

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny

Date of meeting: 5th September 2024

Title: Aberaeron Coastal Defence Scheme
Members Update

Purpose of the report: To Update Scrutiny on Progress

Reason Scrutiny have requested the information: To ensure scheme governance and oversight requirements are being met.

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Councillor Keith Henson

Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services and Carbon Management

1.0 Background

Ceredigion County Council (CCC) has been procuring the coastal defences at Aberaeron since Sept 1995 and commissioned a considerable number of Studies & Reports from several consultants.

An initial phase of the coastal defence scheme along North Beach was completed in 2009, and in relation to the construction works, CCC submitted a Full Business Case (FBC) to Welsh Government (WG) and obtained approval of the FBC on 28th July 2023 together with confirmation of funding of £1,943,548 from the Coastal Risk Management Programme (CRMP).

A report was presented to Ceredigion County Council's Cabinet on 4 July 2023, seeking approval *'to confirm agreement to enter into a contract with the preferred Contractor pending discussions regarding tender prices, funding allocation and formal approval of the Full Business Case from Welsh Government'*.

2.0 Project Procurement

Following a procurement process, via a mini competitive tender, drawn down from existing civil engineering framework, and in accordance with Cabinet minute 41 from 4 July 2023, the contract was awarded to BAM Nuttall Ltd on 31st August 2023 with a delayed occupation date of 4th December 2023.

BAM took occupation of the site as programmed and set up their compound before commencing construction works in January 2024.

3.0 Project Governance

Overall Project Management comprises of the Project Board and a Project Team.

- The board are responsible for governance and ultimate decision making within its remit.
- This project Team is responsible for the day-to-day management and implementation of the project.

The figure in APPENDIX 1 illustrates the relationship within the overall project governance arrangements.

The membership of the Project Board and all roles, responsibilities and terms of reference are highlighted in APPENDIX 2. The Project Board manages the activities and outputs of the project, to meet Welsh Government funding requirements and any specific guidance issued during the project's lifespan.

This governance model is predicated on:

- Moving confirmation of decisions up to the necessary level.
- Seeking higher levels of authorisation when required actions fall outside the delegated authorisation.
- Ensuring that stakeholder, strategic and democratic interests are maintained.
- Provide and allow for timely, necessary, and adequate scrutiny during the project.
- Allowing the Project Board to instruct, control and monitor the progress of the project via the Project team.

This methodology can best be demonstrated by the hierarchal structure illustrated in the governance arrangements in APPENDIX 1.

To ensure that adequate and sufficient governance is afforded to this project it is important for information to flow up to the various levels in a timely fashion.

The Project Board meets monthly or as close to a 4-5 week cycle as possible. The board is chaired by the CCC Project Manager who presents a number of set standard agenda items (example included as APPENDIX 3) to ensure the project remains on track to achieve its outcomes. The Project Board will authorise decisions which fall outside the remit of the ECC Project Manager's post.

The CCC Project Manager oversees the day-to-day management and monitoring of the external consultant teams to facilitate the delivery of the project and to acts as the client representative and link between the ECC Project Manager, the Project Board and Welsh Government, to ensure the work is completed on time and within budget.

The Engineering Construction Contract Project Manager (ECCPM) (Atkins Realis) coordinates the daily activities to ensure that the overall project requirements are met. The ECCPM will report directly to the Councils Project Manager. The Scheme project team meets monthly, comprising of representatives from Ceredigion County Council (Client), Atkins Realis (Designers & Project Supervision) and BAM Nuttall (Contractor), and is chaired by the ECC project manager.

The CCC Project Team meets weekly. The meeting is attended by the Councils Project Manager, the Change Control Officer, and the Project Assurance Officer. The team discuss and authorise decisions which lay within their remit and progress other decisions up to the Project board for approval as required.

The model allows ample and sufficient opportunities for appropriate delegation and governance of the project in line with the Council's policies, procedures, and processes.

4.0 Project Overview & Progress Update

Works Commenced on the 4th December 2023 with the setting up of the compound below Penmorfa and establishing access to the site from the compound.

The project comprises Six key areas which are interlinked as integral parts of the flood defence scheme, which are shown in APPENDIX 4.

South Beach - Improvements to South Beach in the form of removal and replacement of the existing timber groynes. Replacing and extending the existing rock revetment and placement shingle nourishment.

South Pier – Partial reconstruction of the seaward head of the South Pier and improving the durability of the remaining structure by drilling and grouting.

North Breakwater - Construction of a rock breakwater extending out from the North Pier with a public walkway along the top of the structure. Total length is approx. 270 meters long.

Quay Parade - The existing low concrete wall set back from the main harbour wall will be replaced with a reinforced concrete stone clad wall topped with glass panels 600-700mm and four Bi-fold flood gates. Repairs to the full length of the quay wall facing into the harbour by drilling and grouting.

Pwll Cam & Aeron River - A 55m section of new wall with glass panels will line the river Aeron from Pwll Cam up to the A487 bridge to increase protection from tidal overtopping.

Pwll Cam Flood Gate - A flood gate and control kiosk will be installed across the entrance to Pwll Cam harbour to prevent flooding in the inner harbour area.

5.0 Progress Update

South Beach

The South Beach revetment works are substantially complete from chainage 220m – 130m pending final inspections and testing. The Sabellaria translocation is still to commence and is pending progress to the North Breakwater.

South Pier

Drilling and grouting works to stabilise the South Pier are now complete. The design of the pre-cast concrete units are in production and delivery is awaited. Temporary works to create working areas to form the base slabs are ongoing. Removal of the existing heritage masonry is also ongoing. All necessary approvals and condition discharges from planning and CADW have been received,.

North Breakwater

Excavation and geotextile work to the toe have progressed to 240m, with the north toe 6-10t rock armour currently at 190m and south toe rock armour to 170m. Pre-cast concrete units have been approved to enable fabrication of moulds and units. There have been various incidents that have taken place during the construction of the breakwater:

- (i) a vessel was damaged when it ran aground on rocks located within the area published as foul grounds in a Local Notice to Mariners
- (ii) Feedback has been received relating to the marking of the harbour entrance channel, however the Harbour Authority has liaised closely with Trinity House to agree the necessary arrangements and markers required.
- (iii) The ground works subcontractor's excavator suffered electrical failure whilst working at the end of the breakwater, which resulted in the machine being submerged in the sea for two high tides. Extensive mitigation measures were put in place to prevent injury and pollution, and the excavator was successfully retrieved the next day without incident or harm to the workforce or the environment, and with the NRW's approval.

Rock Deliveries

The final delivery of rock from Norway was offloaded in early August. In total 112,000t of rock has been delivered as follows:

- 41,000t of 0.3t to 1t delivered from Hanson quarry & Norway.
- 4,480t of 1t to 3t delivered from Hanson quarry.
- 26,481t of 3 to 6t delivered from Norway.
- 40,832t of 6 to 10t delivered from Norway.

Quay Parade

Excavation and construction of the flood defence wall continues. At the time of writing, the following is complete:

- Excavation 11 of 19 bays complete.
- Foundation Poured 8 of 19 complete.
- Wall Poured 5 of 19 complete.

Adjustments to BT infrastructure works programmed for late August; Solutions agreed to resolve the clash with the SW drainage connection from the Harbourmaster and works are now complete. No delays are anticipated with the work by Others. Bi-folding flood gate designs have been resolved and are in manufacture; Glass wall panels ordered.

Pwll Cam and Gate

the Contractor is progressing with their formwork and temporary works designs and no issues are anticipated. All reinforced concrete details for the gate base slab and sill

have been instructed. Final construction issue drawings for the abutment reinforced concrete are imminent for PM instruction. Manufacture of the steel flood gate has commenced. The Gate control kiosk design and internal layout is approved and being detailed. Discussions between Party Wall Surveyors in respect to the occupation of and works to adjoining land is ongoing and awaiting contractor's programme to finalise the award. Commencement of these works have been delayed from Feb 24 to Oct 24. All stone trial panel planning condition discharges have been approved. Stonemason due to commence imminently.

River Aeron

Construction of capping beam complete between A487 bridge and Toad Hall; Revised design drawings for wall adjacent to Toad Hall required due to it not having a concrete core to support the capping for the glass flood wall; Confirmation has been received that soil nailing is the preferred option as other options required listed building consent. Proposals have been discussed with the main contractor so the design can progress in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. NMWTRA approval of tie-in detail between flood defence wall and A487 road bridge has been received.

Key risks and issues

The current top project risks identified are as follows:

- Completion of Party Wall Agreements.
- Delays due to unforeseen design changes.
- Re-design of River Aeron wall behind Toad Hall
- Scheduling work to coincide with the low tides and within the 7am - 7pm working hours restriction in the Marine License.
- North Breakwater PC concrete unit manufacture.

6.0 Programme & Budget

At the time of writing this report:

1. No claim for extension of time had been received.
Delays have however been experienced, and the Main Contractor is making their best endeavours to make up lost time where they can.
2. The overall project cost remains within the original contract sum.
There have been changes in the works information/scheme requirements resulting in cost variations, in the following areas:
 - Change from Insitu concrete for Precast concrete for the South Pier and North Breakwater Walkway.
 - Adjustments to statutory services
 - Adjustments to the Pwll Cam Gate Foundation
 - Delays due to Party Wall negotiations.
 - Redesign of part of River Aeron wall
 - Revised Bi-fold gate proposals along Quay Parade,
 - Revised compound access by making use of Penmorfa access road
 - Reduced drilling and grouting requirement for existing Harbour walls.
 - South Beach revised revetment design.
 - Bill of Quantity adjustments in respect to Rock Quantities

7.0 Conclusion

At the time of compiling this report, the Project Board were generally satisfied with the progress of the works, and that adequate and sufficient governance is being afforded to this project.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

No - Report is to provide update on scheme development

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A

Collaboration: N/A

Involvement: N/A

Prevention: N/A

Integration: N/A

Recommendation(s): To note the governance arrangements and progress being made on the Coastal Defence Scheme at Aberaeron, in order that Members are kept informed of progress.

Reasons for decision: N/A

Contact Name: Rhodri Llwyd

Designation: Corporate Lead Officer
Highways and Environmental Services

Date of Report: 16 August 2024

Acronyms: CRMP - Coastal Risk Management Programme .
ECCPM – Engineering Construction Contract Project Manager
FBC - Full Business Case

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Project Governance Diagram.
Appendix 2 - Project Board - Terms of Reference
Appendix 3 – Sample Agenda
Appendix 4 - Plan of Works Areas