section. The approach adopted is island wide as opposed to reviewing options on a piecemeal basis for Walney Island, which would mirror coastal defence management procedures adopted on Walney over the past fifty years. To this end, policies are promoted which apply for the whole island to ensure sustainable future management.

This can be implemented in a range of ways, though it is perceived inappropriate for this section of the report to highlight all coastal engineering implementation options, describing in turn all the feasible methods and ways each option could be addressed around the island. Appendix D (Shoreline Evolution) has presented some useful new information pertaining to the evolution of Walney Island. For example, it was found that options that would draw on the island shingle resource to supplement deficit areas are unlikely to be sustainable due to a lack of overall resource volume.

The Strategy Plan, therefore, sets out a broad approach to be followed, and once this has been agreed, subsequent more detailed follow on studies (called Project Appraisal Reports – PAR's) will be required to examine the options in detail, undertake additional field studies (topographic/geotechnical surveys etc) and from this, develop a series of schemes in line with the Strategy.

Therefore, with this framework in mind, there are two main strategic options to be evaluated in addition to the do-nothing option (Option 1):

- ◆ Option 2 – **Selective Hold the Line**: Reduce risk of flooding/erosion (to humans) by introducing wide-scale intervention to prevent further erosion of the west coast and improve the standard of coastal defence.
- ◆ Option 3 – **Sustainable Selective Intervention**: Continue the current selective intervention approach, with improvements where justified. More minor works at selective locations in appropriate locations, if appropriate, landward of current defences where necessary to facilitate improved management of the coastline (including secondary defence bunds or “backstops”, managed retreat/realignment to generate new habitats, beach development through recharge or recycling via a structured beach management system (seeking to improve standard of service where appropriate).
- ◆ Both options include for the implementation of a **Beach Response Management System (BRMS)**.

It should be noted that neither option is prescriptive with regards the type of works required to achieve objectives.