



# HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON STRATEGY



Hampshire  
County Council

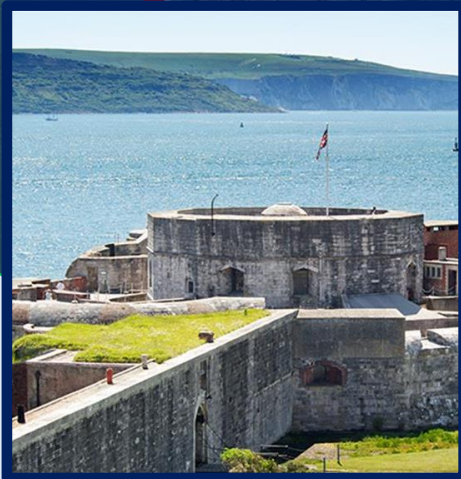


New Forest  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON STRATEGY



## Background

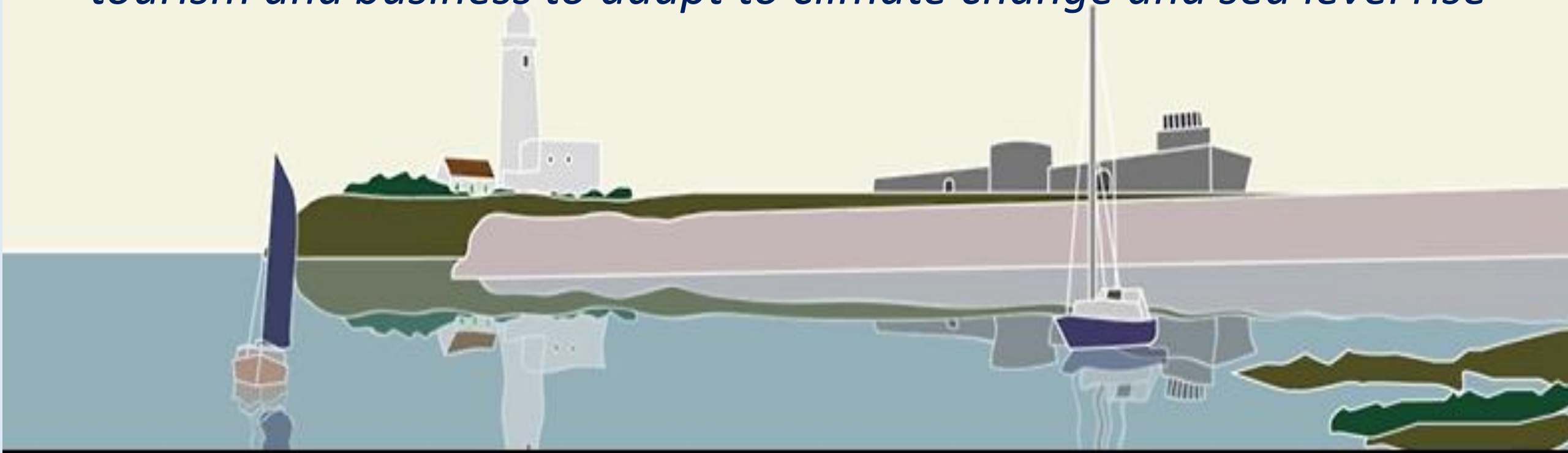


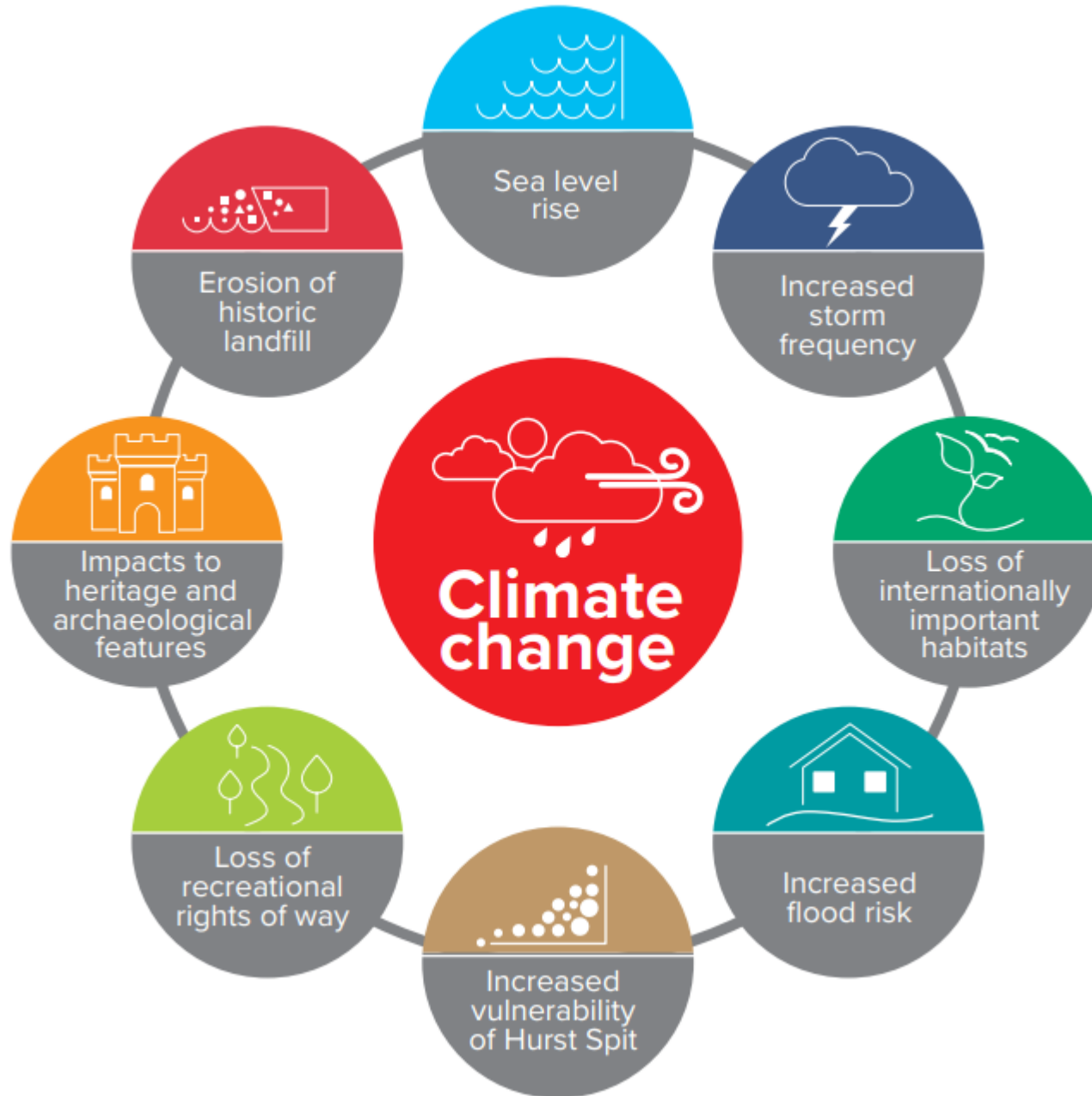


## Strategy Vision

*A sustainable future for Hurst Spit to Lymington area for the next 100 years:*

*Enabling communities, the environment, wildlife, heritage, recreation, tourism and business to adapt to climate change and sea level rise*





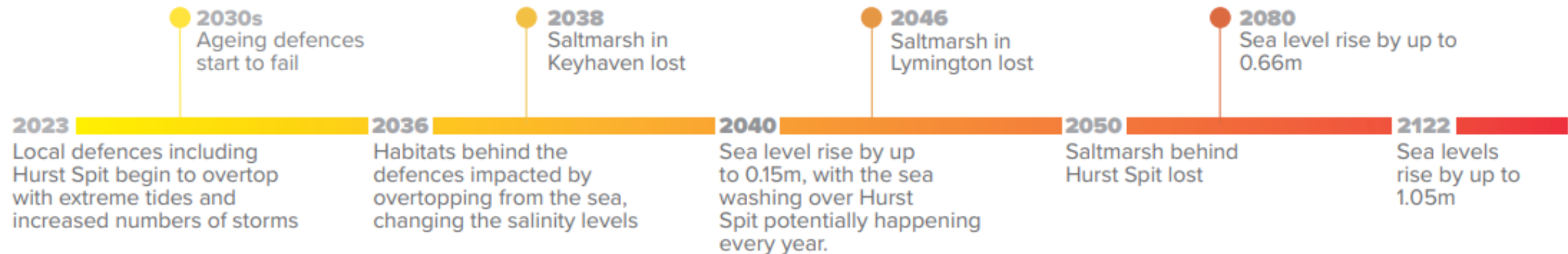
## Why is the Strategy needed?

- A Strategy is needed to address several challenges facing this area now and into the future.
- These challenges are complex and interlinked and are being felt in both the natural environment and in our towns and villages.
- The impact of these challenges are set to be made worse by the effects of climate change.



## What if we do nothing?

Maintaining the coastline as it is now is unlikely to be sustainable as climate change, rising sea levels and heavier rainfall threaten our coastlines, rivers and the people and wildlife that live alongside them.





# What has been done so far?

LONG LIST

SHORT LIST  
SUMMER 2022

LEADING OPTIONS  
SUMMER 2023

APPRAISAL PROCESS

A large, light-colored funnel-shaped graphic that tapers from left to right. The left side is light purple, and the right side is light green. The text 'APPRAISAL PROCESS' is centered within the funnel.

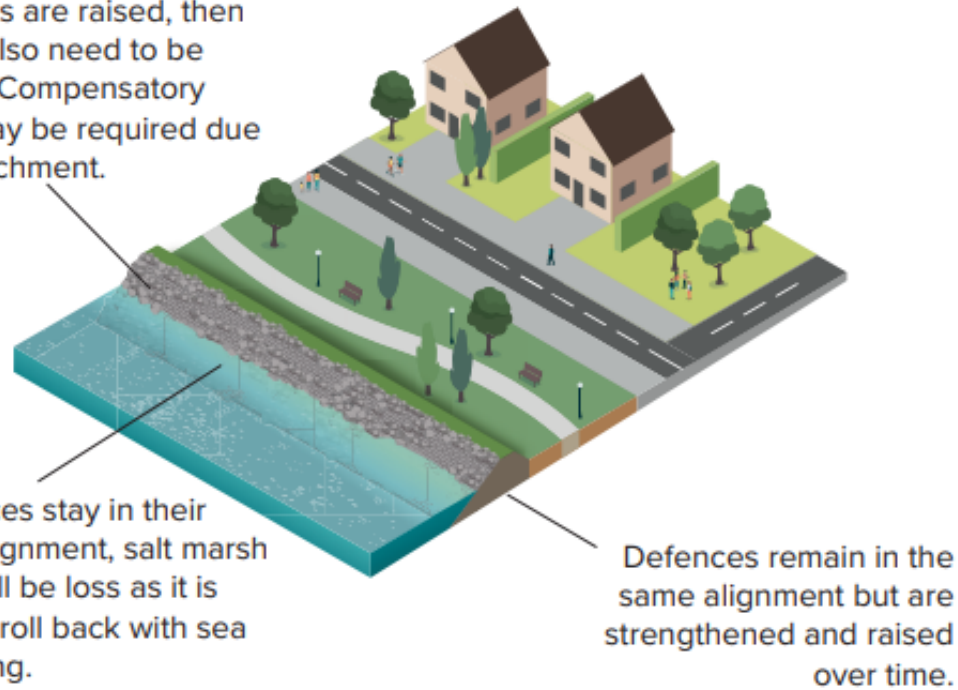


## High level Options

### HOLD THE LINE

If defences are raised, then they will also need to be widened. Compensatory habitat may be required due to encroachment.

As defences stay in their current alignment, salt marsh in front will be loss as it is unable to roll back with sea levels rising.

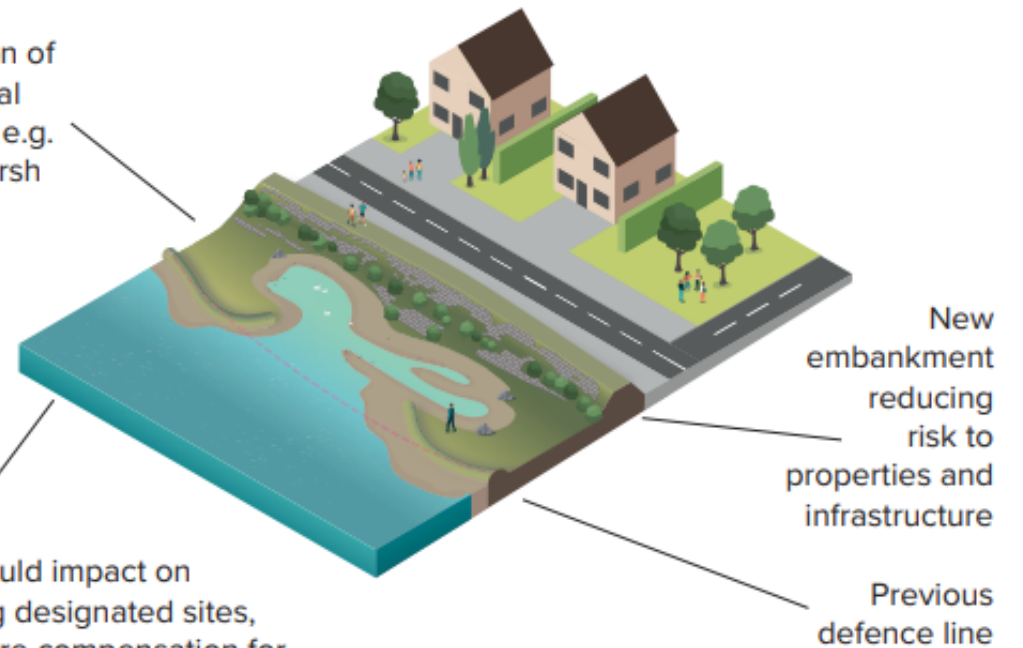


Defences remain in the same alignment but are strengthened and raised over time.

### MANAGED REALIGNMENT

Creation of intertidal habitat e.g. salt marsh

This could impact on existing designated sites, therefore compensation for these impacts / losses are likely to be required



New embankment reducing risk to properties and infrastructure

Previous defence line

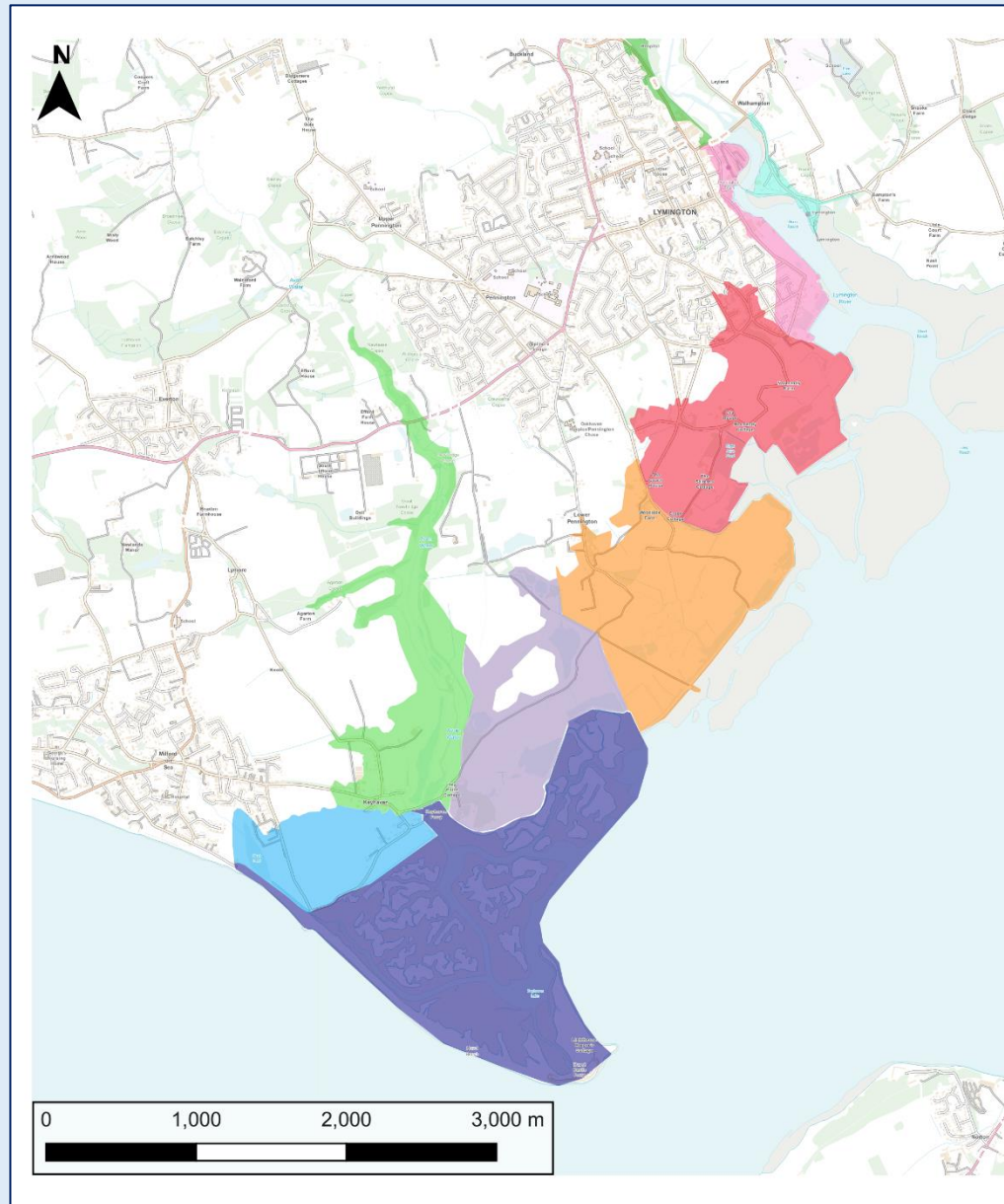
# HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON STRATEGY



- Balance between Hold The Line (HTL) and Managed Realignment (MR)
- Any MR would require further offsetting of terrestrial habitats
- Challenging to locate suitable locations



# HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON STRATEGY

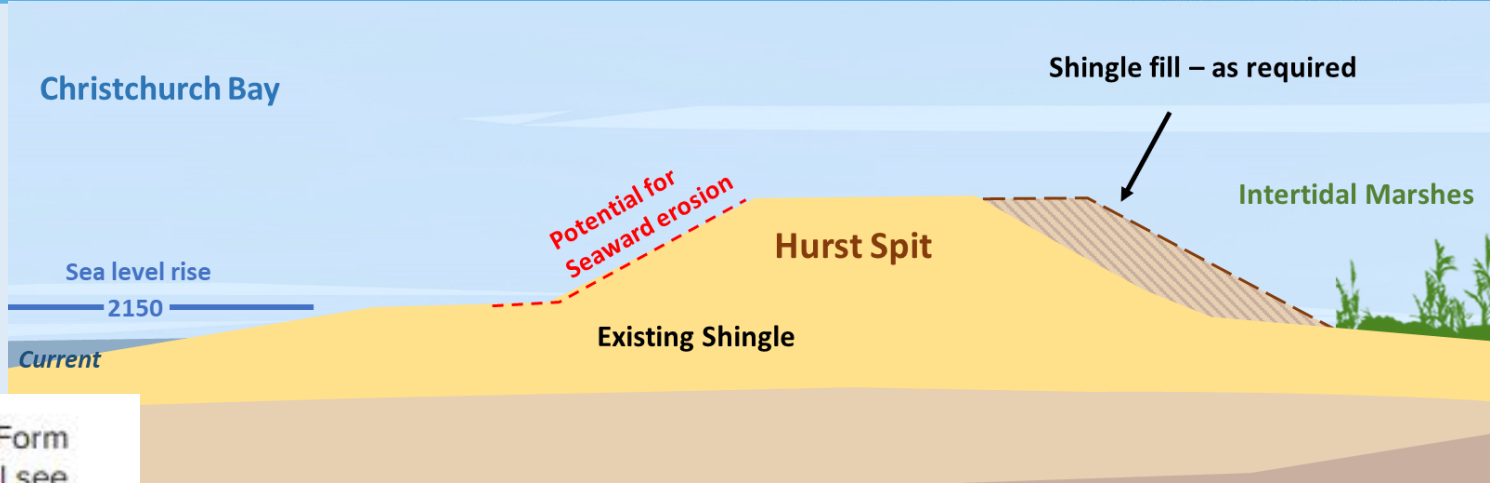


# HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON STRATEGY

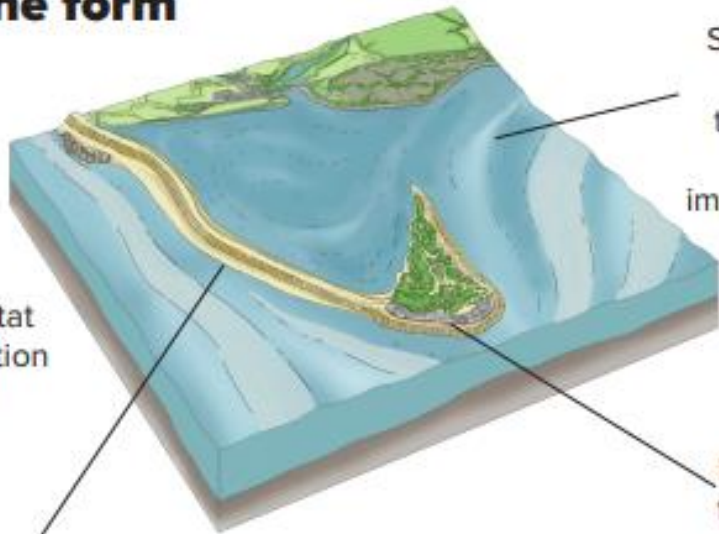


## Hurst Spit

National economic option  
**Hold the form - Maintain**  
 £38 - 46 million



### Hold the form



Hold the Form Sustain will see an increase in the footprint of the spit, impacting on the habitats.

Maintains access to the Castle and Lighthouse.

Minor habitat compensation would be required.

Shingle would be placed onto the spit periodically keeping it at its current level or it would receive a large recharge at the outset, then periodic recharges during the 100-year design life.

### Hold the form options

- + Preserve existing heritage character and recreational opportunities. Access to the castle would remain allowing visitors to continue and supporting any maintenance vehicles, ultimately providing a greater certainty for the castle's future.
- +/- Added protection of habitats behind the spit. However, coastal squeeze would change the extent and distribution of important species and habitats. This would also change the visual experience of the area.
- Disruption to wildlife and the use of the area due to shingle recharge activities.
- Prevents natural processes taking place by restricting natural evolution of the spit.
- Carbon emissions associated with shingle recharge activities e.g. use of vehicles to undertake the work.

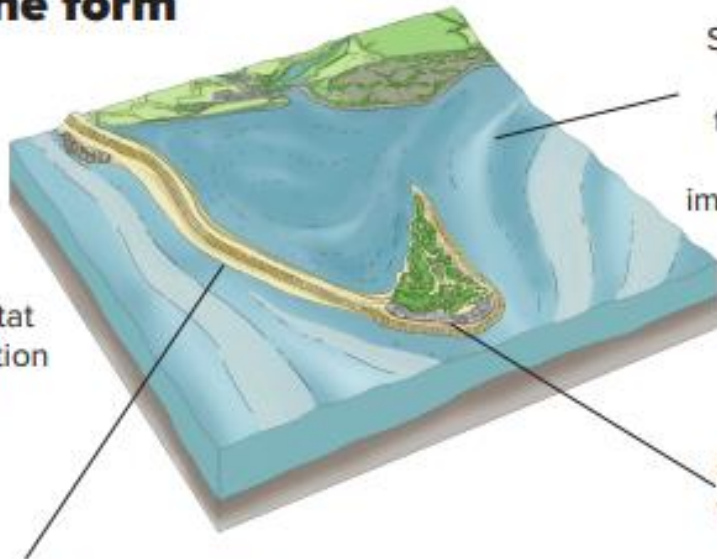


## Hurst Spit

Aspirational option
<b>Hold the form - Upgrade</b>
£43 - 52 million



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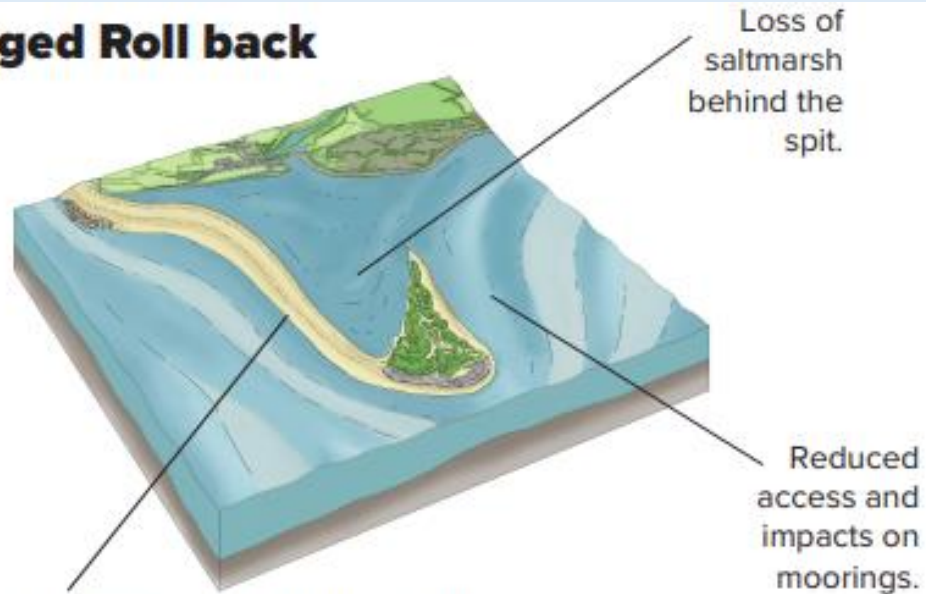


## Hurst Spit

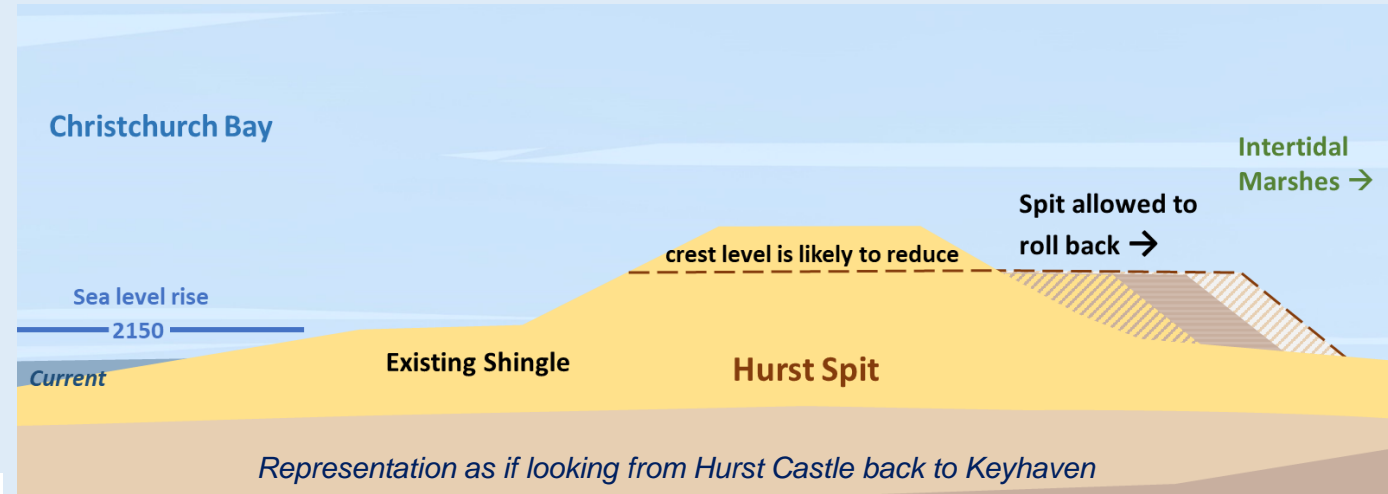
### Rollback Reactive Management Rollback Minimum intervention

£13 - 16 million

#### Managed Roll back



Allow the spit to adapt naturally leading to a lower flatter spit in time.



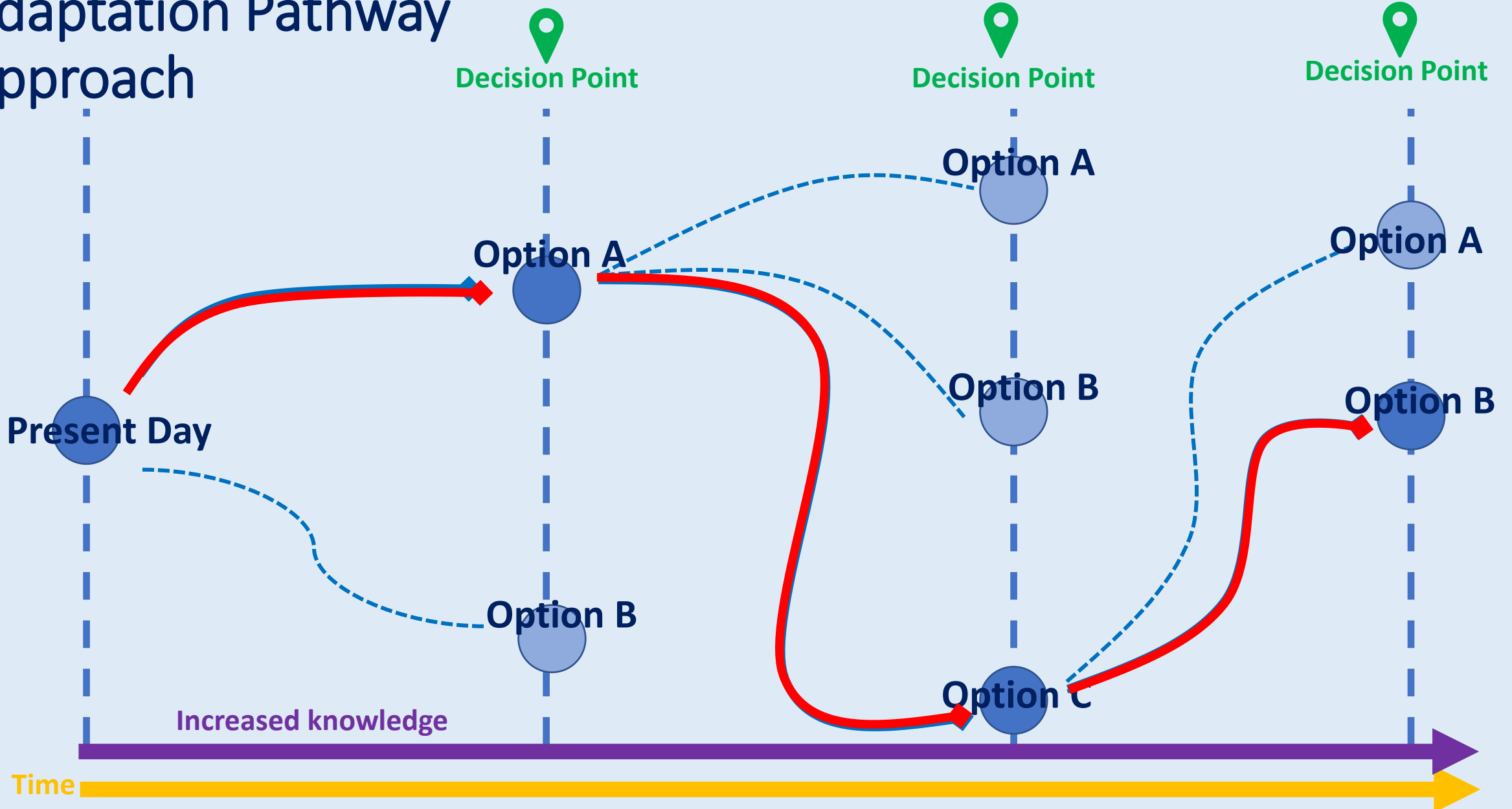
#### Managed roll back option

- + Encouragement of natural processes and creation of new intertidal habitats via compensatory habitat measures. This would help create a mosaic of new habitats, supporting how the habitats function and their enhanced resilience to climate change.
- +/- As the spit rolls back expect to see changes to existing landscape features, including Keyhaven Lake, Mount Lake and saltmarsh habitats. Although the ecological use and function of the area would be retained through the required compensatory habitats.
- Carbon emissions associated with sediment import for saltmarsh creation.
- Changes to recreational use of the area, including intermittent access along the spit and to Hurst Castle.

# HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON STRATEGY



## Adaptation Pathway Approach





LONG LIST

SHORT LIST  
SUMMER 2022

LEADING OPTIONS  
SUMMER 2023

PREFERRED  
PATHWAY

APPRAISAL PROCESS





## Next Steps

- Identify Draft Preferred Pathway
- Public Engagement – Autumn 2024
- Explore investment opportunities
- Explore habitat suitability sites
- Schools engagement
- Environmental Assessments (HRA/SEA) discussions
- Formal consultation Jan 2026
- Approval summer 2026





## Key Messages

- Change is happening .....Opportunity to manage the change
- Support resilient communities whilst enhancing the environment for future generations
- A more sustainable approach is needed in the future
- Funding/ investment from other organisations will be required
- Difficult choices and trade-offs will need to be made regardless of what is done: people, businesses, land and the environment will be affected







Thank you!

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