



Resource 9: Formulate your view on the key principles that should be used to shape Shoreline Management Plans

Student worksheet 9.5

Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) are shaped around a set of principles agreed by all the organisations involved in the process. Some of the principles can be contradictory and this is one of the main challenges of shoreline management: it is unlikely to fully achieve all the principles. Instead SMPs aim to provide the best achievable balance at any given location and with regard to the short, medium and long-term aspect of the plan.

The eleven principles used to shape SMPs are listed below. The order, as represented here, does not indicate any order of importance.

- To develop a policy appropriate to the character of the coast and the interaction between the land and the sea.
- To balance flood and erosion management with the assets and benefits that the management will protect.
- To identify opportunities for managing the coast using natural processes and take full account of the likely longshore and cross-shore impacts.
- To develop a policy which is resilient and flexible.
- To inform communities, individuals and partners about any anticipated coastal change.
- To support shoreline communities by managing the risk to their activities and infrastructure.
- To promote the social and economic values of the coast to wider society.
- To support conservation and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.
- To contribute to maintaining the character of the evolving coast.
- To support the protection of the historic environment and its value to the heritage, culture and economy of the area.
- To support and enhance people's enjoyment of the coast by maintaining and enhancing access.

Your task

- Complete the template below to show your personal ranking of the principles that you feel should underpin SMPs. Cut and paste from the list above.
- In small groups, compare your diamond rankings.
- Where there is disagreement, justify your own thinking to persuade others.
- Discuss how far this exercise can be undertaken without applying the principles to specific coastal areas.

Diamond 9 sorting sheet

Most important principle →

