



for
Coastal
Communities

Coastal Inquiry

Update report 2024

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP, Hastings & Rye

Secretariat: Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG), Coastal Communities Alliance (CCA) and Coastal Partnership Network (CPN)

Website:

<https://www.coastalpartnershipsnetwork.org.uk/coastalcommunitiesappg>

Contact email: coastalcommunitiesappg@gmail.com

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Groups are informal groups of Members of both House with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this Report are those of the group.

This report has been produced through in-kind funding by the LGA Coastal SIG.

Blank page

Foreword



“As the MP for Hastings and Rye, a mixture of urban, rural and coastal communities, it is essential that the voice of coastal communities’ rings loud and clear at the government level to help ensure that no community is left behind.

Our coastal communities have so much untapped potential, and businesses and residents need to be given every opportunity to maximise their potential all year round. They do not want to be a financial burden to our economy, instead they want their current contributions to be recognised and to become investable enabling sustainability into the future.

The APPG for Coastal Communities focuses on these unique communities that often have more in common with each other than with their inland neighbours, and they require targeted policies to help ensure equality of opportunity is provided the length and breadth of our United Kingdom.

Over the past two years, the APPG has focused on deep dives into the challenges our coastal communities face, and the unique solutions that could support them to become the thriving, sustainable communities we know that they can be. We have collated all the information from these sessions to form this report to inform those championing for our coastal communities and for those who have the potential to grasp the solutions and take action to deliver meaningful change.

I thank all of those who have taken the time to deliver their expert understanding to the APPG to support the delivery of our Coastal Inquiry. Together, we have all recognised the potential that a dedicated Minister for the Coast would have if supported by a collaborative cross-departmental coastal task force to inform and influence powerful change.

As a General Election has now been called, it is essential that the information contained within this report is carefully considered by all those interested in delivering for our country, as dedicated meaningful investment in solutions for our coastal communities will also benefit the wider economy, energy security, well-being and health of our nation.”

Chair, Sally-Ann Hart MP, Hastings & Rye

Contents

Foreword	3
Coastal Inquiry	8
Officers & Members 2024.....	8
Secretariat	9
Coastal Partnerships Network	9
Coastal Communities Alliance	9
Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group.....	9
Key message & recommendations.....	10
Health in Coastal Communities	15
Background.....	15
Headlines & Actions.....	16
Presentation: Health in Coastal Communities - Professor Chris Whitty – Chief Medical Officer	16
Recommendations:	16
Discussion points.....	17
Speaker biography:	18
2024 Update	18
Skills & Aspirations	20
Background.....	20
Headlines & Actions.....	20
Presentation: Coastal Sustainability through Careers and Business Skills Research Report – Samantha Richardson MBE - National Coastal Tourism Academy Director	20
Recommendations/Actions:	21
Presentation: Levelling Up Education - Dr Eric Lybeck - University of Manchester	21
Recommendations/Actions:	22
Presentation: Health, Retail and Manufacturing - Stuart Klosinski – Klosinski Economic Development Ltd td - Secretariat to Keep Our Future Afloat campaign (shipbuilding orders and skills).....	22
Recommendations/Actions:	22
Presentation: Integrated Approach through Blue Connections – Amy Pryor – Thames Estuary Partnership/Coastal Partnerships Network	22
Recommendations/Actions:	23
Discussion points.....	23
Speaker biographies:	24
Year of the Coast 2023	25
Background.....	25
Headlines & Actions.....	25
Presentation: Year of the Coast 2023 - Samantha Richardson MBE, Academy Director, National Coastal Tourism Academy	26
Recommendations/Actions:	26
Presentation: England Coast Path - Neil Constable, Programme Manager England Coast Path, Natural England.....	26

Presentation: Update from the Wales Coast Path - Eve Nicholson, Wales Coast Path Marketing and Comms, Natural Resources Wales	27
Recommendations/Actions:	28
Presentation: Introduction to Ocean Literacy - Dr Emma McKinley, Research Fellow, University of Cardiff	28
Recommendations/Actions:	29
Discussion points.....	29
Speaker biographies:	29
2024 Update	30
Impact of coastal erosion on coastal communities	31
Background.....	31
Headlines & Actions.....	31
Presentation: National Perspective - Julie Foley OBE – Director of Flood Risk Strategy and National Adaptation, Environment Agency.....	32
Presentation: Community Interest Group Perspective - Angela Terry – CEO, One.....	32
Recommendations/Actions:	33
Presentation: A local perspective - Karen Thomas – Head, Coastal Partnership East and Officer Lead for Coastal Adaptation, LGA Coastal SIG.....	33
Video: A personal perspective - clip from Coastal Partnership East film.....	34
Discussion points.....	34
Speaker biographies	35
2024 updates.....	37
Assessing the need for levelling up (Growth) in England’s coastal authorities	39
Background.....	39
Headlines & Actions.....	39
Presentation: Introduction to the <i>Communities on the Edge</i> Report – Nicola Radford – Coastal Communities Alliance	40
Recommendations/Actions	40
Presentation: Communities on the Edge – Rebecca Munro – Pragmatix Advisory.....	40
Recommendations/Actions:	41
Discussion points.....	41
Speaker biographies	42
Ocean Literacy	44
Background.....	44
Headlines & Actions.....	44
Presentation: Ocean Literacy: An Evolving Concept – Dr Emma McKinley - Cardiff University	44
Presentation: Ocean Literacy in England, Wales and Scotland: Headline findings from the Ocean Literacy Survey – Dr Mark Atkinson - Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	45
Presentation: Developing a strategy for delivering Ocean Literacy in Wales – Dr Kathryn Hughes - Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales	46
Presentation: Ocean Literacy and the Blue Economy Vision in Scotland – Claire Speedie & Dr Kay Barclay - Marine Scotland, Scottish Government	46

Discussion points.....	47
Speaker biographies:.....	48
2024 update.....	50
Beach and Water Safety.....	51
Background	51
Headlines & Actions MPs to raise the profile of Drowning Prevention across their work areas wherever appropriate.....	51
Presentation: Introduction to Beach & Water Safety – Ross MacLeod - RNLI.....	51
Presentation: Why inclusion and equity matter for water safety – Danielle Obe – Black Swimming Association	52
Presentation: Importance of water safety education – Lee Heard – Royal Life Saving Society	53
Presentation: How collaboration and partnerships can improve Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP) safety– Sam Ward – British Canoeing	53
Presentation: Shaping tomorrow today: Future factors influencing UK lifesaving - Sarah Nightingale – Royal National Lifeboat Institution	54
Discussion points.....	55
Speaker biographies	55
2024 update.....	56
World Drowning Prevention Day Event.....	58
Purpose:	58
Further resource links.....	61
Seaside Heritage.....	62
Background.....	62
Headlines & Actions.....	62
Presentation: What is seaside heritage? – Dr Allan Brodie – Bournemouth University	62
Presentation: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities - Dr Anya Chapman – Bournemouth University	63
Discussion points.....	63
Speaker biographies:	64
Pledge for the Coast.....	67
Call for a dedicated Minister for the Coast.....	67
Historic Coastal Landfill.....	73
Background.....	73
Headlines & Actions.....	73
Presentation: Introduction to session – Beccy MacDonald-Lofts, LGA Coastal SIG	73
Recommendations/Actions:	74
Presentation: Historic Coastal Landfill: A need for change – Mark Stratton, LGA Coastal SIG/ Coastal Group Network/ Coastal Partners	74
Recommendations/Actions:	75
Presentation: Historic Coastal Landfill: Consequences for communities and coastal environments - Prof. Kate Spencer, Queen Mary University of London.....	75
Recommendations/Actions:	75

Presentation: Legacy wastes in the coastal zone: Evaluating environmental risks across waste types – Prof. Adam Jarvis, Newcastle University	75
Discussion points.....	76
Speaker biographies:	77
Coastal Deprivation	80
Background	80
Headlines & Actions.....	80
Presentation: Introduction to session – Ian Treasure, Changing Futures Lancashire.....	80
Recommendations/Actions:	81
Presentation: Delivering advice in a Coastal Community: how deep deprivation affects our work - Joanna Young, Citizens Advice North Lancashire.....	81
Presentation: Healing our communities – Dave Higham, The Well Communities	81
Recommendations/Actions:	82
Presentation: How homelessness sector aids the regeneration of Sussex coastal communities through transforming lives – John Holstrom, Turning Tides	82
Discussion points:.....	82
Speaker biographies:	84
2024 update	85
Turning the Tide- Addressing Health Inequalities in Coastal Towns through the lens of Employment	86
Background.....	86
Headlines & Actions:.....	86
Presentation: Introduction to Turning the Tide: Addressing health inequalities in coastal towns through the lens of employment– Dr Ed Garratt OBE, Suffolk and North East Essex ICS & Dr Jon Bashford, Breaking Barriers Innovations	87
Recommendations/Actions:	87
Discussion points:.....	87
Speaker biographies	88
Additional session: Maritime UK/OneCoast Coalition Coastal Communities APPG briefing on the levelling-up white paper.....	89
Background to the Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto.....	89
Discussion item: Green Skills Project.....	89
Discussion item: Ocean Literacy.....	90
Discussion: Economic development incentives in non-freeport areas.....	90
Asks	90
Next steps.....	92
Future of the APPG	92
Note to Parliamentarians/candidates	92

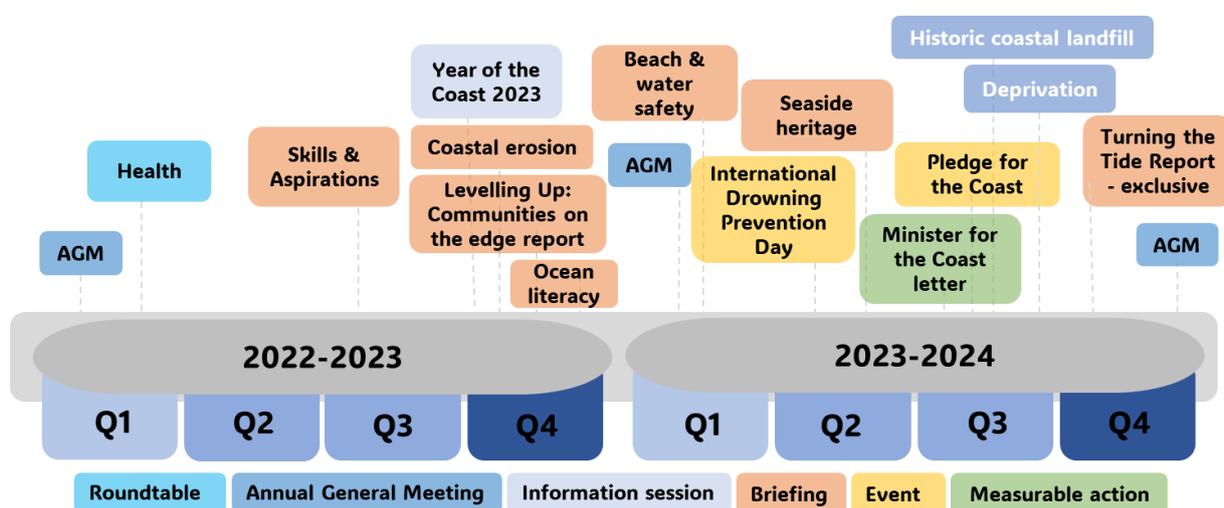
Purpose of the APPG

The All-Parliamentary Party Group on Coastal Communities looks to consider current issues affecting coastal communities and to actively seek solutions to address these to enhance health, wellbeing, education, infrastructure, and economies within these unique communities.

Coastal Inquiry

The APPG for Coastal Communities is delivering an innovative format for an Inquiry, tailored to ensure that Parliamentarians are kept informed of the latest challenges and developments. The Inquiry is formed of Roundtables and Briefings, supported further by Information Sessions.

The purpose of each session is to provide current information leading to the development of direct actions for Parliamentarians to deliver. The format of each deep dive sessions and topic is illustrated below:



This report brings together all the discussions throughout the 2022-23/2023-24 period to inform policy makers ahead of the upcoming general election.

Officers & Members 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the AGM, held in March 2024, elected the following officers and registered the interest of members. As of the 30 May 2024 the House will enter the Dissolution period and therefore as no MPs exist, neither will the APPG. In the new Parliament the APPG will seek to be reformed and continued its programme of work.

Officers:

Sally-Ann Hart MP – Chair (Conservative)
Peter Aldous MP – Vice-Chair (Conservative)

Tim Loughton – Vice-Chair (Conservative)
Rosie Duffield – Vice-Chair (Labour)

Members:

Sir James Duddridge MP (Conservative)
Martin Vickers MP (Conservative)
Cherilyn Mackrory MP (Conservative)
Tim Farron MP (Liberal Democrats)
Robin Millar MP (Conservative)
Christina Rees MP (Labour)
Kevin Foster MP (Conservative)
The Lord Skidelsky (Crossbench)
Giles Watling MP (Conservative)

Simon Fell MP (Conservative)
Lord Lucas (Conservative)
Sir Peter Bottomly MP (Conservative)
James Wild MP (Conservative)
Sir Julian Lewis MP (Conservative)
Matt Warman MP (Conservative)
Duncan Baker MP (Conservative)
Selaine Saxby (Conservative)

Secretariat

Coastal Partnerships Network

The [Coastal Partnerships Network](#) (CPN) exists to encourage the exchange of information and collaboration between Coastal, Estuary and Marine Partnerships (CEMPs) and to establish links with other coastal stakeholders. It seeks to offer increased opportunities for learning, collaboration and influence, strengthening and supporting CEMPs in their local work and encouraging stronger representation of the value of their work at a national and regional level. The CPN has been run by volunteers since 2006, now seeking legal status and has been funded for specific projects and strategic development via public and philanthropic grants secured and managed by the host CEMP, the Thames Estuary Partnership (registered charity, no. 3807387)



Coastal Communities Alliance

The [Coastal Communities Alliance](#) (CCA) seeks to build alliances and common purpose around the coast of Britain, with a particular focus on socio-economic challenges. There is no subscription to participate in the CCA. Partners are requested to provide intelligence on the development of specific coastal activities and campaigns. Partners may also be requested/offer to lead on a specific coastal issue where they have the expertise and/or where the issue is a particular local concern, such as renewables, flood risk, deprivation and health.



Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group

The [LGA Coastal SIG](#) champions the collective interests of coastal, estuarine, and maritime communities by increasing awareness and debate on environmental, economic, and social issues at all levels in relation to the coast. Funded through subscription fees from coastal local authorities and is associated with the Local Government Association.



Key message & recommendations

Coastal communities are dynamic by their very nature and to ensure that the work of this APPG is meaningful, every session has led to the development of actions and recommendations for Parliamentarians to deliver upon. These are summarised below:

Health in Coastal Communities

Wednesday 29 June 2022

The recommendations of the Chief Medical Officers Report should be implemented to make measurable differences for health in coastal communities.

1. A Coastal Strategy is needed to address inequalities in health that includes actions to address education and housing disparities.
2. A need for more granular data to highlight specific coastal nuances.

Skills & Aspirations

Wednesday 2 November 2022

Each coastal community has their own unique cultural background that influences the aspirations of young people. This, along with a change in the education funding formula should be considered to deliver inspirational educational opportunities to enhance coastal communities.

1. Consideration of a research repository through a one-stop coastal hub.
2. Consideration of the requirements of the Skills and Post-16 Education Act regarding whether it delivers for coastal areas.
3. Approaches for changes to delivery timeframes and funding mechanisms need to be reviewed.

Year of the Coast 2023

Wednesday 11 January 2023

As an island nation we have a deep connection to our coast and seas however slowly our personal connection has become distanced impacting the health of our natural environment therefore we need to reconnect and embrace our incredible coastal landscapes and its communities.

1. The Year of the Coast 2023 provides an excellent opportunity to showcase both the beauty of our coastline and the excellent work that is being carried out in our unique coastal communities. All sectors should be involved to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities faced by these communities.
2. Agreed that MPs should raise awareness of the initiative within their local constituencies and the available resources: Year of the Coast 2023 Toolkit.
3. At the time of the session, the England Coast Path was 30% complete and will be the world's longest route when finished. A number of events and engagements took place in 2023 to raise awareness of the benefits it may bring.
4. 2022 was the Wales Coast Path's 10-year anniversary which was marked through a series of celebratory events and activities including a review.
5. The lessons learnt from the Wales Coast Path 10 Year Review should be considered by other coastal path networks to support development and enhancement of these routes. Particularly around the need for sustainable transport to support access to coastal paths.

6. The cross-border 2022 Ocean Literacy survey, distributed in England, Wales and Scotland, has shown the high value that the public place on the marine environment and attending MPs were provided with the key highlights in an UK perspective from this report as a precursor to the APPG's dedicated Ocean Literacy session to be held in March 2023.

Impact of coastal erosion on communities

Wednesday 11 January 2023

Coastal erosion is not being treated with the same level of support as coastal flooding creating a significant disparity for those communities being impacted and the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee should be implemented to readdress this significant issue that impacts the health, well-being, finances of people and the wider economy.

1. Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) are currently non-statutory which is leading to issues around development and planning within coastal communities therefore a call was made to change policy and make these valuable resources statutory.
2. A call was made again for a dedicated Minister for Coast.
3. A call for energy investments to provide funding to coastal communities to support adaptation and transition of communities facing severe challenges as a result of climate change.
4. Cross-departmental coastal task force needed to change the current single-sector approach to a multi-sector proactive approach.
5. The Climate Change Committee Risk Assessment (2020) recommendations for a national adaptation framework and coastal viability assessment need to be delivered.
6. A mechanism for energy companies to directly fund support for coastal communities impacted by climate change needs to be established.
7. Future session on natural marine capital to provide an opportunity to support setback and rollback as currently no economic value given to sediments.

Assessing the need for levelling up (Growth) in England's coastal authorities

Wednesday 1 February 2023

The current approach of the funding mechanism to level up coastal communities is creating greater disparities calling for a revised approach to enable all communities to raise their potential and become the investable independent economic powerhouses that they can be.

1. The *Communities on the edge* Report considers the challenges and opportunities faced by coastal communities against the Levelling Up metrics.
2. The narrative on coastal communities needs to change to showcase the immense value that these unique places have.
3. Attendance to the Debate on Local Government Funding Formulas to raise the report's findings.
4. Report to be shared with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
5. Letter with report to be sent to Prime Minister and SoS for Levelling Up including a call for the use of more granular data.

Ocean Literacy

Tuesday 14 March 2023

Our communities across the UK understand the importance that our coasts and seas have to them, however there is a disconnect between their personal influence on these unique areas that could be addressed through the integration of ocean literacy within the national curriculum.

1. For information on all of the reports please see [Understanding Ocean Literacy and ocean climate-related behaviour change in the UK](#)
2. There is a clear need for ocean literacy to be considered within wider educational remits alongside campaigns to connect people and the marine environment, and this must be delivered through a collaborative approach.

Beach and Water Safety

Tuesday 14 June 2023

Awareness around beach and water safety can be improved through increasing the profile of current campaigns but also more significantly through the lens of education and there needs to be a recognition of the risks to water rescue provision through the changing financial and physical landscapes within coastal communities.

1. Parliamentarians to raise the profile of Drowning Prevention across their work areas wherever appropriate.
2. Further consideration is needed around the inclusion of water safety within the national curriculum.
3. **Action:** Information on Drowning Prevention Week and Day to be made available for Parliamentarians alongside an invite to the in-parliament event on the 11 July.
4. **Action:** Clear that education is vital and there needs to be an increase in messaging around water safety and drowning prevention. MPs attending need to focus on this as a take-away to integrate into their current work.
5. Resources on Drowning Prevention Week and Drowning Prevention Day to be made available to Parliamentarians.

World Drowning Prevention

Tuesday 11 July 2023

International Drowning Prevention Day takes place on the 25 July every year to raise awareness of the challenges and routes to the prevent of accidental drowning. The recognition of the pathways to prevent drowning need to be incorporated into policy and education to reduce preventable drowning.

Seaside Heritage

Tuesday 12 September 2023

Seaside heritage is an integral element of our cultural heritage and our sense of nostalgia that is often the backbone to our connection to coastal areas. In recent years the financial support to restore, enhance and maintain this valuable heritage has been lost and a strategy to support its future is needed.

1. Seaside Heritage is currently undervalued in comparison to other forms of heritage.

2. Funding streams have been reduced impacting the amount of money available to support maintenance and restoration.
3. Consideration should be given to reinstating the coastal focused funding streams such as the Coastal Communities Fund or equivalents to support conservation and restoration.

Pledge for the Coast

Tuesday 17 October 2023

Coastal communities require the support of Parliamentarians, local authorities, organisations, businesses, and people. As the APPG we have shown commitment to the need for a dedicated Minister for the Coast who would have the oversight of all the challenges faced by these unique communities and drive forward positive and meaningful change to support them to become sustainable and investable.

Historic Coastal Landfill

Tuesday 14 November 2023

The significant risk posed by historic coastal landfill on the natural environment and human health needs to be recognised and appropriate funding pathways developed to enable this issue to be addressed.

1. Action - Secretariat to find out on the models being delivered in Belgium and France.
2. A national prioritisation of sites review is needed along with a sustainable funding route to enable works to remediate and protect the most vulnerable sites.
3. Do not currently understand the impact that historical coastal landfill sites are having on people or nature today or in the future.

Deprivation

Tuesday 5 December 2023

Coastal communities trapped in the deprivation cycle require a more holistic approach to address the issues experienced by individuals resulting from the collective community setting.

1. Action: Call for a dedicated Coastal Minister.
2. Action: Call for a coastal strategy linking up to levelling up partnerships.
3. Need to review the current situation to see how to improve existing housing stock including private rentals and fuel poverty particularly for owner occupiers etc.
4. Action: Organise cross-APPG collaborative session with APPG for Left-behind Neighbourhoods to discuss housing situation and complexities for coastal communities.

Turning the Tide Report (Exclusive)

Tuesday 23 January 2024

The recommendations of the Turning the Tide report follow those from the CMO's report and should be considered for implementation to act to address the significant health challenges of coastal communities.

1. Support coastal destinations to develop clear, cohesive visions that will address seasonality.

2. Multi-agency working is essential.
3. Networks to support collaborating need to be rebuilt to make collaboration easy.
4. Targeted approach to skills and training initiatives is needed.
5. Clearer articulation of benefits of training and development to individuals.
6. Opportunity for policy change and funding mechanism review of skills.
7. Work with DWP and businesses to provide additional support to those returning to work.
8. Review the impact of the VAT threshold on seasonality with further research into the potential benefits of raising the VAT threshold.



Health in Coastal Communities

Wednesday 29th June 2022 - 16:00 – 17:00 (Roundtable)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speaker: Prof. Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer

Background

In July 2021, Professor Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer published his second annual report highlighting the health disparities in coastal communities compared to their inland neighbours, exploring the drivers of poorer health outcomes and the key challenges these regions face. He highlighted how coastal areas have more in common with each other than inland areas and that's why coastal areas require a different approach to solutions and actions.

Professor Whitty presented the findings of his study and highlighted his key recommendations to the group before the Chair opened the discussion to MPs and invited guests to discuss how the recommendations can be taken forward by Government and partners to level up our coastal communities' health and wellbeing.

The report has three key recommendations, and several more specific recommendations.

1. Given the health and wellbeing challenges of coastal communities have more in common with one another than inland neighbours, there should be a national strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of coastal communities. This must be cross-government as many of the key drivers and levers such as housing, environment, education, employment, economic drivers, and transport are wider than health.
2. The current mismatch between health and social care worker deployment and disease prevalence in coastal areas needs to be addressed. This requires action by HEE and NHSE/I.
3. The paucity of granular data and actionable research into the health needs of coastal communities is striking. Improving this will assist the formulation of policies to improve the health of coastal communities. Local authorities, ONS and NHSE/I need to make access to more granular data available. Research funders, including NIHR and UKRI, need to provide incentives for research aimed specifically at improving coastal community health.

Key themes from the report:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Health and wellbeing in coastal communities. | 7. Education. |
| 2. Deprivation and health. | 8. Housing. |
| 3. Mental health. | 9. Benefits of coastal living for health. |
| 4. Migration and demography. | 10. Coast-specific issues. |
| 5. Health services and medical workforce. | 11. Limitations of data and definitions. |
| 6. Economy and employment. | 12. A strong case for national action. |

Full Report: [Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2021 - Health in Coastal Communities \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Summary and Recommendations: [Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2021 - Health in Coastal Communities – Summary and recommendations \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Headlines & Actions

1. Agreed that a Coastal Strategy was needed to address inequalities in health and must include actions to address education and housing disparities.
2. A request for a Back Bench Policy Debate on Coastal Communities has been submitted by the Chair presenting an opportunity to raise the Coastal Strategy. Details will be shared with MPs in due course.
3. Agreed that there is a need for more granular data to highlight specific coastal nuances Chair to follow up with the Minister regarding the Data Bill possibilities in relation to the Health Bill amendment and how the Data can be accessed.
4. Agreed that case studies of best practice examples of Green / Blue preventative Medicine programs to be collated and shared with Local Authorities / Partners.

Presentation: Health in Coastal Communities - Professor Chris Whitty – Chief Medical Officer

Summary: Presentation from Professor Chris Whitty on his Chief Medical Officer Annual report on the Health in Coastal Communities.

Notes:

- Certain health conditions more prominent in coastal towns- heart disease / obesity.
- Out-migration from coastal areas of young people aged 20-23yrs and in migration older population 65+ (2021 Census).
- Deprivation and unemployment - higher rates (seasonal or part-time employment, not suited to early careers).
- On average slightly lower level of educational attainment.
- Evidence of an excess of health-risking behaviours (in both coastal and rural areas) alcohol / self-harm.
- Housing - HMOs (common in areas that used to focus on seaside tourism).
- Caravan parks (particularly common along the east coast) - not well-insulated, not paying council tax so not included in statistics.
- Deficit of medical workforce in coastal communities - but need is often greater (greater need coupled with less provision of service) 15% deficit of doctors 7% deficit nurses – the need is greater on the coast but there is less provision.
- Transport link problem - major hospitals tend to be further inland (not in all cases though).
- Flooding can impact on mental health – the worry of floods / impact if flooding takes place.
- The more granular the data, the more the issues of coastal towns stand out - areas are often amalgamated with towns inland which can mask the scale of issues.

Recommendations:

1. Should be thinking about a wider coastal strategy address these common themes – including health, education, and housing.
2. Need to solve mismatch between coastal worker provision and need – this is not just salary incentives, other issues need addressing to attract professionals / grow your own – transport, schools, and housing.
3. Need to ensure data is more granular and actionable - so the headwinds faced are clearer, as well as the benefits of living in a coastal community.

Discussion points

- Individuals tend to work close to where they train - increasing training in coastal locations.
- It is not just about financial incentives to work in the medical profession on the coast.
- Tendency to import nursing into these areas – there has been effort to increase accessibility for local people into nursing training in the area.
- Retirement of GPs – it is becoming difficult to maintain resilience in primary care services.
- Recently established a medical school at the university of Lincoln – takes over an hour to get from Lincoln to the coast. 85% of the population in the most deprived wards.
- Services are already stretched and looking to the future will struggle with retirements – need to change service delivery models.
- Need a community rather than GP based model – community physicians to deliver services alongside multi-agency groups.
- There is a need for wider elderly specialists to ensure the elderly are not kept in hospitals and are cared for in the community.
- Long-term thinking and planning – to increase attainment of young people from coastal areas.
- Want future doctors and GPs to come from coastal areas – if talent continues to be imported this will not target aspirational barriers.
- Pharmacies as part of the solution? About multidisciplinary team of which GPs, nurses and pharmacists are all a part.
- Accessing blue spaces has a benefit – individuals in coastal communities have slightly better health than expected given all the factors to be considered, due to the benefits the coast provides. There is an opportunity here.
- 25,000 static caravans in Lincolnshire alone. Lack of insulation / heating / access to services / transport (health, employment, education, cost of living etc).
- If there was a feeling that MPs and coastal community representatives felt that a coastal strategy was a good way to proceed, then it would gain more traction.
- A wider strategy should not just be around health as you cannot address health issues without tackling education and Housing.
- If it is agreed a coastal strategy is needed who leads, should it solely be about health or wider to include education and housing? The Chair has requested a Back Bench debate for discussion.
- Clarifying understanding of the recommendations: Recommendation 2 - Tudor Heart principle of inverse care; Recommendation 1 - deprivation levels Recommendation 3 - granularity of data – the need to not aggregate across LSOAs.
- Well North report - A shared responsibility: tackling health inequalities in Greater Manchester (explores the characteristics of solutions that are having an impact) a similar model could be used.
- So many coastal areas are like one another in the challenges they face - a lot more similar to each other than to close inland neighbours. These commonalities need to be recognised.
- Agrees with the need for a wider strategy - behavioural change often not linked to health - would be good to see this connection being made, all part of the same continuum.
- Need to include ecology / blue green health – with green gyms / plastic pollution / sewage etc.
- It is about health and housing in the Skegness area. Many elderly people are living in substandard caravans 12-months a year. 200 caravan sites and
- Need incentives to work in the medical profession on the coast.

- Preventative medicine / care is needed in parallel.
- Need to be wider than health strategy of the place and of the people who live there- supports more granular data
- Many good initiatives/examples around the coast: green gym, blue gym - monitor and evaluate impact of inventions so they can be tailored and rolled out in other areas. Need to share best practice.
- A data observatory to make available to everyone as a resource - local authorities can use this across departments. Still a need for a coastal definition.
- Office of National Statistics (ONS) have agreed to more granular national data.
- Question to the group: How do we take the recognition of the need for a coastal strategy forward? What is the best way to address this politically? The Chair has applied for a backbench business debate - delivered.
- Housing prices in some areas are also an issue for attracting workers /maintaining populations - not just second homes/Airbnb's.
- Socio-economic performance of seaside towns is linked to a whole range of socio-economic characteristics.
- Housing affects both physical and mental health.
- It is about getting senior political buy-in – a matter of straight-forward political will – from a campaigning point of view, ask for specific things and keep an eye on the quick wins so it lands in the best possible way. Ensure we pick the right scope (too broad and may lose buy-in and focus).
- Agree, but we cannot separate housing, health, and education - how much further it goes into transport etc is an interesting question.
- Suggestion that there will be increased migration to the coast in the coming years (increased access to coast during Covid, climate change impacts etc) – understanding this is important for planning health requirements. We need to consider future changes.
- Data bill. Health bill being brought through - had an amendment on compatibility of data but have left this for the data bill. Clarity on access to granular data could be asked.

Speaker biography:

Professor Chris Whitty - Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for England, the UK government's Chief Medical Adviser and Head of the public health profession.

Chris is a practising NHS Consultant Physician at University College London Hospitals (UCLH) and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, and a visiting professor at Gresham College.

For further information see: [Professor Chris Whitty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/people/chris-whitty)

2024 Update

Since the Health in Coastal Communities Report was published in 2021, Sir Professor Chris Whitty has further highlighted the need for further resource and provisions for coastal communities, including consideration of the concentration of ageing populations within coastal areas and related infrastructure and health services in his 2023 Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report. [Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2023 – Health in an Ageing Society: Executive summary and recommendations \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1214447/Chief-Medical-Officer-s-Annual-Report-2023-Health-in-an-Ageing-Society-Executive-summary-and-recommendations.pdf)

Sir Professor Chris Whitty also supported the Breaking Barriers Innovations Report released in March 2024 that identifies priority areas for action to address health inequalities, higher unemployment rates and economic inactivity in coastal towns through the lens of improved employment pathways and targeted resource within these areas. [Turning the Tide – Breaking Barriers Innovations \(bbi.uk.com\)](https://bbi.uk.com)

Most recently, Sir Professor Chris Whitty has endorsed work being carried out, and solutions proposed, by the Royal Academy of Engineering on reducing public health risk in relation to sewage systems and storm discharges impacting coastal waters. [testing-the-waters-priorities-for-mitigating-health-risks-from-wastewater-pollution.pdf \(raeng.org.uk\)](https://raeng.org.uk/testing-the-waters-priorities-for-mitigating-health-risks-from-wastewater-pollution.pdf)



Skills & Aspirations

Wednesday 2nd November 2022 – 09:00-10:00 (online Parliamentary Briefing)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Samantha Richardson MBE – National Coastal Tourism Academy

Dr Eric Lybeck – University of Manchester

Stuart Klosinski - Klosinski Economic Development Ltd - Secretariat to Keep our future afloat campaign (shipbuilding orders and skills)

Amy Pryor – Thames Estuary Partnership/Coastal Partnerships Network

Background

In July 2022, the National Coastal Tourism Academy published research into skills and aspirations on the Lincolnshire Coast (as part of a wider Coastal Communities Funded program – looking at Coastal Sustainability through Careers and Business Skills, led by Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire LEP) the research report explored three key interlinked areas; aspiration of businesses and residents on the Coast; investment in skills and training; and the impact that seasonality has on skills, training, and aspiration. The research drew comparisons across other coastal locations and the national coastal visitor economy to determine whether the results were unique to the Lincolnshire Coast or were comparable with wider coastal communities.

Headlines & Actions

1. Consideration of a research repository through a one-stop coastal hub.
2. Consideration of the requirements of the Skills and Post-16 Education Act regarding whether it delivers for coastal areas.
3. Approaches for changes to delivery timeframes and funding mechanisms need to be reviewed.

Presentation: Coastal Sustainability through Careers and Business Skills Research Report – Samantha Richardson MBE - National Coastal Tourism Academy Director

Summary: The Coastal Sustainability through Careers and Business Skills research report explores three key interlinked areas; aspiration of businesses and residents on the Lincolnshire Coast; investment in skills and training; and the impact that seasonality has on skills, training, and aspiration. The research drew comparisons across other coastal locations and the national coastal visitor economy to determine whether the results were unique to the Lincolnshire Coast.

Notes:

- The perception is that coastal communities have low aspirations and a lower-than-normal level of engagement.
- People who were unemployed were found to be more keen to engage than the average.

- Coastal sustainability comes through the connections between aspiration, investment and skills, and seasonality.
- The research explored these factors across 4 locations and compared them to the national picture.
- Undertaken between July 2021 and March 2022.
- Under 35's were generally more positive and welcome training if they are paid to undertake it.
- The main barriers came from the level of support from family and friends with seasonality as a dominant factor.
- Seasonality presents a unique coastal challenge around the opportunities to deliver training and skills programmes.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Support coastal destinations to develop clear, cohesive visions that will address seasonality.
2. Multi-agency working is essential.
3. Networks to support collaborating need to be rebuilt to make collaboration easy.
4. Targeted approach to skills and training initiatives is needed.
5. Clearer articulation of benefits of training and development to individuals
6. Opportunity for policy change and funding mechanism review of skills
7. Work with DWP and businesses to provide additional support to those returning to work.
8. Review the impact of the VAT threshold on seasonality with further research into the potential benefits of raising the VAT threshold.

Presentation: Levelling Up Education - Dr Eric Lybeck - University of Manchester

Summary: Since early 2022, Dr Lybeck has been developing innovative work on 'levelling up education', working with business, local government and school partners to consider potential for place-based educational strategies. In practice, this means aligning existing local economic strategies with curriculum changes. Working with stakeholders in the seaside town of Southport, which is seeking to stem longstanding trends toward 'youth flight' while also diversifying the economy into areas around 'digital' and other industries, a place-based strategy would take the medium view necessary to develop the skills, resources and networks necessary for local economic strategies to come to fruition.

Notes:

- A Social Mobility Policy has been organised around individual students at university to support a learning strategy that works for them.
- Need to use place-based approaches to understanding the issues first.
- Youth flight creates de-skilling of areas through the loss of talent to other areas.
- Place-based education policies as part of levelling up the working population rather than focusing on raising attainment.
- Innovation and diversification need to be supported.
- Place-based apprenticeship schemes are needed for smaller businesses as well as large-scales ones.
- There is a challenge around sustaining investment.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Need to change the approach to education through a long-term strategy and partnership working.

Presentation: Health, Retail and Manufacturing - Stuart Klosinski – Klosinski Economic Development Ltd td - Secretariat to Keep Our Future Afloat campaign (shipbuilding orders and skills)

Summary: With nearly 2000 members in Bae Systems and 78 other companies, collocated in the FE Furness College Stuart, will be able to offer an insight into the importance of:

1. Recruiting for a national shipbuilding endeavour and how people volute in weekly, also their biggest pool of labour not working is 25 to 49 years old,
2. Need for flexibility in entry needs for apprentices good with hands vocational skills but maybe less so academically (point debated 5 July defence select committee)
3. Challenge of boosting aspiration in deprived wards either where some or adjacent to wards have some of UK's highest wages
4. How expansion of big firms swallows up skills from SMES and creates wage pressure that SMEs find hard to deal and reduces entrepreneurship.
5. How town deal can boost skills via FE skill hub new university campus. Details of the pilot skills plan and shipbuilding skill taskforce just getting underway.

Notes:

- Coastal areas have issues with dual economies where there are intermittent jobs with low wages and high skilled well-paid jobs in deprived areas. however locals are not accessing them.
- Need for investment to support the development of the skills base for an area.
- Colleges and Further Education establishments need to develop curriculums that develop the skills needed for the area.
- Employers are seeking a variety of skills that can be developed through apprenticeships.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Consider how to promote similar approaches by educational establishments in coastal areas.

Presentation: Integrated Approach through Blue Connections – Amy Pryor – Thames Estuary Partnership/Coastal Partnerships Network

Summary: At the Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) and Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN), we've recognised that we have a whole host of skills and opportunities which can be useful to improve employability and training opportunities in diverse, deprived urban riverside and coastal communities. Skills which are transferable into any industry, but which can be learned through an environmental project.

Between 2021-2023, with the generous support of the City Bridge Trust and the European Skills Funding Agency, we are piloting an integrated approach to training and skills in Barking and Dagenham, the second most deprived Borough in Greater London. Using the River Roding, Barking Creek and the Thames Estuary as the classroom, we are trialling a modular

training programme which meets the local skills gaps needs. As an example of the types of the skills we have identified include:

- Soft skills e.g., communication, event organisation, time management, collaboration and professional relationship management.
- Hard skills e.g., data management, project planning, mapping using Geographical Information Systems (GIS).
- Environmental vocational skills e.g., tidal survey techniques e.g. fish surveys and identification, flora surveys and field work risk assessments.

With this we can develop an integrated approach to training, break down barriers to accessing opportunities and for those who are interested create more accessible routes into an environmental career without the need for completing unpaid volunteer positions or higher education degrees. This programme is aimed at reaching diverse, underserved communities not currently engaged with the environment and groups that need support in making their case for funding investment for river restoration and other environmental enhancement projects.

This approach has the wider benefits of opportunities to boost mental health and wellbeing through access to nature – blue spaces such as rivers and the ocean is best! At the same time trainees will learn more about the nature on their doorstep, the importance of a healthy environment and ways for the local community to become more climate resilient through how to be more environmentally friendly at home and work.

Notes:

- Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) and Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN) are piloting an integrated approach to training and skills in a deprived London borough.
- The pilot area has high levels of deprivation, unemployment and diversity.
- Local skills gaps have been identified as: Soft skills e.g., communication, event organisation; Hard skills e.g., project planning, mapping using Geographical Information Systems (GIS);
- Environmental vocational skills e.g., survey techniques and field work risk assessments.
- Training is being delivered through a modular programme from the third sector through an environmental lens.
- Approach is aimed at reaching diverse, underserved communities.
- Additional benefit of reconnecting communities with their estuarine environment.
- Amy offered to return at a later date to update on the progress of the project.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Update on the project to be provided to the APPG at a later date.

Discussion points

- Layers of education need to come together to make a difference for coastal communities.
- The Skills Act highlighted the importance of lifelong learning however are coastal communities receiving sufficient support?
- Need to find approaches to strengthen community and family support.

- A coastal research repository is needed to collate information in one coastal hub.

Speaker biographies:

Samantha Richardson MBE – Director, National Coastal Tourism Academy

Samantha has directed the work of the Academy since its launch in 2013 and also oversees the “England’s Coast” project, which focuses on attracting new international and domestic visitors to our stunning coastline year-round. Sam’s work focuses on national engagement and partnerships that will help boost the visitor economies of coastal communities, with a particular emphasis on addressing seasonality and raising awareness of key issues impacting coastal tourism in England.

Dr Eric Lybeck – Lecturer & Presidential Fellow, University of Manchester

Dr Lybeck is a historical sociologist of education, working to make universities better through research, engagement, and teaching. Specialist knowledge in universities' civic engagement, 'third mission', impact, and academia as a profession linked to a wider system of professions. Founder and editor-in-chief of the open-access journal, *Civic Sociology*, applying sociological insights within policy, higher education, and public engagement contexts. Winner of the 2019 Bennett Prospect Policy Prize for proposal to 'move the knowledge economy' to left-behind regions.

Stuart Klosinski – Principle consultant, Klosinski Economic Development Ltd & Secretariat to Keep our future afloat campaign (shipbuilding orders and skills)

Klosinski Economic Development Ltd td - Secretariat to Keep our future afloat campaign (shipbuilding orders and skills), and Unite Barrow Manual Branch Secretary

Amy Pryor – Chair, Coastal Partnerships Network & Technical Director, Thames Estuary Partnership

A marine and aquatic scientist by training with over 20 years of experience in the field of marine and coastal management and systems. Excels at 'joining the dots' to design integrated, cross-cutting and multi benefit projects with a healthy marine environment as the driver and thus manages a wide portfolio of projects that bring together different agendas e.g., across the subjects of flood defence, intertidal habitat, fish migration, catchment management, coastal management, fisheries, open access environmental data, training and skills and drives national knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Year of the Coast 2023

Wednesday 11 January 2023 09:00-09:40 (online Information briefing)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Samantha Richardson MBE – Director, National Coastal Tourism Academy/OneCoast

Neil Constable - Programme Manager, Natural England

Eve Nicholson - Marketing Communications Lead, Wales Coast Path

Dr Emma McKinley - Research Fellow, Cardiff University

Background

This information briefing will introduce members to the Year of the Coast 2023 initiative and ideas for how they can get involved and support the activity. The Year of the Coast was originally planned for 2021 as a celebration of the completion of the England Coast Path but was moved to 2023 due to Covid-19. The initiative focuses on rebuilding coastal communities from the devastating impacts of Covid-19 – it is also a year of celebration, highlighting all our diverse coast and communities have to offer.

The session also includes an update from Natural England on progress with the England Coast Path national trail, a reflection on 10 years of the Wales Coast Path and an introduction to Ocean Literacy.

Headlines & Actions

1. The Year of the Coast 2023 provides an excellent opportunity to showcase both the beauty of our coastline but also the excellent work that is being carried out in our unique coastal communities. All sectors should be involved to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities faced by these communities.
2. Agreed that MPs should raise awareness of the initiative within their local constituencies and the available resources: [Year of the Coast 2023 Toolkit](#).
3. The England Coast Path is currently 30% complete and will be the world's longest route when finished. A number of events and engagements will be taking place in 2023 to raise awareness of the benefits it may bring.
4. 2022 was the Wales Coast Path's 10-year anniversary which was marked through a series of celebratory events and activities including a review.
5. The lessons learnt from the [Wales Coast Path 10 Year Review](#) should be considered by other coastal path networks to support development and enhancement of these routes. particularly around the need for sustainable transport to support access to coastal paths.
6. The cross-border 2022 Ocean Literacy survey, distributed in England, Wales and Scotland, has shown the high value that the public place on the marine environment and attending MPs were provided with the key highlights in an UK perspective from this report as a precursor to the APPG's dedicated Ocean Literacy session to be held in March 2023.

Presentation: Year of the Coast 2023 - Samantha Richardson MBE, Academy Director, National Coastal Tourism Academy

Summary: An overview of Year of the Coast 2023 and how MPs can get involved. The Year of the Coast is for everyone living, working and involved with the coast. Through this initiative we want to promote the coast as a sustainable year-round destination and raise awareness of issues impacting coastal communities and businesses.

Notes:

- A video was shown to the APPG to provide some context of the initiative: [Explore, Embrace, Enjoy England's coast in 2023](#)
- The coast of England is stunning and varied, enjoyed by thousands every year.
- Year of the Coast 2023 is an initiative to open up the wider conversation around coast and highlight coastal issues and opportunities through various means of engagement.
- The Year of the Coast was originally set for 2021 but was delayed due to the Covid pandemic.
- A new coastal visitor economy report and strategy supports the need for coast to be more valued for its importance to the economy and wellbeing of people.
- 50% of people surveyed said that they are more willing to stay in England for holidays to save the environment.
- 2023 is also the [Year of the Pier](#) through the National Piers Society.
- The Year of the Coast is all about showing the full potential of the coast and tourism initiatives will be run year long and will include volunteering on walking/cycling routes.
- The Seaside Heritage Network are relaunching with a programme of events and a "10 bucket & spade" list of the nation's favourite coastal experiences.
- There are many opportunities to get involved with a toolkit and other resources available on the [National Coastal Tourism Academy website](#).
- The year is split into different themes with the first being nature and wildlife.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Year of the Coast 2023 toolkit can be used across sectors to engage everyone with the initiative and can be found here: [Year of the Coast 2023](#)
2. MPs agreed that all MPs with a coastal constituency should be made aware of the initiative and circulate the toolkit where appropriate especially to local event providers.

Presentation: England Coast Path - Neil Constable, Programme Manager England Coast Path, Natural England

Summary: An update on progress to create the England Coast Path. Once complete it will be the country's longest national trail and the world's longest waymarked coastal walking route. Neil will advise on how much is completed and how plans are progressing to establish the remaining stretches together with plans to celebrate the trail and the benefits it will bring.

Notes:

- The English Coast Path is listed in the governments' 25-year Environment Plan however its root goes back much further.
- This process has involved engagement with 25,000 landowners/legal occupiers by the end of this current government.

and the rate of rejection to proposals has been 2.4%.

- The Path's creation is fulfilling a statutory duty to create a long-distance walking route around 2700 miles of the English coastline providing people with a legal right to access the coastal margin.
- When completed it will be the longest managed coastal walking route in the world; it is currently 30% completed however the majority of the development proposals with landowners and local authorities have been completed.
- Expecting 80-90% of the coast path to be completed this year (2023) with the remainder being completed in 2024 as the ambition is to make it fully walkable.
- 40% of the route will be new legal access so there is a right to object.
- 53 coastal local authorities are involved in building the path and maintaining it as a national trail.
- To date 794 miles have been opened with further stretches to open this year. Delays have resulted from the pandemic.
- An economic benefit baseline study has been carried out into the benefit of the South West Coast Path section which found that it is bringing in over £530million to the local visitor economy and supporting 11,000 jobs.

Presentation: Update from the Wales Coast Path - Eve Nicholson, Wales Coast Path Marketing and Comms, Natural Resources Wales

Summary: An overview on the last 10 years of Wales Coast Path's success and changes for the future, reflecting on the 10-year anniversary report.

Notes:

Background to the Wales Coast path

- The 870-mile long [Wales Coast Path](#) was launched on 5th May 2012. It is one of a few coastal footpaths in the world to follow a country's coastline and attracting both domestic and international visitors each year.
- Funded by the Welsh Government, it is coordinated by [Natural Resources Wales](#) working in close partnership with 16 coastal local authorities and 2 national parks.
- Major promotional partners include Visit Wales.
- Visit Wales (Consumer) – 10th anniversary Task and Finish group (led by Visit Wales). Delivered a year of high-profile communications/marketing activity on all platforms.
- Visit Wales (industry) - ongoing proactive promotion to industry.
- Cadw – All year marketing activity including the development of new walking itineraries linking Cadw sites (castles and heritage sites) with the path.
- Transport for Wales – promoting sustainable transport to the path via [Rail to Trail campaign](#)
- Engaging the Arts sector in Wales – [Celf Coast Cymru project](#) connects the path with art and poetry.
- WCP/NT and local authorities - are delivering stakeholder, business, community and consumer engagement.
- Yearlong community engagement: series of guided walks and walking challenges.

2022 has been the path's 10th anniversary year

- with a programme of celebratory events and activities focussed partnership working:

- Focus on collaborating with under-represented audiences: i.e. to co-development of accessible sections; partnerships with less represented groups including the [Muslim Hikers](#).

- Extensive use of relevant influencers to reach new, diverse and under-represented groups.
- Insights from latest [Wales Coast Path Visitor survey 2019-2021](#)
- Launch of Wales Coast Path app.
- Citizen Science - in partnership with Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centre. A programme of activity focused on involving the public in recording changes to the coast.

New products

- Official merchandise range/shop launched in May 2022
Comprehensive suite of educational resources developed for schools and informal education providers (working with NRW Education, Learning and Skills team).
- Creation of 80+ themed walking itineraries.
- **10 Year Review**
- During 2022, a Wales Coast Path Review Group was chaired by Huw Irranca-Davies MS to reflect on the key achievements over the last decade and recommendations for future development. [Read the 10-year review.](#)
- A formal response to the review is currently being drafted and will be considered in 2023.

Recommendations/Actions:

- Learning from the [review of 10 years of the Wales Coast Path](#) should be used to inform the development of other coast paths including the England Coast Path.

Key recommendations include:

1. Create stronger links with education sector about the path.
 2. Promote sustainable tourism opportunities in Wales.
 3. Use digital technology to increase accessibility to the path e.g. Google Street View
 4. Work with underrepresented user groups.
 5. Seeking best practise on biodiversity enhancements along the path
 6. Contribute to modal shift towards sustainable transport.
- Sustainable transport needs to be considered as a major element of coast paths therefore the Rail to Trail initiative should be considered by others.

Presentation: Introduction to Ocean Literacy - Dr Emma McKinley, Research Fellow, University of Cardiff

Summary: A short overview of Ocean Literacy as requested by Members at a previous APPG roundtable and to provide an overview prior to the APPG's dedicated parliamentary briefing session on 15 March 2023.

Notes:

- This presentation was provided as a precursor to the Ocean Literacy Parliamentary Briefing Session planned for March 2023.
- We are currently in the UN Ocean decade running from 2021 to 2030. where 'ocean' refers to oceans, seas and coast.
- There are 10 dimensions of ocean literacy which includes what people know, the challenges, people's perceptions, and attitudes; it is a complex construct that shows that literacy is more than just knowledge.
- Ocean literacy is a mechanism for change by engaging and connecting people to the sea.
- It stems around the principle of understanding "the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean".
- This years' survey has covered England, Wales and Scotland with each providing

- separate reports on this. These will be discussed in the March APPG session.
- The survey is being used to inform current research including a study into the relationships of people and sea at 3 distinct locations - Chepstow, Portsmouth and Shetland - chosen due to their very different interactions and coastal positions.
- Everyone has a different relationship with the sea depending on access, opportunities, and education.
- Annual surveys are being carried out this looking at the national and UK-wide picture.
- Year of the Coast can influence how people engage with the coast and the diverse marine values that they hold.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Attend the APPG for Coastal Communities Parliamentary Briefing session on Ocean Literacy on 15 March 2023, 09:00-10:00

Discussion points

- Need to be considerate of potential impacts of bringing more people to the coast without effective engagement around behaviour and impacts to wildlife e.g. disturbance of seal pups.
- Difficulty in managing the balance between tourism and nature.
- Sustainable transport is key and need to ensure that all areas are better connected in a sustainable way that works for tourism and communities.
- Whilst tourism provides a significant contribution, must not forget about the local communities who should be encouraged to engage and use facilities.
- Year of the Coast 2023 is a very positive initiative.
- There needs to be MP support for the initiatives highlighted through this session.

Speaker biographies:

Samantha Richardson MBE – Director, National Coastal Tourism Academy

Samantha has directed the work of the Academy since its launch in 2013 and also oversees the “[England’s Coast](#)” project, which focuses on attracting new international and domestic visitors to our stunning coastline year-round. Sam’s work focuses on national engagement and partnerships that will help boost the visitor economies of coastal communities, with a particular emphasis on addressing seasonality and raising awareness of key issues impacting coastal tourism in England.

Neil Constable – Senior Advisor, Natural England

Neil Constable is Programme Manager for the England Coast Path within the People, Landscape, Access & Nature Group at Natural England. Neil has been involved with this flagship project since 2010 when he led work on the first Stretch at ‘Weymouth Bay’, to complement the 2012 Olympic sailing events.

Eve Nicholson – Marketing Communications Lead, Wales Coast Path

Marketing Communications lead on the Wales Coast Path at Natural Resources Wales

Dr Emma McKinley – Research Fellow, Cardiff University

Dr Emma McKinley (@EmmaJMcKinley) has been a Research Fellow at Cardiff University since 2016. Her research focuses on understanding the complex relationship between society and the sea, taking account of diverse types of perceptions, attitudes and values held by different communities and audiences, and considers how this insight can be used to support effective ocean governance. Emma has expertise in marine social sciences, marine and coastal ecosystem services, ocean literacy and ocean governance alongside effective stakeholder and community engagement at local, regional, national and international scales. Emma is the Founder and Chair of the Marine Social Science Network and Chair of the RGS Coastal and Marine Research Group

2024 Update

Eve Nicholson – Marketing Communications Lead, Wales Coast Path

We are aware that coastal erosion is a constant and increasing threat to the Wales Coast Path and other Public Rights of Way. It is our intention in 2024-25 to produce policies and guidance on the subject.

We are also planning to commission a Wales Coast Path & National Trail Visitor Survey for 2025, to complement the [2024 Business Survey](#) (currently running till mid-June 2024) and [2019-21 WCP Visitor Survey](#). This will give insight into visitor demographics, usage patterns and satisfaction levels.

Our 2024-25 grant aid of £1 million will continue to support all coastal authorities to manage, maintain and improve the WCP.

Nearly 50 new [circular walking itineraries](#) are on our website in partnership with our local authority partners and OS maps. We've also been working with Experience Community, a not for profit interest company that helps disabled people access the outdoors more easily to survey and make recommendations to improve the [accessibility on 3 sections of the path in North Wales](#). Future accessibility work on the path is planned for 2024-2025.

People can now be citizen scientists on the path now that WCP is part of [CoastSnap, a global citizen science project](#) where people can take pictures of sections of the Welsh coastline at fixed locations along the path. This is a project in partnership with Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre.

Impact of coastal erosion on coastal communities

Wednesday 11 January 2023 10:00-11:00 (Parliamentary briefing – online)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Julie Foley OBE – Director of Flood Risk Strategy and National Adaptation, Environment Agency

Angela Terry – CEO, One Home

Karen Thomas – Head, Coastal Partnership East and Officer Lead for Coastal Adaptation, LGA Coastal SIG

Community voice – a voice from a coastal community affected by coastal erosion

Background

The impact of coastal erosion is occasionally highlighted through the media featuring the loss being experienced by individuals and coastal communities. Through this parliamentary briefing, Members of Parliament will be provided with a comprehensive overview of the current challenges and opportunities through the perspectives of a national governmental body, climate change focused pressure group, coastal local authority and an individual who is personally experiencing the impacts of coastal erosion.

Headlines & Actions

MPs heard from speakers providing national, local, personal and pressure group perspectives on the issue of coastal erosion and its impact on coastal communities.

1. Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) are currently non-statutory which is leading to issues around development and planning within coastal communities therefore a call was made to change policy and make these valuable resources statutory.
2. A call was made again for a dedicated Minister for Coast.
3. A call for energy investments to provide funding to coastal communities to support adaptation and transition of communities facing severe challenges as a result of climate change.
4. Cross-departmental coastal task force needed to change the current single-sector approach to a multi-sector proactive approach.
5. The Climate Change Committee Risk Assessment (2020) recommendations for a national adaptation framework and coastal viability assessment need to be delivered.
6. A mechanism for energy companies to directly fund support for coastal communities impacted by climate change needs to be established.
7. Future session on natural marine capital to provide an opportunity to support setback and rollback as currently no economic value given to sediments.

Presentation: National Perspective - Julie Foley OBE – Director of Flood Risk Strategy and National Adaptation, Environment Agency

Summary: An overview of current and future coastal risks and the work the Environment Agency is doing to support coastal authorities, communities, businesses and infrastructure providers to better understand, live with and adapt to a changing coast.

Notes:

- The coastline is undergoing constant and natural change but the severity and frequency of events impacting coastal communities is increasing as a result of climate change and sea level rise.
- The Environment Agency (EA) are providing a coastal strategic overview role and are working with local authorities, strengthening Shoreline Management Plans and looking at innovative solutions to the impact of climate change on coastal communities.
- £1.6billion is being invested into our coastline including in habitat compensation and restoration.
- There is a need to keep improving evidence therefore the EA is investing in more data collection and updating the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Map with the latest data to give a clearer picture of future risk.
- Policy makers and coastal practitioners need to understand the risks associated with the coast and need the latest evidence.
- The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) refresh is underway and being led by Coastal Groups. This refresh will provide long term objectives and is reflecting the latest evidence. These plans will reflect the latest climate evidence and are there to inform planning.
- To complement the refresh there will be a new SMP Explorer tool that the EA are working to ensure is user friendly to a wider audience.
- SMP's are not currently easily accessible documents so it is essential that they are made more available and become living documents so that they support quick updates to keep them relevant and informative.

Presentation: Community Interest Group Perspective - Angela Terry – CEO, One

Summary: An overview of the campaign's aim is to ensure communities are sufficiently informed to make timely decisions about their future in response to accelerated sea level rise and their hope to raise awareness of the growing impact of climate change on coastal communities and encourage debate on potential support for those most impacted.

Notes:

- One Home's primary goal is to help people cut their carbon footprint and adapt to extreme weather events that are becoming much more frequent due to global warming.
- The most damaging is rising sea levels. Ice is melting faster, oceans are expanding, and extreme storms produce larger, more powerful waves that pound our coast.
- The purposes of One Home's Shoreline Management Plan project are to raise awareness of the direct impacts on coastal communities of climate change and coastal erosion, and to encourage debate about the lack of support and resources available to those affected.
- Angela gave her observations of many homes and commercial properties no active intervention policies were already in place.

- Expressed that people should know their risk due to coastal erosion so they can plan ahead to reduce the levels of harm.
- Shoreline management plans are not well known and not statutory.
- There is no compensation or insurance if you lose your home. Homeowners have to pay for demolition and continue any mortgage repayment.
- Over a third of our shoreline is already designated as no active intervention. Over 100,000 properties are at risk from coastal erosion and 1.5 million properties at greater level of flood risk by 2080.
- Using publicly available datasets, One Home have created an interactive map online to highlight shoreline management policies and erosion risks to properties in England. Their map highlights the 21 communities with the highest number of properties at risk of coastal erosion by the end of the century.
- The erosion predictions were plotted assuming all planned shoreline management policies will be delivered, but in reality, due to costs, this is unlikely to be the case.
- Hard decisions need to be made and the reasons and consequences need to be communicated. Crucially those impacted need support and plans for the coast put in place to reduce harm.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Shoreline Management Plans should be made statutory,
2. Support needs to be put in place for those impacted by coastal erosion.

Presentation: A local perspective - Karen Thomas – Head, Coastal Partnership East and Officer Lead for Coastal Adaptation, LGA Coastal SIG

Summary: Highlighting the opportunities and challenges that she and her team face in their work towards achieving a vision to transition their coastal communities to becoming climate resilient and will also touch upon the outcomes of a workshop focusing on coastal viability delivered as the LGA Coastal SIG Officer Lead for Coastal Adaption at Flood & Coast 2022.

Notes:

- The east coast is facing the highest erosion rates and the pace of change since the Beast from the East in 2018 is unprecedented.
- The combination of a largely undefended, soft cliff coast alongside this accelerated erosion and the potential for East Coast tidal surge this coast is the forefront of the impacts of climate and coastal change.
- Coastal communities have no options if they face erosion risk. There is no insurance, no financial package to support them and they could lose their home/business.
- Welcome the new national erosion risk map coming later in 2023 but it will highlight all the properties at risk as well as infrastructure and assets that support communities and coastal economies.
- Need to prepare to explain coastal risk to new audiences be able to respond.
- Coastal Partnerships East (CPE) have been successful in attracting funds for the 80km of coast they manage.
- Programme of work will explore new options with communities and businesses to support adaptation journeys.
- Aim to look at innovative approaches to funding and finance, planning policy and land use in the coastal zone, new engineering solutions and ground-breaking work on engagement to support a transition towards a more resilient coast for the future.

- Defra and the EA have provided new policy and strategy tools and funding and resource to accelerate coastal adaptation work.
- The current single-sector lens approach however is not working.
- Need integrated approaches that are cross-sector and therefore cross-government.
- With evidence gathered from coastal practitioners and members from the LGA Coastal SIG and Coastal Group Network in parallel to the EA Flood and Coastal Innovation Programme local councils need cross-government support – notably with owners of infrastructure and large 3rd party assets to allow them to deliver on the Climate Change Committee Risk Assessment recommendations (2020) for a national adaptation framework and a coastal viability assessment.
- Now at our last opportunity to really shift gear on coastal adaptation and get our 'house in order' across all sectors and government departments so we can bring all the policy and strategy architecture into one central place to really focus on the coast.
- People rely on our coast for recreation, tourism and well-being, most of our energy supply and telecommunication and internet needs are coming through our coast to your homes but much of this is at high risk to coastal change.
- Whether you live at the coast or not, you receive benefits from it.
- Now is the time we all look at our coast as a whole and take this opportunity to plan for and deliver a viable coast for our national economy, environment and society- our coast matters.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Cross-sector approach is needed including cross-governmental departments.
2. The Climate Change Committee Risk Assessment (2020) recommendations for a national adaptation framework and coastal viability assessment need to be delivered.

Video: A personal perspective - clip from Coastal Partnership East film

Summary: A short film on the perspective of an individual, in this case Lucy Ansbro, on the impact that coastal erosion has had on her personally and on her property.

Notes:

- Lucy lost a significant part of her garden and feared for her property.
 - Remedial works have been carried out to protect what is left of her property.
- The film can be viewed on the [LGA Coastal SIG's Coastal Adaption webpage](#).

Discussion points

- Coastal erosion does not gain the same coverage that coastal flooding does within Westminster.
- A coastal taskforce is needed to cross departments and have a more even and joined up approach.
- Need to raise the public awareness of the issue of coastal erosion so that it is as highly seen as flooding, and this includes within senior decision makers. There are many support mechanisms for those impacted by flooding, but these are not replicated for those affected by coastal erosion.
- The potential of natural habitats and Nature-based solutions need to be considered.

- Minister Pow is the Minister responsible for flood and erosion however is often referred to as the Minister for Flood which reduces the visibility of erosion.
- There is accelerated approach for green energy, yet these developments are not directly supporting the communities who are impacted by the effects of climate change.
- Local authorities want to move from a reactive approach to a more proactive strategy within the next 5 years. However, climate change is not predictable, and some coastal changes have taken all by surprise.
- A proactive strategy needs coordination between governmental departments.
- Costs associated with maintaining the coast are rising.
- Increased storminess depletes beaches which will recover slowly over time but not to the height prior to the storm event. Responsible authorities then need to intervene which has substantial costs.
- There needs to be a mechanism to support energy companies in funding communities impacted by climate change.
- There is a need to reform planning policy for coastal communities including the making of SMPs into a statutory requirement.
- A mechanism to understand the value of Nature-based Solutions to tourism, defence, biodiversity and wellbeing needs to be established. This would support roll-back on the coast.
- The lack of compensation mechanisms for those impacted by erosion needs to be addressed, especially in the light of such mechanisms being made available for those impacted by flooding.
- A cross-border approach is needed as there are currently four different sets of planning policy, however the coastal change mechanisms do not abide by borders. There is potential for learning and effective working through a holistic and collaborative approach to this issue.
- Link to Scotland's [National Planning Framework 4 \(2022\)](#) - Policy 10, page 51 provided to show Coastal Development Policy Principles.

Speaker biographies

Julie Foley OBE – Director of Flood Risk Strategy and National Adaptation, Environment Agency

Julie has worked for the Environment Agency for 14 years. Her previous leadership roles include being an Area Director for the Environment Agency's operations in Kent and South London as well as Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. Her accountabilities included leading over 600 staff working on issues relating to flood risk management, spatial planning, pollution control, waste regulation, waterways, and flood incident response. In the 2022 New Year's Honours Julie was awarded an OBE for services to flood risk management.

Julie is Director of Flood Risk Strategy and National Adaptation. She leads the development and delivery of the Environment Agency's [Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy](#) working with government, risk management authorities and other partners. This includes flooding and coastal change planning, risk assessment and adapting to climate change to enable climate resilient places. She is also the Senior Responsible Officer for the government's [Flood & Coastal Innovation Programme](#).

Angela Terry – CEO, One Home

One Home was founded by Angela Terry MSc MEI, an environmental scientist with over 20 years' experience in the renewables industry to help UK households adapt to a low cost, low carbon lifestyle and extreme weather events. Angela was a pioneer of community energy in the UK as Development Director for Energy4All. She was also Head of Wood Fuel for the Forestry Commission, Policy Manager for RES, and a carbon scientist in New Zealand. Please see their website for further information: [One Home](#)

One Home is seeking to raise awareness of climate change impacts, including the risk to coastal communities from accelerating sea level rise and coastal erosion. It is crucial that communities are informed of areas that are deemed inappropriate for further development and the policy designation in the Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) for their properties. One Home has created an ArcGIS interactive map online (launching 12 January 2023) to highlight shoreline management policies and erosion risks in England. Using data in the public domain, the map highlights the 21 communities with the highest number of properties at risk of coastal erosion by the end of the century. We have assumed all planned shoreline management policies are delivered but in reality, due to costs involved, this is very unlikely to be the case. For each of these locations, the map shows the projection for how much of the coast might be lost by 2100 due to erosion. It also contains information on the relevant SMPs and estimates of how many properties are at risk, and their current average market value. Alongside this map, One Home will sign post impacted residents to information available from central and local Government.

Karen Thomas – Head, Coastal Partnership East and Officer Lead for Coastal Adaptation, LGA Coastal SIG

Karen has held a range of coastal roles including on the National Capital Project Management Service and National Making Space for Water Policy team. Karen has worked on large coastal developments such as London Gateway and Bathside Bay, developed estuarine flood risk strategies, and delivered and reviewed Shoreline Management Plans. She managed the Abbots Hall managed realignment project and led the UK element of the EU-funded ComCoast project to explore adaptive coastal management with EU partners. She was also the Suffolk Flood Ambassador during the 2013 East Coast Tidal Surge supporting those most affected by flooding and has always worked hard to support local communities at flood and coastal risk. In 2015 she joined the Water Management Alliance where she supported the Internal Drainage Boards and their landowners and estuarine communities in developing community-led approaches to flood risk management schemes at an estuary and catchment scale.

In June 2019 Karen joined Coastal Partnership East as Head of Coastal Management. In her current role she manages a multi-skilled team of amazing coastal experts across three coastal local authorities with the following vision: Through collaborative and innovative coastal risk management - we will enable options for people, economies, and the environment to transition to a climate resilient coast. She and the team are striving to build this vision into the upcoming - Coastal Transition Programme one of 25 projects nationally funded by Defra's Flood and Coast Resilience Innovation Programme. Karen is also leading work in the LGA Coastal SIG Adaptation Working Group, tackling adaptation issues and supporting EA national strategy delivery and was presented with a Woman in FCERM award in 2021 through the National EA Flood and Coast Excellence awards.

Lucy Ansbro - a voice from a coastal community affected by coastal erosion.

The speaker from the coastal community will be a member of the public who has personally experienced the impact of coastal erosion and will highlight how this has affected them.

2024 updates

Environment Agency

Since January 2023 the Environment Agency has:

- completed the [Shoreline Management Plan](#) Refresh which has improved the clarity of SMP management approaches, updated SMP Action Plans and identified where further improvements to SMPs are needed.
- led an independent peer review of SMPs and published a [report](#) of the findings. The peer review provided an objective view of how SMPs are helping to achieve the ambitions of the National FCERM Strategy and made recommendations for improvements and suggestions for further work so SMPs remain fit for 2025 and beyond.
- launched [SMP Explorer](#) on 30 January 2024. It is a new map-based digital tool that makes shoreline management plans easier to access, understand and use for coastal practitioners and the public alike.
- expanded the £36 million [Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme](#) beyond the original 2 locations of East Riding of Yorkshire and North Norfolk, to now include another 3 locations of Bude in Cornwall, and Charmouth and Swanage in Dorset.
- launched the £25 million [Natural Flood Management Programme](#) on 23 February 2024. 40 projects will receive funding to improve flood and coastal resilience through the use of nature-based solutions.
- continued to work with coastal local authorities to improve evidence on flood and coastal erosion risk and will publish the updated national coastal erosion risk map later this year.

One Home

Erosion is happening faster than expected due to the extreme weather – both heavy rainfall above ground and bigger waves crashing below. The seaside communities who are most impacted by this and face losing their homes and/ or livelihoods are not being adequately informed of the risks they face short and long-term from climate change. Nor are people aware of their status in the shoreline management plans or that budgets are not allocated against many of these projects. There needs to be a national debate about who is protected and who isn't, how funding will be secured and what support can be given to those most impacted.

For those areas where the line will not be held, there is no compensation scheme. Under CTAP, there is a trial for only two areas in England (N Norfolk and East Riding) and that will take years for any financial benefits to emerge from. For other areas there is no money allocated. Meanwhile, people are losing their homes. In Hemsby 5 meters was lost in [one night](#).

As far as I'm aware, there is still no date for the updated NCERM to be released by the Environment Agency beyond "2024" to include climate projections and land lost so far. People continue to buy and invest in properties without knowing the full facts. Estate agents and surveyors are under no obligation to raise the risk of coastal erosion and sea level rise to purchasers, unlike river or surface water flooding, which has to be disclosed during the conveyancing period. There is no national guidance on climate risks from RICS or other professional bodies so many people are still buying dream homes, expecting them to see them out for the rest of their lives, only to face eviction and financial ruin. SMPs aren't statutory so a recent housing development in North Norfolk was [consented](#) despite the field facing significant erosion under 'old' and out of date 'projections'. Those homeowners would understandably assume [these 'affordable' building](#) wouldn't go ahead if unsafe!

Finally, there is no support group for these communities on a national level to co-ordinate action. Neighbours are liaising with their individual local authorities for each stretch of coastline. A national organisation that can lobby for compensation and signpost future climate refugees to support is required along with a coastal minister to look into the infrastructure and heritage loss the UK faces as well as homes and businesses.

LGA Coastal SIG

The LGA Coastal SIG has continued to champion for meaningful change and central governmental support for coastal communities impacted by coastal erosion. A funding disparity remains between those impacted by flooding and those impacted by erosion, the former receiving significant support through Flood Re; our ambition is to see a like-for-like financial package in the form of Erosion Re which would ideally be presented alongside the new erosion risk maps as a supporting mechanism for those affected by erosion.

In addition, we also seek equity for those losing their homes where we need the coast to erode to meet SMP policies that aim to support natural coastal change. We seek an equivalent financial package to habitat creation and natural flood management packages for our frontages where the erosion of the coast provides natural benefits for the greater good of coastal management as set out in SMP's. Those losing their homes in the process are providing an ecosystems service that benefits others and should be offered financial support to move away.

Finally, we continue to raise the challenges and recommendations of the Seaside Towns report (2019), the Climate Change Committee risk assessment report (2021) and their subsequent reviews in 2023. These reports highlight the high-risk climate change is presenting all sectors at the coast, the inequity coastal towns face, the need for cross-government policies to support change, call for greater support for coast as a 'place' and ask us to consider the viability of our coast. We call again for Government to consider the recommendations of these reports and set up a specialist committee to support the LGA Coastal SIG in progressing actions that have been left untouched.

Since the delivery of this session, our coastal communities have continued to be significantly impacted by the changes to our coast caused by climate change, with the increased frequency of storms causing up to 12m of coast being lost over one season. No one anticipated such changes, and despite the innovative and impactful work being delivered by coastal communities, local authorities and others working directly on this challenge are still having to work in a reactive process rather than being able to move into a proactive strategic approach.

Assessing the need for levelling up (Growth) in England's coastal authorities

Wednesday 1st February 2023 09:30 – 10:30 (online Roundtable)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Nicola Radford – Coastal Communities Alliance (Lincolnshire County Council)/OneCoast

Rebecca Munro (Pragmatix Advisory)

Background

Coastal communities have experienced substantial challenges in recent years. A combination of unprecedented economic uncertainty on a global scale, plus the substantial strain on resources caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, has created a fundamental need to reassess how local government funding allocations are quantified.

In July 2021, Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, released a report on the health and wellbeing of England's coastal communities. The report highlights the widespread disparities experienced by coastal communities compared to inland neighbours and found that smaller coastal towns had a higher share of population living in the most deprived areas of England across almost all measures of deprivation. However, despite the report's findings, coastal deprivation is currently not included as a metric of the Local Government's Funding formula for Levelling Up.

The Pragmatix Advisory Study *Communities on the edge* was commissioned by the Coastal Communities Alliance, the Local Government Association (LGA) Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG), the Coastal Partnerships Network and partner organisations.

It spells out the huge potential for coastal towns and villages to contribute to the UK's growth and contribute significantly to the country's progress towards Net Zero. But it also pulls together alarming evidence of a divide between the performance of coastal and non-coastal communities.

Coastal disadvantage has become a longstanding and damaging national problem which needs to be addressed urgently.

The evidence shows that one-off and time limited government support schemes have so far failed to change the story of coastal decline. The report's authors recommend the government considers a more strategic approach to tackle coastal deprivation and unlock the potential these important and valued parts of Britain can make.

The session included presentations on the findings of the [Communities on the Edge: Levelling Up England's Coastal Communities](#) Report to Members of Parliament and provided recommendations to Government into the opportunities that our coastal communities can deliver for the Levelling Up agenda.

Headlines & Actions

1. The *Communities on the edge* Report considers the challenges and opportunities faced by coastal communities against the Levelling Up metrics.

2. The narrative on coastal communities needs to change to showcase the immense value that these unique places have.
3. Attendance to the Debate on Local Government Funding Formulas to raise the report's findings.
4. Report to be shared with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
5. Letter with report to be sent to Prime Minister and SoS for Levelling Up including a call for the use of more granular data.

Presentation: Introduction to the *Communities on the Edge* Report – Nicola Radford – Coastal Communities Alliance

Summary: The background to the Pragmatix commission and the proposed roll out of the findings and recommendations.

Notes:

- The Coastal Communities Alliance (CCA) has supported Select Committee reviews into coastal communities.
- As part of the OneCoast Coalition there was an opportunity for collaborative funding to glean a better understanding of the impact of Levelling Up on coastal communities.
- From experience within Lincolnshire County Council, short-term funding is useful however it does not deliver for meaningful change and therefore longer-term sustainable funding is needed.
- The solution does not just lie with government as there needs to be facilitated community-led change.
- The *Communities on the edge* report is the first to look at the opportunities and solutions for coastal communities.
- There is no quick fix but there needs to be a systematic change to a more cross-department strategic approach that is aligned to tackle deeper issues and work collectively to move forwards.

Recommendations/Actions

1. Cross-departmental strategic approach is needed alongside longer-term sustainable funding.

Presentation: *Communities on the Edge* – Rebecca Munro – Pragmatix Advisory

Summary: Presentation on the key findings of the research and discuss the recommendations for Levelling Up our coastal communities.

Notes:

- Coastal disadvantage has become a longstanding and damaging national problem which needs to be addressed urgently.
- A higher proportion of children live in workless households.
- Household income in coastal areas is almost £3,000 per year lower than in non-coastal communities.
- Nearly one in five jobs are below the living wage – a greater proportion than for England overall.
- Disabled people are less likely to find work.

- There is a damaging “digital divide” with gigabit broadband and 4G provision lagging behind.
- Educational outcomes are often poorer, with a lower proportion of children achieving GCSE qualifications in maths and English.
- Children are more likely to be persistently absent from school.
- People suffer poorer health outcomes, with higher rates of depression, suicide, alcohol-related hospital admissions, and emergency admissions for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.
- With the right investment coastal communities have much to offer.
- Coastal areas generate more renewable energy than the national average and make a significant contribution to the UK’s efforts to increase energy security and achieve lower carbon emissions. Marine development and infrastructure represent a coastal opportunity with port freight expected to increase by nearly 40% over the next 20 years.
- There are fewer council houses, leading to a greater reliance on the private rented sector where housing costs are higher.
- Fishing fleets could develop sustainable and profitable business models.
- Increases in hybrid and remote working represent an opportunity for coastal communities to draw in skilled, higher paid workers, growing the economy in peripheral parts of the UK.
- Remote learning could allow students new opportunities to gain qualifications without the need to move away from the coast (only possible with investment in digital capacity and transport).
- Developing sustainable tourism and investment in projects which would help local communities extend the season would lead to higher paid, year-round jobs and make this important industry more attractive to young people.
- Remote learning could allow students new opportunities to gain qualifications without the need to move away from the coast (only possible with investment in digital capacity and transport).
- Developing sustainable tourism and investment in projects which would help local communities extend the season would lead to higher paid, year-round jobs and make this important industry more attractive to young people.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Changing the local government funding formula to better reflect deprivation and the needs of coastal communities.
2. Long term, sustainable funding to support projects across their full lifespan.
3. Strategic funding which would allow authorities to merge different streams to achieve levelling up in coastal communities.

Discussion points

- Research into Levelling Up in regional reports has shown that there are issues around education, skills, transport, health and housing. Initiatives and funding are being put in place however revenue funding is a challenge and local government funding mechanisms need to change as the need to constantly bid for additional funding is not helping.
- There is a need to change monitoring to a more granular level for national and local governments, organisations and charities to gain a clearer understanding of what is happening within coastal communities as they are lost within district data.
- Strategic long-term strategies are needed to be cross-departmental and have a wider input from the communities themselves alongside funding that is also cross-departmental.

- Challenges lie within the communities themselves as culturally these communities are very different and we need to re-engage them from within – need for community-led regeneration through partnership funding.
- Local government authorities and their communities feel real disappointment when they put considerable effort into funding bids that are subsequently unsuccessful, and it is a huge ask on resources and capacity in producing these bids that could be used more meaningfully and effectively elsewhere to benefit the communities.
- The funding cake isn't getting any bigger however how it is divided needs to be reconsidered.
- Once coastal communities are fully supported and able to attract private investment then they have already shown that they have endless opportunities. Governmental funding should be considered as seed funding to build the solid foundations needed for true regeneration and form a platform for investment.

Speaker biographies

Nicola Radford – Coastal Communities Alliance / Lincolnshire County Council

Nicola is a senior regeneration officer for Lincolnshire County Council. She is the executive officer of the Coastal Communities Alliance, a partnership of mainly local authorities which was formed to raise the profile of the socio-economic challenges facing coastal communities. In 2010 the Coastal Communities Alliance commissioned a detailed report and series of discussion essays into about challenges and opportunities for coastal communities leading to the first Select Committee Enquiry into Coastal Communities and subsequently produced position papers on coastal regeneration and gave evidence at the House of Lords Select Committee into Seaside Towns, most recently into the CMO Health in Coastal Communities report.

Nicola, with her role in the Coastal Communities Alliance is co-providing the Secretariat for the APPG into Coastal Communities, chaired by Sally-Ann Hart MP, in partnership with the Coastal Partnership Network and the LGA Coastal SIG.

Whilst not "championing" the coast nationally, Nicola leads a Coastal Communities Funded Skills into raising the skills / qualifications in the Visitor Economy Sector on the Lincolnshire coast, advises rural and coastal businesses on attracting grants and oversees the development of a network of technology Hubs which help businesses adapt to digital technology.

Rebecca Munro – Consultant Pragmatix Advisory

Rebecca manages a variety of projects, especially those with a social, economic or public policy dimension. She holds a first-class honours degree in politics, philosophy and economics from the Open University, which she earned while managing her own hospitality business.

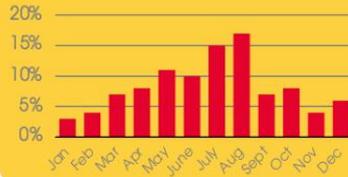
Coastal opportunities

Ports supporting future investment and skills



Every one port job supports six more

Extending the visitor season



Energy generation



Coastal generates double the amount of renewable energy than non-coastal

Hybrid working



Attracting more people to live on coast

Expansion of EV charging network



Carbon capture



Saltmarshes remove 81,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent a year

Green jobs



1.2m low carbon jobs by 2050 offers potential for new local employment

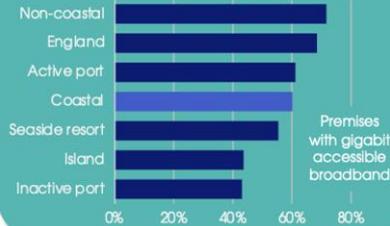
Staycations



Six million more visits a year if one in ten overseas holidays became staycations

Coastal challenges

Digital connectivity



Cost of living



13 per cent of homes in fuel poverty

Insufficient funding



Costs of delivering services is higher, higher demands and seasonal fluctuation

Lower rates of productivity



Lower educational attainment and higher rates of school absence

Lower wages

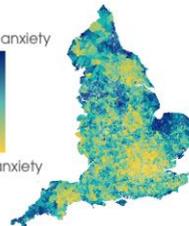


Employees in bottom income decile are paid £830 less a year on the coast

Poor mental health

Higher anxiety

Lower anxiety



Ocean Literacy

Tuesday 14 March 2023 11:00-12:00 (Online Parliamentary Briefing)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

In collaboration with



Expert speakers:

Dr Mark Atkinson - Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Claire Speedie & Dr Kay Barclay – Marine Scotland, Scottish Government

Dr Kathryn Hughes - Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

Dr Emma McKinley – Cardiff University

Background

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Marine Scotland and Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales have published the results of the 2022 Ocean Literacy Survey. Ocean literacy is an understanding of the ocean's (seas/coast) influence on a person and their influence on it.

The survey provides an insight into public awareness, knowledge and attitudes surrounding the marine environment.

Headlines & Actions

- For information on all of the reports please see [Understanding Ocean Literacy and ocean climate-related behaviour change in the UK](#)
- There is a clear need for ocean literacy to be considered within wider educational remits alongside campaigns to connect people and the marine environment, and this must be delivered through a collaborative approach.

Presentation: Ocean Literacy: An Evolving Concept – Dr Emma McKinley - Cardiff University

Summary: Explore and introduce the concept of ocean literacy and what it means for the UK's coasts and seas. First introduced in the early 2000s, the concept of ocean literacy has evolved in recent years, not least since its inclusion as a mechanism for change within the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development's goals. Building on early definitions of ocean literacy, there has been increasing recognition of a range of additional dimensions which contribute to an individual or collective sense of 'ocean literacy'. This presentation will cover the evolution of ocean literacy in recent years and what this might mean for UK ocean and coastal issues now and in the future.

Notes:

- Ocean literacy is a key mechanism for change within this UN Ocean decade.
- Ocean Literacy is about having understanding of oceans' influence on you and your influence on ocean – this includes seas/estuaries.
- This has evolved from the understanding from if we give people knowledge, we will change behaviour to something that involves a deeper emotional connection.
- Research has developed a model for ocean literacy which is being applied to develop the concept and understanding.
- The core components of the model are knowledge, behaviour and communications.
- Words such as interconnectedness, emotions, understanding and engagement are used as ocean literacy is more about connections.
- Work has been underway to review the concepts of Ocean Literacy where existing models and marine citizenships, pro environmental behaviour change etc have all been considered.

Presentation: Ocean Literacy in England, Wales and Scotland: Headline findings from the Ocean Literacy Survey – Dr Mark Atkinson - Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Summary: Presentation describing key findings from the Ocean Literacy Survey undertaken in collaboration with Natural Resources Wales (2021 and 2022) and Marine Scotland (2022). His presentation will focus on dimensions of Ocean Literacy evidence most relevant for issues around coastal communities and outline next steps for the survey.

Notes:

- Work has included large scale monitoring programme for Ocean Literacy.
- The Surveys will provide a monitoring programme to feed into the UK Marine Strategy and Environment Improvement Plan.
- This is a commitment to take into account social aspects and will help in monitoring public opinion on these policy areas.
- The survey has been running for 2 years starting in 2021 and the further survey in 2022 expanding to involve marine Scotland.
- The same questionnaire is repeated across England and Wales, and from 2022 to include Scotland.
- It has been developed through a collaboration with academic community, close collaboration with Dr Emily McKinley and Ocean Conservation Trust.
- The survey was undertaken online by people who regular take part in survey research. It was composed of ~40 questions and the Ocean Literacy Survey received ~12,000.
- Participants were asked what they felt were the 3 greatest threats to the marine environment. Most responses included marine litter, plastic pollution and chemical pollution as the greatest concerns.
- Over 80% of respondents supported the creation of MPAs across the three countries.
- Over 80% said that protecting the marine environment is very important to them, with higher proportions in coastal populations (than non-coastal).
- When asked about most recent visit to the marine environment, 70% stated it was related to mental/physical health.

Presentation: Developing a strategy for delivering Ocean Literacy in Wales – Dr Kathryn Hughes - Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

Summary: Presentation to summarise the current programme of work underway now to develop an Ocean Literacy Strategy and Implementation Plan for Wales. This work is being carried out under Welsh Governments strategic marine and coastal stakeholder group Coast and Seas Partnership, Cymru (CaSPC). The aim is to have a strategy in place by the end of the calendar year agreed by core members of the Welsh Ocean Literacy Task and Finish Group.

Notes:

- The key highlights from the Wales Ocean Literacy survey, repeat key messages from the English survey results.
- 80% people in Wales believe that there is a mental/physical health benefit from the sea and coast.
- 70% think marine litter is the biggest threat to the marine environment.
- Looking to use hooks exist in the curriculum.
- Almost half the people who responded to the Wales survey think that their lifestyles have no impact on marine/coast.
- 60% of the Welsh population live on or near coast and therefore there is a need for better understanding around better lifestyle/behaviour
- choices/recycling/food etc.
- In Wales, there is a national stakeholder group – Coast and Sea Partnership Cymru, who are looking into Ocean Literacy with the additional themes of Sustainable Finance and Coastal Capacity.
- Through workshops, the Ocean Literacy Working Group has been set up and as key messages emerge there will be a strategy and implementation plan for Ocean Literacy in Wales and where ocean literacy is already being implemented, there is a need to support and evaluate it.
- Big part of evaluation is the Ocean Literacy Survey.

Presentation: Ocean Literacy and the Blue Economy Vision in Scotland – Claire Speedie & Dr Kay Barclay - Marine Scotland, Scottish Government

Summary: A joint presentation on why ocean literacy is important for the delivery of the Blue Economy Vision in Scotland. We will summarise the Blue Economy vision and outcomes and highlight findings from the Ocean Literacy survey that are of particular interest in relation to the Blue Economy.

Notes:

- Through the Ocean Literacy in Scotland, it was clear of the value people place on the marine environment with 80% visits being good for mental/physical health.
- Through considerations of any 'inequalities of access to blue space' there is a process of trying to identify what these are and how to engage/combat.
- There is a very strong emotional connection between people and the ocean, and the sea is very important for Scotland.
- 51% respondents feel concerned about sea/marine environment and feel awe and wonder too.
- The sea is a large source of food for Scotland with 43% of respondents identifying food as top benefit. Offshore renewable energy also mentioned as being important.

- The respondents showed that there is awareness that our behaviour has impact, just over half saying we do have an impact.
- Respondents showed that political action, speaking to MPs/petitions are high on the agenda.
- The respondents showed a willingness to make changes, with 8 of 10 people showing changes around plastics/food/environment/transport etc with activism coming out as another key point.
- In March 2022, Scotland Government published the Blue Economy Vision – by 2025 Scotland’s shared stewardship of our marine environment supports ecosystem health, improved livelihoods, economic prosperity, social inclusion and wellbeing.
- The findings from ocean literacy survey are important and feature heavily in developing policy.
- Vision provides framework for management marine environment in Scotland, aiding in tackling biodiversity loss and climate change but if going to drive transformative behaviour change then need ocean literacy.
- Being an ocean literate/aware nation is one of 6 outcomes as set out in vision. There are 3 ways in which the ocean literacy is supporting development: assessment of our current position; understanding where we need develop ocean literacy (50 per cent respondents hadn’t heard of key terms); and the survey will form suite of metrics in monitoring and evaluation as well as tracking progress as it is important to determine if the needed lasting approach is occurring. This means that future surveys are very important.

Discussion points

- The key points raised through the presentations do not include all the detail that was gleaned through the surveys as other concerns around destructive fishing practices and offshore wind as further examples. This means that the results are of importance across Defra teams including fisheries. Some topics of concern to the public such as sewage discharge were not included however the surveys did receive a considerable number of open question answers that are currently being analysed to extract further understanding.
- Plastic pollution came out strongly as a main concern and this reflects the large number of campaigns around this subject, raising the question of further campaigns on other issues that need to be addressed.
- The idea of the connections between the ocean, coast and rivers is increasingly being discussed in the ocean literacy research world. There is currently a project – Diverse Values – looking at we are all the connected issues of water quality and river and how related to catchment within an untraditional coastal environment of Chepstow, Monmouthshire which is estuarine. This is helping to further the understanding of how everywhere is connected to the coast.
- It is important to get communities involved in active conservation and restoration work to build those connections. The interconnectedness of our communities and environments means that it is hard to divide subjects up and whether they should be including sewage issues occurring regardless of heavy rain/storm damage, the damage that this is causing to coastal wildlife and the damage already being see across estuarine ecologies. Important work in a collaborative way including with water companies, agricultural sector, Defra group, householders, highways and not draw a line between what is estuarine vs coastal as it is all interlinked.
- The commitment through the Scottish Blue Economy has committed to

mainstream an interconnected approach, to get people to think and to look through a blue economy lens when considering policy and how our development could impact on the marine environment and coastal communities – a whole system approach.

- The concerns around access to blue space is common across coastal communities as despite being in such proximity, some of most deprived people do not go and enjoy benefits of their coast and we need to consider how we change that and how we engage these communities.
- A status review was completed in Scotland to look at metrics in order to get an understanding of the current status (shared after session - [Scotland's Blue Economy: current status review - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-blue-economy-current-status-review/pages/1-to-3.aspx))
- The publication describes our starting position in the transition to adopting a Blue Economy approach for our marine sectors, communities and the environment – and provides us with a foundation to consider how we can track our progress to make sure change is occurring. Section 4, includes an overview of data sources used for the publication and sets out a selection of data sources used for each of our 6 outcomes.)
- The Ocean Literacy Survey will run biannual to track change alongside a household survey in Scotland as need more data about the public and communities, and the way that they are responding to policies. Current data suggests that those in urban areas or younger people are less likely to use blue spaces and part of the reason is around accessibility to transport and concerns over overcrowding at busier beaches – greater impact is felt when they visit more remote locations as they have a better experience.
- There is a clear need for education and it's clear that campaigns such as plastic campaigns are successful therefore a joined-up approach across sectors is the most effective way forward as we need all to benefit and understand how important the marine environment is for our health and wellbeing.

Speaker biographies:

[Dr Emma McKinley, Senior Research Fellow – Cardiff University](#)

Emma's research focuses on understanding the complex relationship between society and the sea, taking account of diverse types of perceptions, attitudes and values held by different communities and audiences, and considers how this insight can be used to support effective ocean governance. She has expertise in marine social sciences, marine and coastal ecosystem services, ocean literacy and ocean governance, and is the Chair of the Marine Social Science Network and of the RGS Coastal and Marine Research Group. Emma also sits on the Wales Coast and Seas Partnership and the UK National Decade Committee for the UN Ocean Decade.

[Dr Mark Atkinson, Head of Marine Social Science - Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(DEFRA\)](#)

My academic background is in social and environmental psychology. I obtained my PhD from University of Essex and undertook postdoctoral research at University College London and University of Exeter. I then worked in applied social and behavioural research for the UK government, first with Forest Research, then the research agency of the Forestry Commission and subsequently at DEFRA leading research on marine environment. In my present role I lead on social research to support the following:

- Actions to enable offshore wind development.
- Highly Protected Marine Areas.
- Social, cultural and heritage value for marine natural capital.
- Plastics and pollution.
- Marine bycatch and vulnerable marine species.
- Strategic social research for marine policy, including participation and public opinion research.

[Dr Kathryn Hughes, Senior Advisor: Marine Area Statement - Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales](#)

My previous academic training and career included investigating spatio-temporal changes in fish distributions in the north-east Atlantic and assessing impacts of global bottom fishing on benthic environments, and I gained my PhD from Galway University, Ireland. I now work for Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru to support delivery under the Environment (Wales) Act, and in particular the Marine Area Statement which has identified the priorities:

- Nature based solutions and adaptation at the coast.
- Making the most of marine planning.
- Building resilience of marine ecosystems.
- Reconnecting people with Welsh seas.
- Understanding and promoting the wider benefits of our coasts and seas.

[Claire Speedie, Senior Policy Officer – Marine Scotland, Scottish Government](#)

I began my career as a Solicitor, specialising in immigration, asylum and human rights law and have a Masters in Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. I joined the Scottish Government as Senior Immigration Advisor in 2013 and worked on migration policy in the Scottish Government until 2018, when I moved to the UK Government's Scotland Office. There I led a team that covered reserved and devolved policy matters and how they relate to the constitutional settlement in Scotland, including migration, but also agriculture, fisheries and environment policy. I have recently moved back to the Scottish Government and have since been in the Marine Scotland Directorate's Blue Economy policy team, developing Scotland's Blue Economy approach.

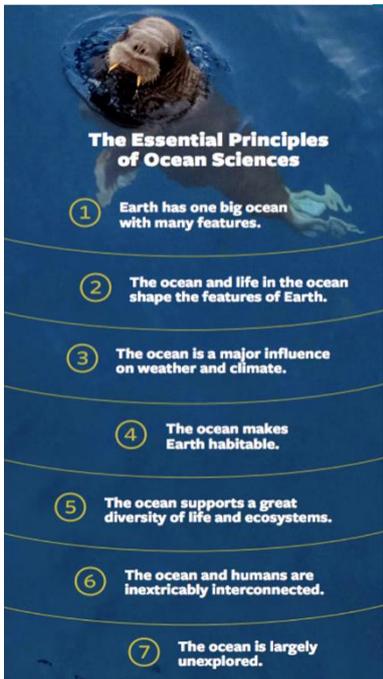
[Dr Kay Barclay, Principal Research Officer – Marine Scotland, Scottish Government](#)

I have a background in Social Anthropology having completed a PhD at University College London that explored the Slovene minority in the borderlands of Italy. I worked for a number of research companies delivering social research projects, before joining the Scottish Government as a social researcher where I have covered a range of different policy areas. In Marine Scotland I lead a small team of social researchers responsible for developing the social research evidence base and providing analytical advice across all aspects of Marine Scotland's policy work including marine conservation, marine planning, offshore renewable energy, commercial fisheries and the blue economy. I am particularly interested in how participatory and deliberative research methods can help to capture the views and experiences of communities and stakeholders so that they can contribute to decision-making about the marine environment.

2024 update

The results of the 2023 Ocean Literacy survey will be delivered within a combined UK level report later this year. For the latest reports please see:

- England [Understanding Ocean Literacy and ocean climate-related behaviour change in the UK' - ME5239 \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)
- Scotland [Ocean literacy survey: headline findings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- Wales [Ocean Literacy in Wales: Headline Findings Report \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](#)



The Essential Principles of Ocean Sciences

- 1 Earth has one big ocean with many features.
- 2 The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.
- 3 The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.
- 4 The ocean makes Earth habitable.
- 5 The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
- 6 The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.
- 7 The ocean is largely unexplored.

Ocean Literacy is...

... an understanding of the ocean's influence on you—and your influence on the ocean.

An ocean-literate person:

- understands the Essential Principles and Fundamental Concepts about the ocean;
- can communicate about the ocean in a meaningful way; and
- is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources.

Beach and Water Safety

Tuesday 14 June 2023 10:00-11:00 Parliamentary briefing – (online)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Ross MacLeod – Royal National Lifeboat Institution,

Lee Heard – Royal Lifesaving Society, Charity Director

Danielle Obe - Black Swimming Association, Founder

Samantha Ward - British Canoeing, Safety Lead

Sarah Nightingale - Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Strategy Development and Partnership Manager

Background

The deep connection between the people of the UK and our coastal areas runs across generations and cultures, however the level of knowledge of the potential risks of our coastal fringe is little understood by the public. Through this session we will be considering the importance of inclusion and equity in accessing these spaces, the growing potential for mitigating incidents through education, emerging recreational activities and food for thought around the future offer of lifesaving services across the UK.

Headlines & Actions

MPs to raise the profile of Drowning Prevention across their work areas wherever appropriate.

1. Further consideration is needed around the inclusion of water safety within the national curriculum.
2. Action: Information on Drowning Prevention Week and Day to be made available for MPs alongside an invite to the in-parliament event on the 11 July.
3. Action: Clear that education is vital and there needs to be an increase in messaging around water safety and drowning prevention. MPs attending need to focus on this as a take-away to integrate into their current work.
4. Resources on Drowning Prevention Week and Drowning Prevention Day to be made available to MPs (see Resources section for details).

Presentation: Introduction to Beach & Water Safety – Ross MacLeod - RNLI

Summary: A brief introduction and background to the session.

Notes:

- 30-35 million visitors to the coast in 2022
- There were 226 fatalities last year with 105 of those being June -August.
- Statistics on these fatalities show that 60% were inland, 30% were coastal with 83% being male and, 20-29 and 50-59 age ranges being the most common.
- Education and training are essential to save lives.
- Beach and water safety needs to be covered in depth on the national curriculum.
- 39,690 people were aided by RNLI crews in 2022 with 506 lives saved.

- Drowning is preventable and the “Drowning Chain” is used to consider how to reduce this preventable cause of death.
- Many people who require assistance come from inland areas.
- Example given where prevention has found to be very successful as an individual who had seen the #FloatToLive video was able to remember and apply the knowledge when swept out to sea in a rip current, this saved his life.

Presentation: Why inclusion and equity matter for water safety – Danielle Obe – Black Swimming Association

Summary: To keep everyone safe in and around water, education and messaging must reach all people and communities who spend time near water. Increasing awareness of water safety and the health benefits of aquatics within ethnically diverse communities is key, together with fostering equality, diversity and inclusion within the wider aquatics sector in a bid to tackle inequalities.

Notes:

- The Black Swimming Association (BSA) was formed after a series of preventable tragedies involving persons from diverse backgrounds.
- Britain is a diverse nation, but it struggles to reach all communities.
- To prevent drownings, everyone must be reached and provided with the life skills needed to stay safe in, and around, water.
- Black and Asian communities make up 80% of the world’s population and 90% of the world’s global drowning burden with around 236,000 unintentional deaths.
- Across England, 95% of adults and 80% of children from black ethnic groups do not swim.
- From November 2021-22, in Britain, only 3.5% of black adults and 4.2% of Asian adults participated in swimming activities compared to 8.9% white adults.
- The BSA is the first organisation of its kind in the UK, positioned to ensure that people of African, Caribbean and Asian heritage have equitable access to vital water safety and drowning prevention training and all the benefits of engaging in aquatics.
- The BSA’s ambition is to challenge negative stigmas, narratives and relationships that people from African, Caribbean and Asian communities have with water.
- The BSA works with other organisations to facilitate this.
- The BSA Community Journey is a long-term commitment to change which needs to build trust to win hearts and minds.
- Through research, the BSA has found that many are not aware of what they need to know, are unable to access water safety education or lack confidence to overcome aquaphobia alongside cultural and social barriers.
- There must be an emphasis on ensuring voices are heard and communities are reached so that there is equal access to ensure that there is an impact within our communities.
- Through the Water Safety Skills programmes, it only takes 1 hour to learn lifesaving skills.

Presentation: Importance of water safety education – Lee Heard – Royal Life Saving Society

Summary: For many years, Royal Lifesaving Society UK, along with members of the National Water Safety Forum, has been focused on raising awareness of barriers and lobbying for class-based water safety education to be on the national curriculum. Most children can be reached through the education system, so the answer on keeping children safe around water is simple. Education. Only with class-based education and removing insurmountable barriers for some schools to travel to pool spaces will we be able to give every child the opportunity to learn crucial knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and be safe around water.

Notes:

- The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) look to provide education and training to help people enjoy water safely and prevent drowning.
- Children from low affluence families are half as likely to be able to swim up to 25m unaided in comparison to those from high income families.
- Swimming skills are part of the PE curriculum, but it is not mandatory even though it can save lives.
- It is a challenge to access all audiences and so the RLSS work in partnership.
- There is no clear coverage of responsibility for swimming as it can be considered a health issue or a wellbeing issue or a life skill.
- In 2022 there was 46% increase in the number of accidental fatalities amongst children in the UK, with death by drowning being the second highest trauma related cause of deaths.
- There needs to be a differentiation between swimming and water competency as the latter requires full water safety education including ability to apply swimming skills in a range of aquatic environments.
- Speaker sits on the Data & Insight Group for the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF) and the Education Group.
- Research is showing that classroom taught skills are recalled by school children.
- Education helps to save lives and helps children to enjoy the water safely.
- The NSW Education Group has developed a water competency framework which they would like to see being included within the curriculum and includes skills that can be all taught in class-based scenarios to encourage activity participation.
- There are challenges around changing the curriculum, but supplementing swimming with water safety education in the classroom would help to target those harder to reach communities.

Presentation: How collaboration and partnerships can improve Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP) safety– Sam Ward – British Canoeing

Summary: The popularity of Stand-up Paddleboarding surged in the past two years, and whilst it is a great way to enjoy the water, this has contributed to a significant increase in incidents reported by the RNLI, and sadly also fatalities. As a result, British Canoeing, along with other training agencies and national governing bodies, have come together, whilst also working closely with SUP manufacturers and suppliers, to develop agreed safety messaging which everyone can support.

Notes:

- British Canoeing (BC) are taking a collaborative approach to Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP) safety.
- BC are one of the two national governing bodies covering in SUPs England.
- There has been a significant increase in SUP participation alongside a steady increase in purchases.
- This has led to a rise in the number of incidents involving SUPs.
- Messaging is being delivered through SUP leashes, QR codes and website links.
- Active prevention is being undertaken through the addition of point-of-sale messaging.
- BC are working with non-specialist retailers and online retailers to make safety guidance accessible to the public when purchasing SUPs.
- BC are supporting Decathlon with their SUP Rental process which has been rolled out across 45 stores. This provides a different way to access SUPs and users are provided with in-store safety messaging before they complete the process.
- The range of retailers are now delivering consistent sharing advice.
- Consistent messaging around buoyancy aids, carrying a charged phone in a waterproof pouch, wearing the correct leash and avoiding offshore winds is all based on the trend data from recent incidents.

Presentation: Shaping tomorrow today: Future factors influencing UK lifesaving - Sarah Nightingale – Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Summary: Food for thought about the impact external factors may have on water safety and lifesaving in future. From climate change, coastal erosion and aging coastal communities, to changing casualty profiles, extreme weather events and new location technology – these are all factors which lifesaving organisations like the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) are considering when developing future lifesaving strategies to help save lives around the UK coast.

Notes:

- There is a need to look ahead and consider how we make sure that we are fit for the future and understand the challenges that will affect future water safety and lifesaving.
- We owe it to the next generation to always be looking forwards.
- The future of lifesaving needs to consider more frequent and extreme heatwaves, increasingly busy locations, increasing size of the population to whom safety messaging must be relayed.
- Changes to the climate is causing dryer, warmer summers which attract people into the water.
- Trends and data show the UK population is becoming more diverse and it is going to become more challenging to reach all those who need water safety messaging.
- Different generations need to be reached in different ways, with altering messaging and changes will occur around at-risk audiences.
- Coastal communities are changing in significant ways socially and physically with an aging population, increasing second-home ownership impacting residents and therefore impacting the ability to train and recruit local life-saving volunteers.
- Physical changes including increases in coastal flooding, coastal erosion and accelerated coastal processes. RNLI stations must be located close to the water however this makes them vulnerable to this changing environment.

- In the future, risks will change and could increase meaning that there will be an increase in life-saving demand whilst

charities are subjected to heightened scrutiny and financially impacted by social financial pressures.

Discussion points

- Clear that disadvantaged and ethnic communities are heavily impacted.
- The national curriculum does include the need for schools to provide water safety at key stages 1 and 2 however it is understood that swimming lessons alone are not enough, and lifesaving skills must be practised in a variety of environments.
- Question asked on how MPs can support change in this area and how can it be delivered with support from partnership organisations.
- Response that one of the major challenges is that many visitors to waterfronts are not from the area and are travelling from areas that don't have strong education on water safety, mainly as they are inland, and the danger is not seen as important as it is across coastal communities.
- The 17 June is Drowning Prevention Week where school are encouraged to engage with water safety.
- MPs need to be aware, when interacting with communities, that many of the children have never been to the beach especially for deprived communities.
- The assumption is that all children are receiving water safety lessons in school however many are not, and this is relevant to all communities.
- Action: Clear that education is vital and there needs to be an increase in messaging around water safety and drowning prevention. MPs attending need to focus on this as a take-away to integrate into their current work.

Speaker biographies

Ross MacLeod – Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Water Safety Public Affairs Manager

Ross works in the RNLI's national water safety team, working with public and third sector partners to improve water safety, prevent drowning and contribute to the prevention of water-based suicide across the UK and Ireland. He is an active member of the LGA's Coastal Special Interest group, and a member of the UK National Water Safety Coordinating group as chair of the suicide prevention group. In previous roles, Ross also led the creation of high-profile RNLI water safety campaigns including Float to Live and Respect the Water. RNLI Float to Live Campaign <https://rnli.org/safety/float>

Danielle Obe – Black Swimming Association - Founder

Danielle, a strategy, and senior management consultant started working alongside documentary-maker Ed Accura, history-making swimmer Alice Dearing – the first Black woman to swim for Britain at the Olympics – and former elite swimmer Seren Jones to create the Black Swimming Association (BSA) in 2019. Under Danielle's leadership, the BSA has gone from a simple concept to a nationally recognised fledgling organisation positioned as a transformative force within the aquatic and non-aquatic sector. Officially launching in early 2020, the vision of the BSA is to work towards a future with ethnic diversity in aquatics, an element that is both necessary and unprecedented, with the objective of promoting water safety, drowning prevention, and showcasing the benefits of aquatics to people of African, Caribbean and Asian heritage in the UK. <https://thebsa.co.uk/>

Lee Heard – Royal Lifesaving Society – Charity Director

Over the last five years Lee has led the RLSS to be targeted in their approach so charity resources can be distributed to create efficient, sustainable, and impactful interventions. This includes the development of new education initiatives, lifesaving pathways, awards, and campaigns. RLSS National Drowning Prevention Week:
<https://www.rlss.org.uk/Pages/Category/drowning-prevention-week-campaign>



Samantha Ward - British Canoeing – Safety Lead

For the last year Sam has been Safety Lead for British Canoeing, the national governing body for paddle sports in the UK. She works internally to support the organisation with safety and externally with key stakeholders to raise awareness of paddle sport safety, with a focus on collaboration to promote a safe, enjoyable time on the water both among the paddle sport community and those new to paddling.

Sarah Nightingale - Royal National Lifeboat Institution – Strategy Development and Partnership Manager

Sarah has worked at the RNLI for over six years and is involved with long term strategy planning which is creating a roadmap out to 2030 and beyond so the charity can continue saving lives long after its 200th birthday in 2024. She has previously worked in policy roles across several Government departments including Energy and Climate Change, Communities and Local Government and Environment, Food and Rural affairs.

2024 update

Samantha Ward - British Canoeing – Safety Lead

- As of 13th March 2024, British Canoeing is now [Paddle UK](#). The changing demographics of our evolving membership have inspired our new name and new branding. Paddle UK aims to better represent all paddlers across the UK and promote inclusivity within paddlesport. It also strives to encapsulate the full diversity of paddling activity that falls under our responsibility as National Governing Body, including kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddleboarding, as well as other paddlesport.
- We hosted our first in-person safety specific conference in November 2023 which saw over 80 attendees from a range of key organisations and a positive response towards working together on safety.
- We have now set up three working groups to support safety collaboration and raise awareness in the following areas: offshore winds, SUP leashes, weirs and other manmade structures. We have also set up a retailer safety group to help work towards clear and consistent safety messaging.
- Our Safety Advisory Panel met three times in 2023 and continues to provide valuable insight and knowledge in various areas of safety.
- Following last year's success, the second phase of our joint safety campaign with the RNLI aimed towards new paddlers will be launching in mid-June.
- As of 13th March 2024, British Canoeing is now [Paddle UK](#). The changing demographics of our evolving membership have inspired our new name and new branding. Paddle UK

aims to better represent all paddlers across the UK and promote inclusivity within paddlesport. It also strives to encapsulate the full diversity of paddling activity that falls under our responsibility as National Governing Body, including kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddleboarding, as well as other paddlesport.

- We hosted our first in-person safety specific conference in November 2023 which saw over 80 attendees from a range of key organisations and a positive response towards working together on safety.
- We have now set up three working groups to support safety collaboration and raise awareness in the following areas: offshore winds, SUP leashes, weirs and other manmade structures. We have also set up a retailer safety group to help work towards clear and consistent safety messaging.
- Our Safety Advisory Panel met three times in 2023 and continues to provide valuable insight and knowledge in various areas of safety.
- Following last year's success, the second phase of our joint safety campaign with the RNLI aimed towards new paddlers will be launching in mid-June.



World Drowning Prevention Day Event

Room M, Portcullis House

Host: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Tuesday 11 July 2023 11:00-13:00

Co-secretariat representative: Beccy MacDonald-Lofts, LGA Coastal SIG

Purpose: Brief Members of Parliament ahead of 25th July, World Drowning Prevention Day 2023, to provide information relevant to the prevention of drowning across the UK.

The event was opened and chaired by Sally-Ann Hart MP, who gave a passionate opening to the event, openly discussing how drowning has affected her role and community.



Dr David Meddings, World Health Organisation

Dr Meddings presented on the global drowning burden highlighting the big picture drowning and the concern that most drownings occur in more deprived communities across the world. Dr Meddings outlined the ways to approach drowning prevention and recent milestones including the UN Resolution on Drowning Prevention which established the date for international drowning awareness on 25th July. He also discussed future work towards the first World Health Organisation global status report on drowning prevention.



Jonathan Passmore, World Health Organisation

Jonathan provided a European context including the specific regional challenges including drownings through migration by sea and the prevention of older male drownings that are linked to water recreation. Jonathan finished his presentation with a tribute to Tom Jones, who sadly lost his life to drowning in 2018 to provide context as to why drownings need to be addressed.



Dawn Whittaker, Chair, National Water Safety Forum

Dawn explained the challenges around drowning prevention in the UK and the approaches, including campaigns, being delivered by the National Water Safety Forum and partners including #RespectTheWater and #FloatToLive. Dawn ended her presentation with a call to action, asking MPs and attendees to 'do one thing' on World Drowning Prevention Day to support awareness and change.



Brogan and Megan Griffiths

Attendees heard from the inspirational sisters of Haydn Griffiths, who lost his life to drowning in July 2022, despite being an extremely experienced water user. The sisters spoke about the loss of their brother and their determination to raise awareness around drowning prevention so that his legacy can help protect others.



Members of Parliament were invited to discuss drowning prevention with representatives from the WHO, NWSF, RoSPA, Black Swimming Association and RNLI, and pledge their support for 25 July 2023.



Further resource links:

<https://nationalwatersafety.org.uk/drowningpreventionday>

<https://respectthewater.com/>

<https://www.rospa.com/leisure-water-safety/Water>

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/drowning>



for
Coastal
Communities

Seaside Heritage

Tuesday 12 September 2023 10:00-10:50 (Information briefing online)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Dr Allan Brodie – Bournemouth University

Dr Anya Chapman – Bournemouth University

Background

This roundtable discussion will provide members with an introduction to Seaside Heritage, the qualities that define it, issues, challenges and opportunities for coastal communities.

The session will include details of the Seaside Heritage Network's "Top 10 Bucket and Spade List" which will be revealed at an event in Blackpool on 11th September 2023. The event is part of the Year of the Coast 2023 celebrations and seeks to build public awareness and support for some of our most treasured heritage assets.

Headlines & Actions

1. Seaside Heritage is currently undervalued in comparison to other forms of heritage.
2. Funding streams have been reduced impacting the amount of money available to support maintenance and restoration.
3. Consideration should be given to reinstating the coastal focused funding streams such as the Coastal Communities Fund or equivalents to support conservation and restoration.

Presentation: What is seaside heritage? – Dr Allan Brodie – Bournemouth University

Summary: An introduction to Seaside Heritage, what makes it unique and why it is important to Coastal Communities

Notes:

- Many coastal communities seem on the surface to be prosperous areas however deprivation is often at the heart of these resorts.
- Seafronts are the main power driving the local coastal tourism industry.
- Seafronts are often places that provide nostalgic memories and commemoration.
- The list was won by Saltburn Cliff Tramway, with Blackpool Tower coming second and Morecombe Winter Garden coming third.
- Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) bring issues especially where there is severe neglect to these building that often have a high heritage value.
- They are often the sites of art and culture, housing public works of art.
- The Seaside Heritage Network's Bucket and Spade list voted for the favourite seaside attraction.
- For the full list: <https://seasideheritage.org.uk/bucket-spade-list/>

Presentation: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities - Dr Anya Chapman – Bournemouth University

Summary: An overview of the issues and challenges facing Seaside Heritage and opportunities to raise the profile of this unique and special heritage

Notes:

- Transport, industry, science and war all considered as heritage, but seaside heritage is often forgotten.
- Seaside heritage is not as highly valued as other forms of British heritage.
- Conservation authorities have paid very little attention to the architecture of seaside heritage.
- These valuable forms of heritage also fall below the radar of statutory protection for heritage, with much lost to demolition or decay.
- There are no funding streams open to private/commercial owners of piers and many require significant investment to be maintained.
- Funding challenges also extend to public sector ownership.
- Withdrawal of coastal specific funding by the Coastal Communities Fund and Coastal Revival Fund has reduced access to the funding required.
- Nostalgia for seaside heritage has become more apparent over the last decade and is part of the enduring appeals of seaside resorts.
- Little coverage of the more positive stories which needs to change.
- Awareness campaigns such as the Pier Society, RNLI bi-centenary, England's Coast Path & Year of the Coast 2023.
- The British seaside invented the modern seaside holiday – it would be great to get British resorts recognised as world heritage sites to put their significance on the international stage.

Discussion points

- Local authorities finding it difficult to access funding, especially now that the previous Coastal Communities Fund has been absorbed into a broader fund that does not just cover the coast.
- The higher up the heritage food chain you are the more likely you are to get funding. Seaside heritage needs recognition to get on to the radar of funding streams. New blood/advocates and funding needed.
There is a need for a seaside equivalent of the Town Deal for heritage/seaside action zones which could lead to Leveraging private sector investment off the back of this type of funding.
- Investment needs to be more holistic raising up in the whole area rather than specific sections that can cause certain streets to be left to decay.
- A coastal version of the Rural shared prosperity fund would be supportive that also considered the impacts of climate change on assets and buildings.
- Nature of coastal climate means often windows or doors need to be replaced – which (if replaced after 1850) means it is a lot harder to get these buildings listed.
- There is an importance of getting seaside heritage recognised to put the coast on the international tourist map and recognised for its significance. Push seaside heritage and getting a seaside resort as a world heritage site but there are also difficulties around this title.
- Recognition would help with the maintenance of buildings as a whole rather than just the bottom floors which would make better use of seaside

- housing stock as it would open up the potential for using whole buildings.
- Not all private ownership piers are struggling but many have difficulties with substructures (infrastructure, not commercial enterprise) due to lack of regular investment. Grant funding pots for churches, perhaps something similar needed for piers.
- RNLI – 200 years old on 4th March 2024. 200 voices podcast. 1st August 2024 – capturing one moment, one crew photos (crews and their local communities) <https://rnli.org/about-us/our-history/2024>

Speaker biographies:

Dr Allan Brodie – Bournemouth University and formerly Historic England

Allan is the author of England's Seaside Resorts (2007), The Seafront (2018) and England's Seaside Heritage from the Air (2021), as well as books on Margate (2007), Weymouth (2008), Blackpool (2014) and Weston-Super-Mare (2019). He has also written Tourism and the Changing Face of the British Isles (2019) as well as books on England's prisons and the military defences of Scilly. He has written papers on historic sites ranging from a Roman fort to a 1930s airport.

Dr Anya Chapman – Bournemouth University, Seaside Heritage Network and National Piers Society

Dr Anya Chapman is a Principal Academic in Tourism Management at Bournemouth University. Her research specialisms include tourism policy, regeneration of visitor attractions and destinations, tourism and hospitality employment, and heritage visitor attractions. Anya is specifically interested in mature coastal destinations and has served as a trustee and director of the National Piers Society, as an academic panel member for the Blackpool 'Showtown' project and is a founder member of the Seaside Heritage Network.

Other experts present to support the discussion:

- Kathryn Ferry - historian specialising in Seaside Culture and Seaside Heritage Network
- Dr Duncan Light - Principal Academic and Seaside Heritage Network
- Samantha Richardson MBE – National Coastal Tourism Academy Director
- Ross Macleod – RNLI

2024 update

1. DCMS Online Meeting with Lord Parkinson, 29 November 2023

The Seaside Heritage Network (SHN) had an online meeting with Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Libraries and DCMS Lords Minister. This meeting covered similar issues and recommendations discussed with the APPG on 12 September 2023.

SHN suggested the creation of a series of Seaside Heritage Action Zones. This initiative would build on the success of the Heritage Action Zones and High Street Heritage Action

Zones (<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/>). These were: 'designed to unleash the power of the historic environment, creating conditions for economic growth and improving the quality of life in villages, towns and cities across England.'

We are pleased that Lord Parkinson has decided to act immediately on this proposal. On 7 March 2024, he announced that:

'I'm delighted to announce that we will soon be launching a dedicated fund to support enhancements to our seaside heritage, drawing on the successes of recent programmes like the High Streets Heritage Action Zones, to help protect and rejuvenate coastal assets which are in need of love and attention.'

SHN has a meeting scheduled on 1 May with DCMS to discuss future participation in this initiative.

The discussion with Lord Parkinson also focussed on raising the recognition of the heritage of the seaside holiday and improving its protection. To achieve this, SHN suggested revising heritage protection criteria to better recognise the Victorian and later heritage assets that make Britain's seaside resorts special. To further increase recognition, SHN also proposed that the British seaside was of sufficient significance to consider placing it on the United Kingdom's tentative list for inscription as a World Heritage site. DCMS offered to put the SHN in contact with relevant staff members.

(<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/?action=listtentative&state=gb&order=state>)

2. Seaside Heritage Network Programme

The Seaside Heritage Network has been continuing its programme of online seminars (<https://seasideheritage.org.uk/events/past-events/>).

Future events scheduled are:

The Celtic Seaside on 15 May 2024 (<https://seasideheritage.org.uk/events/upcoming-events/the-celtic-seaside>)

Seaside Swimming on 10 July 2024 (<https://seasideheritage.org.uk/events/upcoming-events/seaside-swimming>).

SHN has also announced the next in-person event to be held at the Plaza Cinema at Weston-Super-Mare on 16 September 2024. The event is being supported by Merlin Cinemas and North Somerset Council and will feature a conversation with Paul Doe, the author of 'From a bag of chips to cod confit: a tour of twenty English seaside resorts. There will also be an update on progress at Birnbeck Pier and a Punch and Judy show and conversation with Professor Joe from Swanage.

3. Promoting the Heritage of the Seaside

Members of the organising committee of the Seaside Heritage Network are collaborating on the creation of an Art Deco walking trail of Bournemouth funded by Bournemouth University and the Regional Innovation Fund. This will be launched in time for the summer season, and it is hoped that this will be a model for similar trails on various themes at other resorts.



Pledge for the Coast

Tuesday 17 October 2023 (Parliamentary event)

Room U, Portcullis House

Host: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Co-secretariat representative: Beccy MacDonald-Lofts, LGA Coastal SIG/OneCoast

Call for a dedicated Minister for the Coast

Our coastline is a spectacular and amazing place, home to some of our most special wildlife and traditional seaside towns but also a place that has received much pessimism in recent months despite the Year of the Coast 2023 campaign that has showcased how much our coastal regions have to offer. Following the many calls from the APPG for Coastal Communities for a dedicated Minister for the Coast, an opportunity arose through the OneCoast Coalition's new Campaign *Pledge for the Coast* to raise awareness of this ask across political parties.



"As the MP for Hastings and Rye, I know first-hand how incredible our coast and coastal communities are and how important it is for us to ensure that they receive the right support and focus. I am proud to be the Chair for the APPG for Coastal Communities, and of the work that we have achieved together in highlighting coastal communities.

By working with other likeminded MPs, supported by our co-secretariat, we have been able to deliver a coastal inquiry like no other, and we focus on delivering actions after every session that we hold. Through all our sessions there is one common call from MPs and other organisations, that is for a dedicated Minister for the Coast who can bring together all the actions which need to be delivered in order to unleash the potential of our coastal communities, so that rather than be a problem to solve, they become a resource to the U.K.

I'm delighted to be able to support the Pledge for the Coast initiative at the in-Parliament event and as an MP I am pledging my continued support for the APPG, which has written a letter to all party leaders, calling for a dedicated Minister to be added to their Manifestos." Sally-Ann Hart MP for Hastings & Rye, Chair of the APPG for Coastal Communities

The letter has been signed by cross-party MPs from the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Green Party, supported by the OneCoast Coalition, and a number of other organisations and councils as follows:

Dear XX,

I am writing to you today in my capacity as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Coastal Communities. Our group seeks to raise awareness of the issues and challenges faced by these unique communities and bring about action through the delivery of innovative and meaningful solutions via Whitehall to make these communities resilient and thriving. Through the Coastal Inquiry that we have been delivering over the past 18 months, we have heard from many experts who have raised many actions including:

- Improved metrics to show the true picture of challenges faced by these communities and the differing impact of these on each as one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate.
- Training and education offering needs to become flexible and adaptable to the communities to enable economic growth and resilience.
- Long-term funding to support communities on the frontline of climate change to enable adaptation and community roll-back and emergency resilience plans.
- Changes to the housing and holiday-let offering to enable coastal communities to become thriving communities once more.
- Coastal communities want to become investable but need an initial means-based fund to support this ask.
- Recognition of the true economic value of the tourism industry and support to moving this from a seasonal to year-round offering.

The challenges faced by these communities are complex, and there are many organisations and local authorities well versed in how meaningful change can be implemented, however they are all clear that Government, whichever party that should be, must recognise the environmental and economic threats to coastal communities and that to enable the coherent delivery of solutions they must have a dedicated **Minister for the Coast** who has oversight and understanding of all the challenges and opportunities.

The recent review of the report by the House of Lords Regenerating Seaside Towns and Committees also raised the need for the dedicated Minister for the Coast and to support this ask, the collaborative *Communities on the Edge* report delivers clearly the challenges and numerous opportunities these communities offer should a holistic approach to them be taken.

Therefore, I, and all those signatories below, call on all parties to add a pledge a Whitehall Minister for the Coast to show your commitment to these economically and culturally valuable communities.

Yours sincerely



Sally-Ann Hart MP

Supported by:

E. Sewell-Buck

Emma Lewell-Buck MP
Member of Parliament for
South Shields



Desmond Swayne

**Rt Hon Sir Desmond
Swayne TD MP**



Tim Farron

Tim Farron MP
Member of Parliament
for Westmorland and
Lonsdale

Conor Burns

**The Rt. Hon. Sir Conor
Burns MP**
Member of Parliament
for Bournemouth West

Tim Loughton
Member of
Parliament for
East Worthing &
Shoreham

Brandon Lewis

Rt. Hon. Brandon Lewis
CBE MP
Member of Parliament for
Great Yarmouth

Caroline Lucas

Caroline Lucas MP
Brighton Pavilion



Martin Vickers

Martin Vickers MP
Member of Parliament for
the Cleethorpes
Constituency

Kate Osborne

Kate Osborne MP
Member of Parliament for
the Jarrow constituency



Duncan Baker

Duncan Baker MP
Member of Parliament
for North Norfolk

Tobias Ellwood

Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair of the Defence Committee

Tom McNally
Rt Hon Lord McNally

Ralph Lucas
House of Lords

Councillor Ernest Gibson
Chair, LGA Coastal SIG



Amy Pryor
Executive lead, Coastal
Partnerships Network



Nicola Radford

Chair, Coastal Communities
Alliance



Samantha Richardson MBE
Academy Director,
National Coastal Tourism
Academy



Councillor David Thomas, Leader,
Torbay Council

Councillor Chris Lewis, Deputy
Leader, Torbay Council

Anne-Marie Bond, Chief Executive,
Torbay Council



Julian Gray,
Director SW Coast Path
Association



Liz Gibney

Chair Kent and Medway
Economic Partnership
and Chair SELEP Coastal
Communities Group

Councillor Louise McKinlay
Deputy Leader of Essex
County Council



Councillor Keith Stevens
Chair, National Association
of Local Councils



Brian Horton

Chair of the Margate
Town Deal Board.

Cllr Giles Archibald, Cabinet
Member and Portfolio Holder
for Climate and Nature at
Westmorland and Furness
Council



Councillor Colin Davie
Executive Councillor
Economic Development,
Environment and Planning
Lincolnshire County Council



Councillor Peter Schwier
Cabinet member - Climate
Czar, Environment, Waste
Reduction and Recycling,
Essex County Council





In addition, the following support has also been pledged:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne Handley'.

Cllr Anne Handley
Leader of the Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council



In response, the following letter was received by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak along with correspondence from other political parties acknowledging the letter and the importance of coastal communities:



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

20 December 2023

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Sally,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October requesting a dedicated Minister for the Coast. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

As we set out in the Levelling Up White Paper, the Government is committed to levelling up the whole of the UK, in order to raise living standards and spread prosperity across the country in all kinds of communities.

As detailed in the response to the follow-up report of the Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities published on 21 July, the Government believes that levelling up requires a broad, holistic approach which allows interventions to be efficiently and effectively targeted at the places with greatest need, regardless of where they are.

We have robust, cross-departmental governance of our levelling up agenda. This includes levelling up different places and types of places right across the country. We have also established a delivery framework providing clear lines of accountability and facilitating interdepartmental cooperation. This will be further solidified by the passage of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

The Government does not believe establishing a separate and specific structure focusing solely on coastal communities would represent an effective use of resources or be the best approach to improving those communities. However, the broader focus of levelling up policy does recognise the particular challenges facing certain types of community, such as coastal or seaside towns. This is why 'coastal communities' tops the list of responsibilities held by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Levelling Up.

Thank you, once again, for writing to me. I would be grateful if you could forward this response to your Parliamentary co-signatories.

Yours sincerely,
Rishi Sunak

Ms Sally-Ann Hart MP

Historic Coastal Landfill

Tuesday 14 November 2023 11:00-12:00 (Parliamentary briefing –online)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Beccy MacDonald-Lofts – Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG), Lead Officer

Mark Stratton – LGA Coastal SIG Officer Lead for Historic Coastal Landfill, Coastal Group Network Call to Arms theme lead and Environment & Research Team Service Manager at Coastal Partners

Professor Kate Spencer - Professor of Environmental Geochemistry, Queen Mary University of London

Professor Adam Jarvis – Professor of Hydrogeochemical Engineering, Newcastle University

Background

Our coastal and estuarine fringes were once considered as a suitable location to dispose of our waste leaving a legacy of landfill waste. Now these sites are, like coastal communities, on the frontline of climate change and are at increased risk of inundation by flooding and exposure through coastal erosion. Coastal local authorities, and other organisations, have inherited these sites, and with no direct funding mechanism to support removal or defence, there is great concern over the environmental, health and social impact that these sites pose today and into the future.

Headlines & Actions

1. Action - Secretariat to find out on the models being delivered in Belgium and France.
2. A national prioritisation of sites review is needed along with a sustainable funding route to enable works to remediate and protect the most vulnerable sites.
3. We do not currently understand the impact that historical coastal landfill sites are having on people or nature today or in the future.

Presentation: Introduction to session – Beccy MacDonald-Lofts, LGA Coastal SIG

Summary: A brief introduction and background to the session.

Notes:

- Coastal communities are on the frontline of climate change, making them vulnerable to increased storminess, erosion and flooding.
- Many historic coastal landfill sites have been identified and considered the responsibility of coastal local authorities who have inherited them.
- Coastal landfill sites are at risk of erosion and inundation meaning that they present a significant risk to people and nature.
- No current funding route available to support addressing the issue.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Review the report released by the LGA Coastal SIG on the perspective of coastal local authorities. Available here: [Coastal Landfill Working Group – LGA Coastal SIG](#)

Presentation: Historic Coastal Landfill: A need for change – Mark Stratton, LGA Coastal SIG/ Coastal Group Network/ Coastal Partners

Summary: The issue of coastal landfills at the coast and risks being faced in light of climate change, lack of funding availability to deal with the challenge and the risks associated with not acting to try and improve the current situation. Mark will highlight the scale of the challenge both at a regional and national level whilst briefly talking about the recent work undertaken by the LGA Coastal SIG.

Notes:

- Background – prior to WW1 domestic waste was mostly burnt or recycled.
- Coastal areas seen as waste land so controlled tipping was introduced in the 1920's. WWII bomb damage was added to these tips and thin layers were added to enable these areas to be used as recreational spaces.
- Little regulation was in place during this time so there are very little records.
- This is a UK wider issue with ~1400 at risk of coastal flooding and/or erosion in England.
- Most severe issue in central southern England due to the higher population and industrial history, and considerable areas of saltmarsh used for tipping. These areas are now extensively designated.
- Historic coastal landfill sites have been inherited by local authorities and contents often unknown, so the risks of potential impacts are also unknown.
- There are significant funding challenges with policy overlapping between Defra and DLUHC.
- With no maintenance budgets for LAs there are failing defences where they exist for these sites and LAs cannot obtain funding through Grant in Aid for maintenance like the Environment Agency.
- Significant risk of environmental disaster and human health impacts, particularly as climate change is increasing the storm impacts to these areas.
- The Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group has a membership of 57 coastal local authorities and a working group focused on the issue of historic coastal landfill.
- In 2022, the LGA Coastal SIG surveyed its members to gain evidence to support their understanding of the current situation with coastal landfill and further understand the challenges faced by local authorities.
- The LGA Coastal SIG is calling for changes to the funding formula to allow LAs to access funds to protect, remediate and maintain these sites.
- The call for support has been ongoing since the issue was first highlighted in 2010. Since then, there has been considerable university-led research along with research by the Coastal Group Network through their Call to Arms on the issue which began in 2020.
- Policy exists within the 25-year Environment Plan, Defra FCERM Policy Statement, National FCERM Strategy and Environmental Net Gain Targets yet there is still no funding solution for this collective issue.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. There needs to be governmental recognition of the issue of historic coastal landfill with a fully funded strategy to address the issue before there is an environmental or public health disaster.

Presentation: Historic Coastal Landfill: Consequences for communities and coastal environments - Prof. Kate Spencer, Queen Mary University of London

Summary: An overview of the scale of the problem in the UK and potential solutions and outline the potential consequences for coastal communities who live near coastal waste and coastal environments where waste is released.

Notes:

- Needs to be consensus on how to deal with the issue.
- Why have this waste there - coastal land highly undervalued, believed that any waste would be dispersed along poor understanding of climate change.
- All work has been co-published and developed - even if waste has been buried for decades, the pollutants will be released including chemicals, pollutants and micropollutants.
- Work on erosion of sites - being a much more significant threat. Pending human health impacts, acute human and environmental health problems including asbestos and medical waste.
- Pollution we can't see is a bigger issue. Removing visual litter is one thing but there are very different pollution profile and if these sites erode then we will see levels of pollution that could cause harm to people and the environment.
- Coastal communities on the forefront of this problem - impeding environmental disaster. Fox River NZ, 130000 waste released, £3million clean-up bill, damaging fisheries and tourism.
- Solutions - identifying the sites, prioritisation of sites and developing a list of risk. Used free and available data - map shown giving a regional approach giving a relative scoring, cross-risked against sites that are eroding. One has the info, could choose to do nothing if releasing low risk and inert waste, might want to remove and reuse waste to get resource and energy from these sites, remove/remediate waste or break the pathways to erosion through solutions such as Nature-based Solutions.
- Policy & research gaps - understand impacts on coastal environments and communities; need methodologies that can be used by all interested parties; our waste legacy is an intergenerational burden.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Need methodologies to be available that can be used by all interested parties.

Presentation: Legacy wastes in the coastal zone: Evaluating environmental risks across waste types – Prof. Adam Jarvis, Newcastle University

Summary: Covering the findings to date, and ongoing work, of a NERC-funded research project investigating 'Legacy wastes in the coastal zone: Environmental Risks and Management Futures'. The overall aim of the research is to take a coordinated approach to comprehensively investigate the spatial extent, characteristics, and physical and

biogeochemical behaviour of municipal and industrial legacy wastes, in order to then evaluate both (a) the environmental risks and impacts of solid wastes in coastal zones, both now and in future climate change scenarios and (b) the most appropriate management policies and interventions to address these risks. The project includes consideration of all types of legacy waste; municipal waste, mine wastes, steel industry by-products, metal-rich wastes from smelting and chemical process wastes. A coordinated approach has been taken to assess the national scale of problems, the results of which will be shown in the presentation, as will findings of ongoing research investigating in detail the nature and environmental risk of some of the high priority wastes. Further information at:

<https://research.ncl.ac.uk/legacywastes/>

Notes:

- Project on legacy waste in the coastal zone funded by NERC started in 2020 with a large group of partners who are helping to guide the work delivered.
- Aim to taking a coordinated approach to consider the environmental risks of solid wastes - look nationally. Hoping it will inform remedial interventions at these high priority sites.
- National scale assessment undertaken of these sites - protected and undefended - based on a source-pathway receptor approach. Looking at the pathway of pollutant release and looking at the impacts that these could have on habitat designations, bathing waters etc and scored sites on this creating an overall risk score.
- Graphs showing waste management status against waste type - showing scale and distribution of these issues.
- Enabled priority of these sites based on this approach enabling the long list of sites into a ranked list as a starting point of where funding should be focused.
- From this are now looking at some of these high priority sites and considered the source of these problems and the hazard that they present. There is a lot of variability of contamination between waste sites and waste types - must be done on a case-by-case basis.
- Projects run until July 2024 - 7/8 months to go and will be updating the methodology and extending it to Scotland. Thinking about sites not as protected and not protected but also failing defences, must also consider the amenity of these sites including the amount of footfall at these as recreational areas yet there is a possible impact on human health.
- Keen to share with stakeholders who are involved in dealing with these issues on the ground.

Discussion points

Question: how can leachate in the attenuation zones be addressed?

- There are two issues, the first is chemical leaching as wasn't considered to be a priority as these get dispersed and diluted. The second is the material that looks like beach sediment but can be highly polluted. SE sites where landowners will clean the visible waste but the sediment that is left behind is the issues.
- Need to look forward as how we stop this from happening. If only have sites that are high risk, then if we can't remove a lot of this waste then need to break the pathways such as bioremediation and Nature-based Solutions or technologies - this can be cheaper than placing funding in barriers.
- Main concern is that this is happening in sites that people interact with as they are fascinated by it but are also being

encouraged to interact with highly polluted materials.

Question: There are 1400 sites - would each site need a plan?

- A blanket policy would be no good. It is an intergenerational burden and there are a lot of sites that we need to accept that they will be exposed but are inert.
- Need to work with communities to see which sites are those that need to be focused on.
- Need to understand which sites are those that need to be prioritised and will have different approaches - waste there, where is it, is it feasible, how does it interact with designated sites/people.
- In a lot of areas there are a lot of sites that have got plans – Shoreline Management Plans - and then subsequent Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management strategies that are trying to design some of these structures but if can use more environmental based approaches then should do. Difficulty around urbanisation.

Question: When looking at government funding, what type is needed?

- The FCERM Grant in Aid needed.
- Parallels that we can draw from Contaminated Land funding where there are centralised funds but don't know the scale of the problem as still gathering this information.
- France & Belgium are far ahead in terms of doing the national assessments and France has a pledge to deal with these sites on a case-by-case basis.
- Need financial central government backing. Not beyond the realms of possibility that one of these sites will become like the disaster in New Zealand.

- Sub question - why so much unprotected in Northumberland - AJ - Seaham blast beach, coal waste retreated by 2m in the weekend of Storm Babet with high concentration of metals. Concerned over what the impact of this will be and that we do not know.
- Precedents for this in the UK - coal authority has a rolling programme for dealing with waste mine waters and have uncertain liabilities as orphan sites. Very similar central government funding through a competent authority. Don't often hear about this - now in the environmental regulations. Looking across waste nationally, there needs to local knowledge.

Question - who would be a body that could take national authority?

- EA would be the ones however it is very much seen as a local authority issue.
- Problem with the funding formula.
- Moral and economic issue.
- Very challenging situation and there are areas where we need to act now.
- Completely agree that need a nationally coordinated approach. Mine water scheme - started with prioritisation list but when it came to implementing it, other things came into consideration around local issues.
- Need to also have a greater understanding of funding issue and who bears responsibility - the polluters relinquished their responsibility in the past and now the landowners are not the ones who caused the issue causing tensions and blocks progress. There are difficulties to investigate some sites as people don't want to take responsibility.
- Not having the solid defences is very important to allow succession to happen.

Speaker biographies:

Beccy MacDonald-Lofts – Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group, Lead Officer

The Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG) has a membership of 57 coastal councils, covering ~60% of England's coastline and serving 16 million people. We champion for the collective interests of coastal communities by increasing awareness and debate on environmental, economic, and social issues at all levels in relation to the coast. The LGA Coastal SIG, in collaboration with Coastal Group Network, delivered a recent report on Coastal Landfill from a local authority perspective: [Coastal Landfill Working Group – LGA Coastal SIG](#)

[Mark Stratton – Officer Lead on Coastal Landfill for LGA Coastal SIG, Call to Arms Theme Lead for Coastal Group Network and Coastal Policy, Environment & Research Team Service Manager at Coastal Partners](#)

Mark is specialist in the broad field of FCERM, working at a partnership between 5 Local Authorities on the South Coast of the UK who have joined together in recognition of the fact that coastal process and marine issues are not exclusive to political boundaries. Mark has over 17 years' experience in the sector and has worked with a broad range of organisations both within the UK and mainland Europe. Mark is the LGA SIG lead officer for coastal Landfill and has been highlighting the challenges surrounding this topic for many years including through the Scopac research landfills study: <https://southerncoastalgroup-scopac.org.uk/scopac-research/scopac-landfills-study/>

[Professor Kate Spencer – Queen Mary University of London – Professor of Environmental Geochemistry](#)

Kate is a coastal scientist with expertise across environmental pollution, climate change and coastal environments. She has been at the forefront of research into the intersecting risk of climate change, coastal historic landfills and pollution release for >10 years. She first identified the scale of the national problem (Brand et al. 2017, 10.1002/wat2.1264), identified pollution hazards (Brand and Spencer 2020a and b, 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.138150, 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2019.06.017) and proposed novel methodologies to assess sites (Brand and Spencer 2018, Smith et al, 2023 10.1139/anc-2018-0001). Her work has helped set the UK research agenda (CIRIA, 2020) and significantly raised the national profile of the issue (BBC Countryfile, BBC4 Secret Life of Landfill, BBC The One Show, BBC Panorama, BBCR4 File on Four, BBCR4 Costing the Earth). Her work has been funded by the EU, NERC, the Environment Agency and local authorities.

[Professor Adam Jarvis – Newcastle University - Professor of Hydrogeochemical Engineering](#)

Adam is Professor of Hydrogeochemical Engineering at Newcastle University. He has ~ 25 years of experience in both research and industry. He is a leading expert in the assessment of pollution sources and dynamics at the river basin scale and the development of low-cost treatment technologies for pervasive waste streams, particularly in the mining and metallurgical sector. He has led many high-profile industry / regulator funded mining pollution R&D investigations in the UK, including investigations of river basin scale impacts of polluted sediment and metals, and novel mine water treatment options and remediation. He also led the Defra assessment (2007 – 2009) of the scale of metal mining pollution

across England and Wales, the outputs of which identified key priorities for mine water management nationally. He currently leads a major NERC research project investigating the nature, impacts and remediation of legacy wastes in the coastal zone, which will be the subject of his presentation.



Coastal Deprivation

Tuesday 5 December 2023 10:00-11:00 Parliamentary briefing – (online)

In collaboration with Southeast Local Enterprise Partnership

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Ian Treasure - Changing Futures Lancashire (Blackburn with Darwen Council)- Programme Manager

Joanna Young – Lancaster Citizens Advice – CEO

Dave Higham – The Well Communities – Founder & CEO

John Holstrom – Turning Tides - CEO

Background

Coastal communities across the UK have long been recognised as being disproportionately impacted by deprivation resulting from a complex combination of factors. The true level of deprivation is often missed through a lack of granularity of metrics as the size of those wards most impacted are often overshadowed by their more affluent neighbours. In this session, we seek to hear the views of those working at grassroots levels to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced and potential solutions.

Headlines & Actions

1. Action: Call for a dedicated Coastal Minister.
2. Action: Call for a coastal strategy linking up to levelling up partnerships.
3. Need to review the current situation to see how to improve existing housing stock including private rentals and fuel poverty particularly for owner occupiers etc.
4. Action: Organise cross-APPG collaborative session with APPG for Left-behind Neighbourhoods to discuss housing situation and complexities for coastal communities.

Presentation: Introduction to session – Ian Treasure, Changing Futures Lancashire

Summary: A brief introduction and background on how the grass roots coastal communities work began, and what we have learned.

Notes:

- Ian is part of a Coastal Communities Working Group set up as a result of Fulfilling Lives fund – this is a national network of coastal communities, the collective experience of what works to tackle multiple disadvantage.
- Southend and Blackpool are partnered as [Fulfilling Lives project](#) that seeks to help the most disadvantaged in our communities including those with multiple disadvantages including addiction, mental health and physical health challenge.
- If we co-produce programmes they are much better outcomes.
- Designing things with communities and ensuring continued engagement.
- All speakers help build the evidence base through information sharing. We have proven that if we can share information about people rather than continued reassessment of their needs

then they are more likely to come back when first contact is positive.

- Comparative area with Blackpool is Southend on sea.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Needs to be a recognition by Parliamentarians of the complexities of disadvantage and a push towards collaborative working to support people and their communities.
2. The APPG for Coastal Communities should continue to collaborate with the Coastal Communities Working Group as they can act as an informer and enabler around coastal disadvantage.

Presentation: Delivering advice in a Coastal Community: how deep deprivation affects our work - Joanna Young, Citizens Advice North Lancashire

Summary: Delivering advice in a Coastal Community: how deep deprivation affects our work

Notes:

- Focus on Morecambe.
- Vibrant communities but contains pockets of severe deprivation surrounded by more affluent areas with masks the depth of deprivation in Morecambe. Some of these deprived areas are in highest deprivation bracket in country.
- Deprivation comes with poor health, low rental availability, low educational attainment, and not enough money.
- Often encounter single people moving there with arrears and requests for housing/utility bill help etc.
- The area struggles to retain Social Workers and GPs.
- Sharp increase in evictions /homelessness/poor housing /damp/ landlords not taking action.
- Many occupying caravans and struggling pay gas over winter.
- The Eden Project is raising concern about available units to rent as they are being converted to more Airbnbs etc.
- Proportion of clients are working aged people with 64% of our total clients in the last 4 months were disabled etc.
- We look at how can our work make a difference.
- There is a level of complexity of working with individuals with such complex issues including poor access to transport/food and rising evictions.
- Lots more case work in supporting and providing ongoing advocacy to avoid retraumatising people.
- NHS recognises that people can't get better if they are living in poverty. Working with Bay Medical Group – focus on 3 areas of highest health needs. Where funding makes it possible, they are looking to move away from light touch/advice offering to a more 1-2-1 interaction/provision so patients can have confidence to move forward.

Presentation: Healing our communities – Dave Higham, The Well Communities

Summary: *Healing our communities:* Dave will talk about how if we do not make our communities a safe place to live for everyone, people will always have a need for services.

Notes:

- Dave outlined his background where he explained that he set up The Well in
- 2012 after spending 25 years in and out of prison.

- The Well are a grass roots organisation with lived experience.
- This works using a hub and spoke model; whole system approach, working with a number of different partners with lived experience at the heart of the organisations that we work with such as on police/county lines and with GP surgeries.
- As an open social enterprise/social supermarket can work 7 days a week via an online platform that enables us to change and make our communities a better place.
- Visual metaphor given: if we don't save this plant the plant is going to die. Plant must have fertilised soil to be nourished and grow. If we take the plant away, nourish it to be the best it can be and then put the plant straight back to where they came from, we often wonder why it then dies. This is the cycle of people returning to crime and other such behaviours when they are placed back into the community from which they came.
- We need their recovery/mental health to be sustained in their home environment and therefore need to create visible recovery of the communities themselves.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Need to change our approach to recovery, from one that solely focuses on the individual to focusing on both them and their community.

Presentation: How homelessness sector aids the regeneration of Sussex coastal communities through transforming lives – John Holstrom, Turning Tides

Summary: How homelessness sector aids the regeneration of Sussex coastal communities through transforming lives.

Notes:

- Sussex [Turning Tides](#) homelessness charity.
- Area has large private rented sectors but many grotty bedsits and below average levels of social housing.
- Charity is 30 years old.
- We were offered a former nursing home for 5 years free of charge. Then able to open 35 bed high support hostel that has allowed us to reduce rough sleeping from 35 to 15 and have consistently held at this level since.
- Were able to gain unanimous planning permission as the project is co-produced with our communities.
- 80% of people we work with are local.
- We seek to transform lives. We are there for the distance.
- Our journey has made us very aware of how the many different systems don't work well together. Health system can be quite hard to engage.
- There is not enough long-term sustainable funding to build strong projects.
- We can help get resources in to work with local authorities and help deliver tenders for rough sleeping. Coastal communities have long standing relationships with their local authorities. They are well placed to help but do not have the resources to do so.

Discussion points:

- Opportunity through Levelling Up partnerships and DLUHC to work collaboratively with homelessness charities.

- Very meaningful presentations enabling a sense of the deep understanding of what coastal communities need.
- We have post-industrial decline and there are interests in the causation correlation and the nurture vs nature perspectives.
- Action: Request for information around midwifery and bringing new parents into nature.
- The Eden Curriculum has been developed in Morecombe Bay to take a journey from birth to post-university to try get coastal communities to engage with nature.
- The Poverty Truth Commission found that young peoples don't go to the promenade and beach as they don't think it's for them.
- If there is deprivation in childhood, then people are 80% more likely to face it in adulthood. Have found that easy to engage young people in school but very difficult to reach those young people who are not going to school and instead spend their time on the streets etc. These are the young people who end up in the criminal justice statistics and in the juvenile services.
- DLUHC fund the Changing Futures programme who work with lots of young people who end up in and out of prison.
- People with lived experience are the golden key and are at the heart of design and evaluation.
- Coastal Futures are doing a deep dive evaluation from 300 of our Lancashire beneficiaries to determine outcomes as these are important to get more funding.
- Since covid many organisations have been slower getting back to face-to-face meets.
- There should be a duplication of current work with a hub and for any solution there needs to be consideration of the pressures already being placed on local authorities.
- Financial support to allocate time to this is needed and the assets really lie within 3rd sector organisations and lived experience organisations. Key is to use the assets that already sit within the communities.
- Local plan/asset management plans integrated with housing and homelessness strategy could be a way to make a more holistic approach going forwards.
- LAs need to have a holistic local plan that looks to build right the right types of homes in the right places e.g., affordable homes/social rentals.
- Energy costs are causing issues so provision help with energy costs would give vital support. Owner occupiers also struggling with energy costs. Biggest limitation is short term funding and need this to change to long term provision to create hubs that can provide support where needed.
- Commendation of the co-production and co-creation of the projects highlighted through this session. Need to consider how to let councils to release control to those with better understanding to determine the outcomes as it is more beneficial to co-design and co-produce the programme with those who have gone through it.
- Young people interviewing own peer group provide the most informative recommendations.
- The Social Housing Regulations Act should improve the quality of social housing, but it doesn't necessarily do so. Coastal communities have a difficult private rental market.
- Look to an improving homes home hub model.
- Around 10 million people in England live in home that is at risk to their health. There are health disparities in our coastal communities.
- Centre for ageing may be a better approach as a one-stop-shop homes hub to find where get grants for insulation etc. There is a need to have a closer in-depth look at this and examples of best practice. projects such as the Changing Futures programme however the biggest

benefactors are the CJS and NHS System, but both are very stretched.

- More advice that can be provided in an accessible way to those who need it will maximise their housing options as well as understanding what the needs are of those buyers on low income.
 - Charities/NGOs are having to work with what they have and post covid they understand of these areas but also to work collaboratively and involve the wider community including employers and consider ways to reach out to those hard-to-reach groups.
 - Sharing best practise is essential for progress.
 - There are lots third sector organisations doing work in this area however an
- asset map to highlight who is doing what and where would be beneficial.
 - There is significant interest from coastal communities to replicate Call for a dedicated coastal minister and confirmation that Jacob Young MP has coastal communities within his Ministerial portfolio.
 - Government need raised a more dedicated and strategic overview of coastal communities. There is a need to focus on raising awareness of the opportunities they present as currently there is a tendency to focus on the negatives.
 - Lack of a strategic policy on coastal communities also causing issues.

Speaker biographies:

[Ian Treasure, Programme Manager, Changing Futures Lancashire \(Blackburn with Darwen Council\)](#)

Ian Treasure has led four large scale change programmes, with the last two (Fulfilling Lives and Changing Futures) focusing on adults experiencing multiple disadvantage, developing the evidence base for what works. Prior to this Ian was a management consultant and has held senior roles in the NHS and Voluntary Sector, focusing on public and patient involvement and coproduction. A registered programme manager, Ian studied Management at Manchester Business School, is an Executive Coach and also an NLP Practitioner.

[Joanna Young, Research and Campaigns Lead, Citizens Advice North Lancashire](#)

Citizens Advice North Lancashire offers advice and support to over 6000 residents across Lancaster District each year, specialising in debt, benefits, housing, employment and other social welfare law issues. Our team of 30 staff and over 50 volunteers offer an independent, impartial, confidential and free service to any resident who needs help. We work in partnership with Macmillan, the Trussell Trust, Morecambe Bay Foodbank, Lancaster City Council, the local NHS and GP surgeries, schools locally and with other charities across the district to ensure that residents get the help they need from the appropriate agency. The impact of our work last year was over £16m to the local district in income gained and costs saved to the public purse.

Previously a marketing professional I moved into the charity sector full time in 2020. I have served as Chair of Trustees at Morecambe Bay Foodbank and a local youth club in Lancaster, and I've been a school governor for over ten years in two schools. I'm a Civic Commissioner at Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission and have recently joined the trustee board of the National Poverty Truth Network. Before becoming CEO, I was head of Research and Campaigns at Citizens Advice North Lancashire.

Dave Higham - Founder & CEO The Well Communities/Founding member for Collage Lived Experience Recovery Organizations (CLERO) / Third Sector executive board member for Cumbria / Board member for combating drugs Lancashire & Cumbria

Dave Higham Founder and CEO Of the Well Communities. Dave established The Well with his own money. In the last five years, The Well has grown to become one of the leading providers of Lived Experience Recovery Organizations in the UK. The Well has now broadened its reach, establishing communities in Cumbria & Lancashire.

Dave Ex PPO and former drug & alcohol addiction and survivor of Trauma, after Spending over 25 years in addiction, and in that time, spent more time in prison than he did in the community. Dave achieved recovery in prison in 2005 and has been a champion of Lived Experience ever since. Dave with other colleagues Set up the CLERO in 2020 uniting and creating a movement, a set of standards and providing a voice for LEROs (Lived Experience Recovery Organizations) across the UK.

John Holstrom, Chief Executive, Turning Tides West Sussex

I have worked the last 40 years in Sussex and its coastal communities in single homelessness organisations. This includes 30 years at BHT Sussex and the last 10 years as CE for West Sussex based charity Turning Tides. My focus has been partnership and alliance building within the sector. For example, I help found and chair the South East Homelessness Forum. I am a trustee of YMCA DLG and the Housing Specialist for Sussex Health and Care Assembly with oversight of health and housing strategy for the ICS. Turning Tides focuses on rough sleepers through a range of supported housing and outreach projects with over 160 staff and 200 regular volunteers. We are community based and see our role to mobilise our local communities to fulfil our mission "To end local homelessness".

2024 update

Members of the informal Coastal Communities Working Group (CCWG) have spoken and are planning another on-line conference later in 2024. Core group members want to reiterate the offer of support to the APPG in being the *ears and eyes* on the ground and to help the coproduction discussed in December happen. We will advise via the APPG secretariat when the conference is agreed, should any MPs wish to be invited as delegates.

Turning the Tide- Addressing Health Inequalities in Coastal Towns through the lens of Employment

Tuesday 23rd January 2024 14:00-15:00 Parliamentary briefing (online)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Dr Ed Garratt OBE (TBC) – Suffolk and North East Essex ICS (NHS)

Dr Jon Bashford - Breaking Barriers Innovations

Background

In the two years since the Chief Medical Officer report on the specific challenges facing population health across our coast there is still no agreed national approach to begin addressing this. The Turning the Tide report was initiated by NHS England and Suffolk and North East Essex (SNEE) ICS to identify the practical steps that the NHS and newly created Integrated Care Systems can take to begin tackling the underlying causes of poor health outcomes in coastal towns.

SNEE have been pioneering a new place-based partnership approach entitled Clacton Place that recognises the significant role good employment and opportunity play in reducing health inequality in Coastal towns. The Clacton Place model focuses on the role the NHS can play as anchor institutions and has achieved concrete post pandemic achievements including prioritising local job seekers into NHS career pathways, working with the University of Essex to establish a new Centre for Coastal Communities and partnering with the local authorities and DWP to ensure new investments such as the Freeport, Community Diagnostics Hub and Clean Energy Sector are built from the local labour market.

NHS England's National Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme recognises the unique challenges facing population health in Coastal communities. Alongside SNEE they have led the Turning the Tide programme to develop an action plan for Integrated Care Systems to take forward.

Breaking Barriers Innovations have been supporting the work in three coastal communities (Clacton, the Isle of Sheppey in Kent and across Dorset ICS) and led the evidence review behind the Turning the Tide programme.

Headlines & Actions:

1. Consideration of a research repository through a one-stop coastal hub.
2. Consideration of the requirements of the Skills and Post-16 Education Act regarding whether it delivers for coastal areas.
3. Approaches for changes to delivery timeframes and funding mechanisms need to be reviewed.

Presentation: Introduction to Turning the Tide: Addressing health inequalities in coastal towns through the lens of employment – Dr Ed Garratt OBE, Suffolk and North East Essex ICS & Dr Jon Bashford, Breaking Barriers Innovations

Summary: Ed will introduce the theme of the NHS and ICS as important anchor institutions in addressing the unique challenges faced by coastal communities. Ed will explain why SNEE ICS has been pioneering new approaches in Clacton and other coastal communities in recent years focusing on the causes of the causes of poor health and why the Turning the Tide report is an important step in moving forward. Dr Bashford will present highlights from the Turning the Tide report focusing on the role of Integrated Care Boards and partner NHS organisations in addressing employment as a key health promotion intervention for coastal communities. This will include the potential for and ICB led Coastal Navigators Network to share best practice and expand models like that developed in Clacton and the Isle of Sheppey.

Notes:

- The perception is that coastal communities have low aspirations and a lower-than-normal level of engagement.
- Coastal sustainability comes through the connections between aspiration, investment and skills, and seasonality.
- The research explored these factors across 4 locations and compared them to the national picture.
- Undertaken between July 2021 and March 2022.
- People who were unemployed were found to be keener to engage than the average.
- Under 35's were generally more positive and welcome training if they are paid to undertake it.
- The main barriers came from the level of support from family and friends with seasonality as a dominant factor.
- Seasonality presents a unique coastal challenge around the opportunities to deliver training and skills programmes.

Recommendations/Actions:

1. Support coastal destinations to develop clear, cohesive visions that will address seasonality.
2. Multi-agency working is essential.
3. Networks to support collaborating need to be rebuilt to make collaboration easy.
4. Targeted approach to skills and training initiatives is needed.
5. Clearer articulation of benefits of training and development to individuals
6. Opportunity for policy change and funding mechanism review of skills
7. Work with DWP and businesses to provide additional support to those returning to work.
8. Review the impact of the VAT threshold on seasonality with further research into the potential benefits of raising the VAT threshold.

Discussion points:

- Layers of education need to come together to make a difference for coastal communities.
- The Skills Act highlighted the importance of lifelong learning however are coastal communities receiving sufficient support.
- Need to find approaches to strengthen community and family support.
- A coastal research repository is needed to collate information in one coastal hub.

Speaker biographies

Dr Ed Garratt OBE Chief Executive– Suffolk and North East Essex ICS (NHS)

Ed is Chief Executive of the NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board and has led the Integrated Care System since 2019. He is a Visiting Professor of Integrated Care at the University of Suffolk (2021-2024) and is a founding member of its Integrated Care Academy. In 2023 he was awarded an OBE in The King's first Birthday Honours List and was appointed as Deputy Lieutenant (DL) for Suffolk.

Ed has worked in the system for over a decade, including leading through the pandemic. He was Chief Executive of the NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk, North East Essex and West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), gaining 'outstanding' ratings in all three CCGs, before they were closed in 2022. Previously he was Deputy Director of Commissioning and Head of Communications and Engagement at NHS East of England.

Ed supports various regional responsibilities such as chairing the East of England Mental Health Board and commissioning the East of England Ambulance Trust. He also sponsors the Essex Anchor Institutions' Network and the Care Tech campus being developed at the University of Essex.

He has worked on major national policy by supporting the development of the NHS Constitution (2009) and the Government's NHS White Paper (2021).

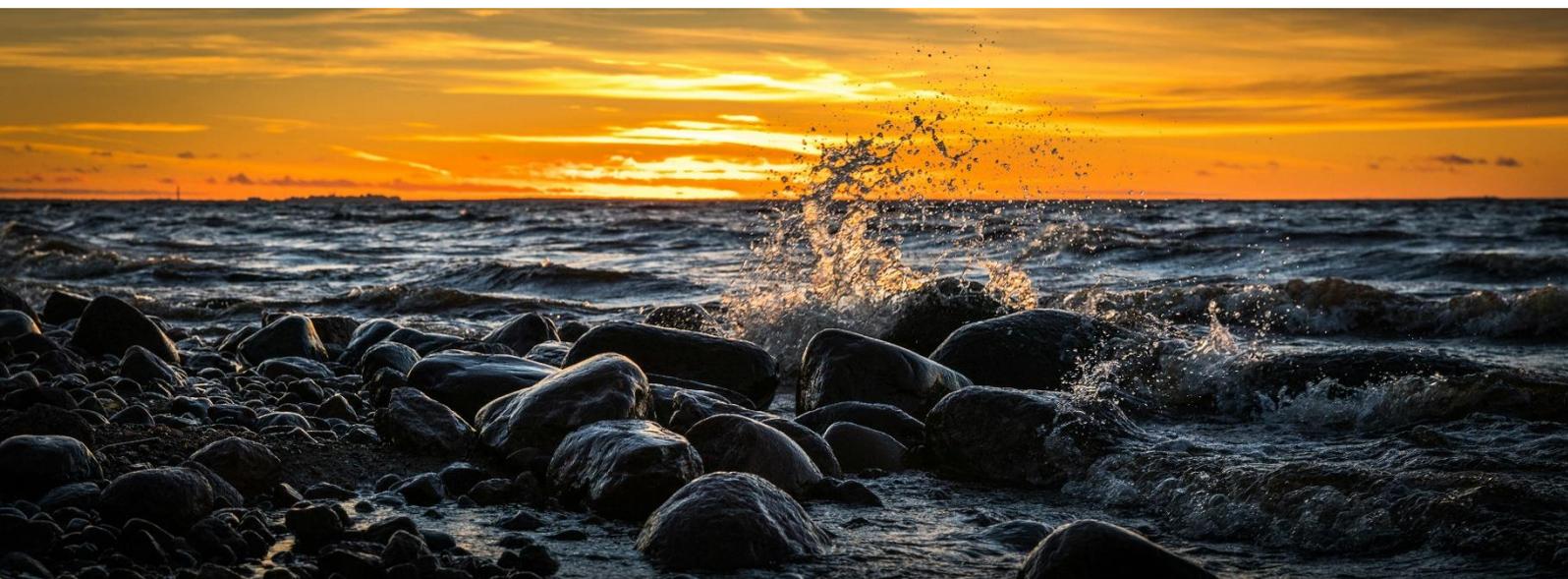
Ed has a published doctorate in English Literature from the University of Cambridge and a first-class degree in History from the University of Sussex.

Dr Jon Bashford, Research Director, Breaking Barriers Innovations

Dr Jon Bashford, Research Director, Breaking Barriers Innovations (www.bbi.uk.com)

Other experts present to support the discussion:

- Nic Werran Partnerships Director of Breaking Barriers Innovations if required for questions only.



Additional session: Maritime UK/OneCoast Coalition Coastal Communities APPG briefing on the levelling-up white paper

Tuesday 23rd January 14:00-15:00 Parliamentary briefing (online)

Chair: Sally-Ann Hart MP

Expert speakers:

Paul Wickes - Cornwall Marine Network

Tim Currass, SMI

Debbie Cavaldoro, Port Skills and Safety

Kevin Forshaw, Maritime UK South West

OneCoast coalition: Nicola Radford, Coastal Communities Alliance
Beccy MacDonald-Lofts, Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group

Amy Pryor, Coastal Partnerships Network

Samantha Richardson MBE, [National Coastal Tourism Academy](#)

Background to the Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto

In September, Maritime UK and the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG) published the '[Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto](#)', which urges government to come up with a clear strategy to help 'level-up' coastal towns and cities.

In launching the report, Maritime UK published a survey showing coastal towns and cities are set to lose at least 49% of their young people, with the majority of 18–24-year-olds already planning on moving away. Jobs were cited as the overwhelming reason with 70% saying they would be more likely to stay if the right career opportunities were made available.

Discussion item: Green Skills Project

Following evidence gathering sessions and a subsequent independent report based on a forum at COP26, the Maritime Skills Commission has agreed recommendations to:

1. Take ownership of the 'skills to support green jobs' agenda for the maritime sector by continuing to collaborate, learn, listen and work with key industry stakeholders.
2. Support Maritime UK's recommendation for a Green Skills tax credit.
3. Work closely with Government, Research and Development institutions, and sector representatives to foster a favourable context for infrastructure investment, technology readiness and workforce development.
4. Support the calls for Government-funded green-specific promotion of skills and jobs, along with wage subsidies for jobs contributing to the green transition.
5. Support organisations to promote the diversity in green jobs in the maritime sector.
6. Collaborate with Regional Maritime Clusters and intermediary organisations to develop local ownership of the skills agenda whilst the Commission monitors the development and deployment of skills for green jobs across the UK.

7. Oversee the development and deployment of a comprehensive Matrix of Green jobs/Skills in the sector.

The MSC has partnered with the Cornwall Marine Network to jointly employ a Green Skills Manager to assist in delivering on the recommendations. It is proposed that a series of workshops will be held in the near future. For more information, get in touch.

Discussion item: Ocean Literacy

Ocean literacy is a term that means many things but simply refers to the understanding that a person has regarding their impact upon the marine environment and its benefits to them in emotional, personal or professional contexts.

Across all sectors, organisations and communities, including coastal communities, levels of ocean literacy are low, and this leads to the perception that living on the coast means that they are on the periphery and therefore at a disadvantage however this is not the case as the “blue” presents opportunities and benefits to health, economy and overall community wellbeing.

Defra have recently commissioned a report looking into Ocean Literacy in England & Wales that is due to be published in the coming months. The APPG for Coastal Communities will be running a briefing on Ocean Literacy once the report is released.

Discussion: Economic development incentives in non-freeport areas

Freeports have been headline grabbing – and it’s important that they are allowed to deliver on ambition – but by their nature they are location specific. Challenges and opportunities exist all around the coast, so the emphasis should be on measures that offer opportunities to boost investment and jobs on a wider basis. Areas to explore include a better framework for Local Development Orders and the scope of Empty Buildings Relief. It must be stressed that nobody is seeking a free for all and that appropriate accountability is a given in all proposals. There have been recent changes to Permitted Development but there should be a fresh look at thresholds of projects and an examination of how environmental designations fit with the pro-investment agenda the government and industry seeks to create. There are also aspects of planning that touch on marine activities and the sector is keen to look at improving the efficiency of these consenting regimes.

Asks

- Establishment of a Coastal Taskforce to enable cross-departmental working.
- A dedicated Coastal Minister.
- A Coastal Strategy.
- Meeting with Maritime UK and OneCoast Coalition to discuss the Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto.

Maritime UK Week

Maritime UK has announced that its week-long national programme of events and activity to raise the profile of the sector and engage young people in the world of maritime will be held between 10 and 16 October 2022.

The week runs in the off year from London International Shipping Week, with a greater domestic and educational focus.

We are keen to hear from Parliamentarians that could support Maritime UK Week by:

- 1) Submitting a bid for a Westminster Hall debate
- 2) Visiting a maritime business in their constituency

Do get in touch if you can help support. More information will be shared soon.

Year of the Coast

To continue to support recovery on the coast and celebrate the creation of the new England Coast Path National Trail - 2023 is being marked as the Year of the Coast. Twelve months to celebrate our stunning coastline, to highlight the amazing events that take place all around our coast and raise awareness of coastal issues at a national level. The focus will be on making a positive sustainable impact on coastal communities, supporting their economy and environment. Find out more [2023 Year of the Coast - A celebration of England's Coastline | National Coastal Tourism Academy](#)



Next steps

The topics covered through the Coastal Inquiry to date has only just begun to scratch the surface of challenges faced by coastal communities and the APPG for Coastal Communities is committed to continuing the journey to bring challenges and solutions Parliamentarians to bring awareness to those who can champion for meaningful and impactful change.

As we continue towards a general election, we will be sharing this report to Ministers and Parliamentarians to raise awareness of the topics discussed and the solutions presented by experts for consideration to influence future policy.

Future of the APPG

The Coastal Inquiry to date has only begun to scratch the surface of the challenges and opportunities of our coastal communities and our spectacular coastal environment. When a new Parliament opens, the Secretariat will seek to reopen the APPG for Coastal Communities to continue to deliver the programme of sessions as discussed with the current Chair, Sally-Ann Hart MP, and the APPG membership at the 2024 AGM. In the meantime, the Secretariat will continue to develop a programme of sessions for consideration by any possible new APPG and encourage experts to reach out to them with any potential topics.

Note to Parliamentarians/candidates

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Coastal Communities looks to consider current issues affecting coastal communities and to actively seek strategies to address these to enhance health, wellbeing, education, infrastructure and economies within these unique communities. The APPG for Coastal Communities is a cross-party Group open to all Parliamentarians and therefore if you would like to join the APPG please contact the Secretariat on coastalcommunitiesappg@gmail.com

Image credits

Front cover: Tatiana Catruc, via Pexels.com Page 14: Kai Pilger via Pexels.com Page 19: Coastal Partnership East Page 43: Pragmatix Advisory Page 50: Dr Emma McKinley Page 57: Coastal Partnership East Pages 58-61: Ross Macleod Page 66: Inspired Images(Anthony) via Pexels.com Page 67: LGA Coastal SIG Page 79: Coastal Partners Page 88: Egor Kamelev via Pexels.com Page 91: Paul Bissek via Pexels.com Back cover:



for
Coastal
Communities