

English Nature Research Report 643

### **Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the Planning System in England**

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#### ***Introduction***

This report examines how the current reforms to the land use planning system might complement and inform English Nature's developing agenda for the recovery, conservation and sustainable use of our coasts and seas. It appraises the extent to which the new spatial planning system, as introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, might offer a better means of achieving the objectives of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and providing the statutory footing and geographical scope to promote Shoreline Management Plans and Coastal Habitat Management Plans. In addition to a spatial planning approach, the other two key aims of the new planning system are sustainable development and closer community engagement. The report touches on how these key tenets of the new planning system might influence policy and governance in our coastal environment.

#### ***What was done***

The research outlines the key legislative and policy developments that have occurred since Planning Policy Guidance 20 on Coastal Planning was published by Government in September 1992. It also scopes the main changes that a revision to PPG 20 should embrace. It examines the key features of the new land use planning system, in particular the new system of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (as set out in the recently published final versions of PPS 11 and PPS 12), to evaluate the degree to which this offers means of better managing our dynamic coastal environment in a sustainable way. It also touches on the role of ICZM in linking any new marine spatial planning system with the terrestrial planning system. The report looks at East Riding ICZM plan and critically evaluates how well existing planning policies support the objectives of the other coastal plans, such as the Shoreline Management Plans, Coastal Defence Strategies or Coastal Habitat Management Plans.

#### ***Results and conclusions***

ICZM has the potential to fulfil the role of coordinating, integrating and connecting the terrestrial and any new marine spatial planning systems. Conversely the new spatial planning

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system can contribute substantially to ICZM, more than the town and country planning system has been able to in the past. In particular:

Government guidance in Planning Policy Statements (especially PPS 20) provide a mechanism for integrating policy for the coast across all sectors. They should provide the overall statement of planning principles for the land and sea and how ICZM should be the way in which the terrestrial and marine planning systems are connected to mutual benefit.

A revised Planning Policy Statement 20 is the appropriate vehicle for Government to redefine the policy test that development needing a coastal location must meet, and require its rigorous and consistent application in the interests of sustainable development.

The wider remit and wider spatial dimensions of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents should facilitate the coordination and integration of local ICZM plans and provide a clear policy framework for coastal planning and management.

### ***English Nature's viewpoint***

English Nature will be using this report in discussions with Government Departments and other agencies about to how ICZM plans may best be produced and adopted in the sequence of preparing and adopting Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents. ICZM plans and other plans such as Coastal Habitat, Estuary and Shoreline Management Plans will need to be meshed with the emerging policies and proposals of revised development plans whilst also being consistent with adopted plans. They will need to be flexible and kept under review so that they can be adapted to reflect changes in statutory plans and the hierarchy of national and regional planning policy.

### ***Selected references***

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. 2004. *Planning Policy Statement 11 Regional Spatial Strategies*. London: ODPM.

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### ***Further information***

For the full report or other publications on this subject, please contact the Enquiry Service on 01733 455100/101/102 or email [enquiries@english-nature.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@english-nature.org.uk)

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