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USING ADAPTIVE PATHWAYS TO DELIVER SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN POLICIES

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The Our Future Coast is a project on the North-West Coast of England, funded through the Flood and Coastal Resilience Programme. It aims to develop adaptation pathways and associated triggers through action learning, supporting the delivery of Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) policies.

The project uses action learning to establish general methodologies while collaborating with site-based teams to create localised adaptive pathways. This iterative learning process continuously refines our approach.

Key insights so far include:

- The importance of agreeing and defining terms to ensure shared understanding
- The value of back-casting as a strategic planning tool.
- Clarifying stakeholder roles and responsibilities.
- Embedding SMP policy review into adaptive pathways.
- Prioritising decision points over premature or delayed decision-making.
- Shifting from a time-based to an event-based approach.
- Establishing a baseline understanding of geomorphology and coastal management.
- Recognising and addressing behavioural changes needed for adaptation.
- Understanding the attitudes in ourselves, and the window of discourse that we operate within.
- Effectively presenting adaptation pathways for stakeholder engagement.

These insights, along with future findings, will be incorporated into guidelines to assist practitioners in developing adaptive pathways for SMP policy implementation. While these guidelines will serve as a foundation for others, ongoing learning will be necessary. However, they will help practitioners avoid challenges we have identified, improving coastal resilience planning.