

**SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL**

Dr M.K. Ayres  
Town Clerk

Town Hall  
SWANAGE  
Dorset  
BH19 2NZ  
01929 423636

5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee**

A meeting of the above Advisory Committee will be held at the **TOWN HALL, SWANAGE, on WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024 at 2.15 p.m.** for the purpose of transacting the business mentioned in the Agenda.

Yours sincerely

*Dr M.K. Ayres*

Town Clerk.

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**PLEASE NOTE: 15 MINUTES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME WILL BE HELD AT 2.15 P.M. PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING.**

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To Councillors Bonfield, Sutton and Tomes.  
Copies to all Councillors and Chief Officers.

Copies also to:

Swanage Lifeboat Crew, MCA, Coastwatch, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, National Trust, Environment Agency, Swanage Pier, Swanage Sailing Club, Swanage Fishermen's Association, Swanage Angling Club, Private Beach Hut Sites Hut Owners' Group, North Beach Representative, Swanage Sea Rowing Club, local divers, Ocean Bay businesses, Seaweed removal contractor, Pierhead Watersports and Byelaw Enforcement, Durlston Country Park, Designated Bathing Zone Operator, Quay Operators, Deckchair/pedalo concessionaire, Wessex Water, and Natural England, RNLI Lifeguard team, Beach Buddies, Swanage Moorings Association, Planet Purbeck and local outdoor adventure companies.

**A G E N D A**

1. Election of chairman
2. Apologies

3. To approve as a correct record Minutes of the Meeting of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (Copy enclosed)
4. Dorset Council's Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Team update including the following projects:
  - a) Swanage Town Centre Coastal Protection Scheme
  - b) Beach Renourishment scheme
  - c) North Beach Cliff Management Strategy
  - d) Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme (CTAP) project
5. Wessex Water online coast and rivers watch map - Update  
For information see - [Coast and rivers watch | Wessex Water](#)
6. Environment Agency – Swanage temporary flood defences – Update
7. Motion for the Ocean Draft Declaration – For information (Briefing Paper enclosed)
8. Green Seafront – Verbal update
9. Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Copy of email enclosed)
10. Update from the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager
11. Updates from representatives/organisations.
12. Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas.
  - a) Seafront Masterplan
  - b) Swanage Bay Bylaw Review
13. Confirm day/time of future advisory committee meeting:
  - a) Provisional date of next meeting - 2nd October 2024 at 2.15pm, Town Hall

Minutes of a Meeting of the **COASTAL CHANGE & BEACH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
held at the Town Hall, Swanage, on **WEDNESDAY**  
**7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024** at **2.15 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Councillor M Bonfield – Chairman

Councillor C Finch – Swanage Town Council  
Councillor C Tomes – Swanage Town Council  
Mr I Brown – Swanage Coastguard  
Mr R Eatwell – North Beach representative  
Mr A Espana – FCERM Team, Dorset Council  
Mr E Fox – RNLI  
Mr P Loudoun – Seaweed concession representative  
Mr R Marsh – Marsh Boats  
Mr P Palmer – Pierhead Watersports and Bylaw Enforcement  
Ms S Parker – Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset Council  
Mr M Penny – FCERM Team, Dorset Council  
Mr D Picksley – Environment Agency  
Mr H Potter – Swanage Pier Trust/Swanage Sailing Club  
Mr N Reed – Deputy Station Manager, Swanage NCI  
Mr G Richardson – RNLI (until 2.35 p.m.)  
Mr D Roper – Swanage Angling Club  
Mr K Sheppard – RNLI  
Ms E Steenkamp – FCERM Team, Dorset Council  
Ms R Tanner – Land & Wave  
Mr D Turnbull – RNLI  
Mr M Turnbull - Founding Chairman, Swanage Coastal Change Forum

**Also Present:** Councillor C Moreton – Deputy Mayor  
Councillor M Whitwam – Swanage Town Council  
Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk  
Mrs E Evans – Democratic Services Officer  
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services & Business Development Manager  
Ms G Percival – Assets and Compliance Manager  
Mr G Roman – Grounds and Estates Manager

There were 16 members of the public and one member of the local press present at the meeting.

**Public Participation Time**

The following matters were raised during public participation time:-

- A concern was raised regarding the instability of the cliff between Ocean Bay and Sheps Hollow and the impact on the properties situated above. A query was raised as to the ownership of the land and subsequent responsibilities. In response it was

noted that a presentation would be made by officers from the FCERM team under agenda item 3) which would cover the concerns raised.

- A query was raised around any assistance offered to property owners affected by cliff erosion. In response it was noted that a range of guidance is available including a householder's guide and the Shoreline Management Plan. It was reported that Dorset Council are also developing a Cliff Management Strategy.
- A question was asked regarding when replacement steps at Sheps Hollow would be installed. In response it was noted that a review of the steps would be commissioned as part of the Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme project.

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor T Foster (Town Mayor), Mr T Flux (National Trust), Mr T Greasty (Designated Bathing Zone representative), Mr M Jones (Swanage NCI), Mr A Mears (Wessex Water), Mr R Waitt (Planet Purbeck), Mr C Wiggins (Beach concessionaire).

2) **To approve as a correct record Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

Proposed by Mr D Roper, seconded by Mr G Richardson and AGREED:-

That the Minutes of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

3) **Dorset Council's Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Team update including the following projects:**

Further to Minute No. 4) of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023, an update was provided by the FCERM team which included the following:

a) **Swanage Town Centre Coastal Protection Scheme**

It was reported that the modelling update had been completed and internal meetings were being held to undertake the longlist appraisal process. A workshop in relation to this had been hosted by STC on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It was noted that the project objectives and measurement criteria were in the process of being refined. It was reported that a Multi-Criteria Analysis workshop would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

b) **Beach Renourishment scheme**

It was stated that the Coastal Processes Assessment had determined that the rate of erosion had been overestimated in the Beach Management Plan (BMP). It was noted that a Partnership Funding calculator was currently being performed and the results would be reported to a future meeting. It was noted that as part of the agreement with Natural England, Bathymetric surveys were scheduled to take place in March and June 2024. The condition of the beach was noted as 'good' overall. The beach had recovered well from recent storm events, however, the north section of the beach had low areas in certain locations.

c) **Cliff Management Strategy**

It was reported that preliminary observations were taken on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Durlston appeared to be retreating slowly, however, North Swanage had complex geology which led to different failure modes, mudslides (weak mudstones) or rock falls (strong sandstone). It was noted that further inspections would be undertaken in March 2024 via a LiDAR survey (light detection and ranging) and an update would be provided to a future meeting.

d) **Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme (CTAP) project**

It was reported that the business case was underway, and it was anticipated that a Project Manager and a Consultant would be appointed by the end of February 2024. Discussions were continuing with the Environment Agency (national team) regarding the outline business case (OBC) delivery. It was noted that the OBC submission date had changed to late summer 2024 and engagement with key stakeholders would commence March 2024 and with the wider community in June 2024.

Further to questions raised, it was clarified that the surveys being undertaken in March 2024 would provide information regarding seabed and beach levels. It was noted that the beach level was not reducing as quickly as expected and therefore the date for recharge may be later than 2025/26, depending on the results of the modelling.

#### 4) **Seaweed removal and beach raking – Presentation by the Assets and Compliance Manager**

A presentation was provided by the Assets and Compliance Manager, regarding seaweed removal and beach raking. It was noted that the current contract for beach raking and seaweed clearance would be coming to an end within the next two months, and the current contractor had indicated a desire to cease the provision of seaweed clearance, a service he had provided for the last 30 years.

The current operation to remove seaweed had been completed by the use of a tractor and trailer, the seaweed then being used as fertilizer on agricultural land. It was noted that changes in land management were being made on many local farms preventing nutrient enrichment to the land, thereby rendering the current operation impractical. It was noted that alternative measures and the associated challenges needed consideration and the following information was provided:

##### **Seaweed removal**

- Specific machinery is used for seaweed removal with additional challenges around the use of red or white diesel. Impact on machinery of operating on beach sand/salt etc.
- Requires constant monitoring to assess tides, access and the beach needs building up to gain access over groynes.
- The seaweed cannot remain for too long due to smell, integration with sand.

##### **Where to take it**

- Seaweed had previously been removed and used locally for agricultural purposes. Changes in policy mean that in many circumstances seaweed is no longer accepted onto agricultural land for nutrient enrichment. Initial discussions have not indicated a suitable location for deposit for agricultural purposes and previous locations cannot be used.
- If seaweed is treated as a waste product, rather than for agricultural purposes, the costs increase dramatically. At the moment the council cannot locate a location for tipping and if possible the council would need a mechanism to remove from the beach.
- The council do not own a suitable location for disposal.

##### **What other authorities do**

- Most places now do not collect seaweed e.g. Cornwall with only a very limited number collecting, such as Torbay.
- A number of other authorities push the seaweed back into sea and it is becoming part of the environmental agenda to leave it where it is.
- Blue Flag – desire to leave it in situ unless it constitutes a nuisance. In cases where it is removed the question is phrased - ‘how do you remove and dispose of it in an environmentally friendly way’.

### **Challenges of Swanage Beach relating to seaweed**

- Swanage beach is relatively small and situated close to the town centre. The beach contains a number of groynes and has fairly unique tidal system.

### **Risks**

- Large holes in beach.
- Seaweed on beach and impact on local economy.
- Resident and visitor expectations regarding the appearance of an un-raked beach.

### **Options**

- Leave the seaweed on the beach.
- Push the seaweed back into the sea.
- Dispose of as waste.

Members acknowledged the difficulties arising from both the removal, or retention, of seaweed on Swanage Beach. It was reported that, having assessed the available options for the forthcoming the season, as a trial, the Town Council would most likely arrange for the seaweed to be pushed back into the sea. It was anticipated that this could provide challenges and in order to manage expectations of both residents and visitors the Town Council requested the support of attendees to communicate the current situation as necessary.

Thanks were given to the current seaweed and beach raking contractor for his invaluable service over the last 30 years.

### **5) Swanage Green Seafront Stabilisation and Enhancement Scheme (Sandpit Field, Weather Station Field and Spa Beach Hut Area) – Report following public engagement**

Further to Minute No. 145) of the Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, it was reported that the consultation had attracted 468 responses. It was noted that when presented with the question ‘Given all the considerations presented at this stage, which option would be your preferred scheme?’ 51.1% chose the enhanced scheme and 43.6% chose the essential scheme, 5.3% responding ‘don’t know’. The consultation results had also highlighted a strong desire for an improvement to pedestrian safety along the northern section of Shore Road (between the junction of Victoria Avenue and Ocean Bay) and an update would be provided to a future meeting.

### **6) Commercial Opportunities on Seafront – Update**

The Visitor Services and Business Development Manager (VSBDM) reported that Expressions of Interest had been received and had been reviewed by the Property Panel. It was anticipated that the successful businesses could be in operation from the hardstanding adjoining the Information Centre by the Easter break, subject to final negotiations.

### **7) RNLI Lifeguards – 2023 Review**

A presentation was provided by representatives from the RNLI Lifeguards, which provided a review of service provision during 2023. It was suggested, as part of the 2024 recommendations, that the lifeguard unit be located further north to be positioned in the centre of the designated swimming zone and in between the red and yellow flags. The benefits were noted as being a more centralised position, between the Banjo Pier and Ocean Bay, providing an improved observation point towards the north, while still providing sufficient cover in the south. This matter would be given further consideration in due course.

8) **Proposal to form a Surf Life Saving Club**

It was noted that this item would be deferred to the next meeting of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee meeting being held in June 2024.

9) **Update from the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager**

The VSBDM provided an update which included:

- **Events** – It was reported that Coastal Barbarians Rowing Regatta would be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024.
- **Private sites** – It was anticipated that the replacement staging for the private beach huts would be completed by the end of March.
- **Southern section of Shore Road** – It was reported that following the 18 month experimental traffic regulation order, the order had been made and the southern section of Shore Road (between the junction with Victoria Avenue and the Mowlem) would be permanently closed to vehicles.
- **Northern section of Shore Road** – It was noted that feasibility studies may be progressed in order to inform discussion regarding options for traffic flow for the northern section of Shore Road (between the junction with Victoria Avenue and Ocean Bay). It was noted that the road was currently closed to allow Dorset Highways to repair damage caused by Storm Ciaran.

10) **Updates from representatives/organisations**

- **Environment Agency** – It was reported that the concrete temporary wave barriers, which had been dislodged by Storm Ciaran, had been repositioned with the shorter end facing the sea. The barriers would be removed during the last week in March.
- **Swanage Pier** – The Strategic Plan for the future was being prepared and the café on the pier had a new operator.
- **Swanage Angling Club** – It was reported that the AGM was being held later today and a report would be provided to a future meeting.
- **Marsh Boats** – Comments were made regarding the uneven surface of the stone quay. In response it was noted that the quay was a Grade II listed asset and that conservation officers had advised the Town Council on the most suitable materials and methods to be used by the contractors to repair the quay.
- **Swanage NCI** – It was reported that the NCI currently had 60 watchkeepers. A tea and cake event would be held on Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. It was noted that there had been fresh ground movement at Peveril Point.
- **Bylaw enforcement** – It was noted that news regarding the implementation of a designated waterski zone was awaited.
- **RNLI Lifeboat** – It was noted that the RNLI had received a brand new inshore lifeboat and that 2023 had been a busy year.  
The chairman explained the use of throw bags (used in a similar way to lifesaving rings) and noted that the RNLI anticipated placing the bags in locations around the bay such as the Pier and Ocean Bay. It was noted that training would be available in the appropriate use of the bags to save lives without endangering the lifesaver.
- **Coastguards** – It was reported there had been 102 incidents and ten fatalities during 2023. Praise was given for the assistance provided by all involved in the response to the incident in Swanage Bay in the summer.
- **North Beach representative** – It was noted that concerns regarding land slippage and its impact on the built environment had been addressed earlier in the meeting.
- **Founding chairman, Swanage Coastal Change Forum** – A visual interpretation of the anticipated sea level rises affecting Bude over the forthcoming years was

shared on screen. It was noted that the use of imagery was a powerful tool in communicating the effects of sea rise and the impact on coastal locations.  
<https://www.budeclimate.org/shoreline>

**11) Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas**

- a) Swanage Beach Management Overview  
The contents of a briefing paper prepared by the VSBDM were noted.
- b) Motion for the Ocean [Motion for the Ocean – LGA Coastal SIG](#)  
It was noted that further information would be provided to the Environment and Green Spaces Committee.
- c) Swan Brook Partnership Project  
It was noted that an update regarding the project would be presented to the next Meeting of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee being held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- d) Coastal Resilience Study – Update  
Further to Minute No. 12 c) of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023, it was reported that as a newly elected council would begin its term in May 2024, this item would be revisited following elections, and that Dorset Council input would be essential.
- e) Town Council Beach Management Tour – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024  
The date for the beach management tour was noted.
- f) Swanage Bay Byelaw Review  
Further information would be provided to a future meeting.

**12) Date of next meeting**

The date of the next two meetings were noted as Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 @ 2.15 p.m. and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 @ 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.



**Motion for the Ocean Draft Declaration**

This is a copy of a briefing note considered at the Environment and Greenspaces Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The matter will be further discussed at the Council Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**1. The Declaration**

At the previous Environment and Greenspaces Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, a working party was established to develop the ‘Motion for the Ocean Declaration’ and action plan. The working party met during June and after consideration established that the first requirement was to develop a draft declaration for approval by the Council. Thereafter, the timetable would provide up to twelve months for the Committee to develop an action plan to support ocean recovery.

The working party have amended the template declaration to make it more specific to Swanage and this is attached as Appendix 1. More information about the Motion for the Ocean can be found on the [Ocean Conservation Trust](#) website.

**2. The Motion for the Ocean Action Plan**

When the working party met, they spent some time discussing what might go into the action plan. It was generally felt that this would form an extremely valuable piece of work and an important opportunity to engage with a wide range of stakeholders including Planet Purbeck, Greenpeace, the local fishing industry, Swanage Pier, Wessex Water, National Trust and local schools for example. The group were keen to formally engage with stakeholders over the next twelve months to develop an action plan that will support ocean recovery both locally and nationally.

The Council is currently supporting a range of projects that should lead to a positive impact on ocean recovery including the rivers project, which will come to a future meeting of this group.

**3. Recommendation**

1. That the ‘Motion for the Ocean Declaration’ attached at Appendix 1 is approved by the Committee and recommended for consideration by Full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
2. That, subject to approval of the ‘Motion for the Ocean Declaration’ by Full Council, the Environment Action Plan Working Party is tasked to develop the Motion for the Ocean action plan within twelve months.

Culvin Milmer  
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

June 2024

## Swanage Town Council 'Motion for the Ocean' DRAFT Declaration

In Swanage, the ocean is at the heart of our heritage and economy. Thousands of visitors come to Swanage to experience the sight, sound and feel of the ocean. Our marine history and heritage are an integral part of our local culture and identity. This includes many festivals that celebrate the sea: the Pirate Festival, the Fish and Food Festival, the many rowing regattas and RNLI Lifeboat Week.

Swanage is part of the Jurassic Coast, a UNESCO world heritage site. The beautiful beach is surrounded by green spaces and hills that meet the sea. Several areas of Purbeck are designated as sites of special scientific interest. Swanage has a Marine Conservation Zone around Durlston and there is another one at Studland, just a few miles away. Dolphins, seals, seahorses and many other wonderful marine animals are spotted by residents, tourists and divers, with much delight.

Around our coastline, maritime and marine expertise exists in Swanage Bay, Studland and Poole Harbour. The ocean plays a vital role in our economy. We must strive to develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers both ocean recovery and local prosperity.

Swanage beach is a designated "Blue Flag" beach and recently received the Seaside Award 2024. In the 1980s, Swanage was one of only eight locations in England to be awarded a Blue Flag and we are still one of the best. Water quality in the 'bathing beach' is monitored weekly in the summer months and consistently scores 'excellent' results. By working closely with our partners, we are striving to relieve the problem of combined storm overflows (CSOs) in Swanage, whereby diluted sewage may enter the sea due to excessive volumes of rainwater.

Our beach is a busy beach and litter occurs due to beach users, windblown items and that which is carried in by the tide. Much of the litter is plastic waste. However, this is just the tip of the iceberg of the amount of litter in our oceans. Significant effort already goes into keeping our beach clean, but we cannot be complacent and need to continue to work with partners, including our local Beach Buddies group, to keep our beach clean. Swanage Town Council employ people to clear litter from our beach every day and there are numerous volunteers who help, both formally through Beach Buddies or other groups and informally on their own. We also need to manage the large amounts of waste that comes from a variety of beach visitors. Education and signage play a vital role in keeping this litter at bay.

The health of our ocean is inextricably linked with human health and well-being. Swanage Bay is considered a safe area for many fun leisure activities, such as sailing, rowing, fishing and sea swimming. Engagement with the natural environment is key in enhancing people's enjoyment and well-being. Accessibility to the sea is something that needs to be constantly monitored.

A healthy ocean is fundamental in regulating the global climate system and is an essential ally in our fight against climate change. An example of this is sea grass that absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> and is prevalent around Studland. Swanage residents are on the frontline of climate change. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean and the seafront is profound, from:

- increased rainfall and intensified storms
- acceleration of coastal erosion
- increased flood danger
- threat to properties and infrastructure
- sea level rise creating additional flood risk
- rising water temperatures and changes to ocean chemistry will affect marine eco-systems and change the seafood caught locally.

We have already experienced many of these challenges in Swanage.

The UK government's recent Marine Strategy assessment confirms that our marine environment is unhealthy. An ocean in crisis is not only bad news for our climate, but also for our local fishing industry. Additionally, we also have tourists who come to Swanage to fish and enjoy the benefits of the sea. Sustainable fishing is important to the natural environment, the local fishing industry and the local economy.

In summary, constant action is needed to halt and mitigate these detrimental changes and ensure the health of our ocean. This will enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including climate regulation, coastal and marine habitats, coastal protection, a thriving local economy, clean safe recreation and happy, healthy coastal and maritime communities. We must play our part in recovering the health of the ocean.

Swanage Town Council cannot solve the global ocean crisis alone, but we can, and must, play our part. We must safeguard Swanage beach and marine flora and fauna for future generations. It is our mandate and our legacy.

## **Swanage Town Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery**

We recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

This Council pledges to:

1. Report to Full Council within 12 months on the actions and projects that will begin an ocean recovery in Swanage
2. Embed ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, plans, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Town Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements, and considering ocean-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.
3. Ensure that local planning supports ocean recovery, working closely with the Marine Management Organisation to embed links between the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan and the South Marine Plan to support ocean recovery.
4. Ensure that our nature, biodiversity and climate strategies, recognise how land and rivers connect to and impact the ocean and strive to support ocean recovery through a source-to-sea approach.

5. Work with partners locally and nationally to deliver improved water quality and increased sustainability in marine industries, and to support a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery and local prosperity; including the local fishing industry and the work of Poole Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.
6. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in Swanage, including:
  - a. Ensuring all pupils are given the opportunity to experience the ocean before leaving primary school.
  - b. Promoting sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences for all residents.
  - c. Through these actions, embed understanding of the “source-to-sea” approach and how all people, wherever they live, impact and are impacted by ocean health.
7. Use the Town Council website and other communication channels to update on ocean recovery progress, and signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities and marine citizenship pledges.
8. Write to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by:
  - a) Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
  - b) Working with coastal, estuarine and maritime communities to co-develop marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes in local placemaking.
  - c) Appointing a dedicated Minister for the Coast.
  - d) Embedding ocean and civic literacy into the national curriculum.
  - e) Stopping plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle and support the solutions needed to address the threat posed by historic coastal landfill sites.
  - f) Improving the water quality of our rivers, estuarine and coastal waters leading to the ocean to benefit nature and the health and wellbeing of all UK residents, including by stopping the regular pollution of our rivers and seas.

- g) And by listening to marine and social scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
- i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
  - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
  - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
  - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of ocean recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.

## Glossary

A **Blue Economy** is one which uses ocean resources sustainably or even regeneratively whilst improving community wellbeing and social equity. It is not simply marine or maritime economic activity or “blue growth”.

**Ocean literacy** is where a person understands the ocean's influence on them and their influence on the ocean. For example, an understanding that the ocean stores carbon and an understanding that what they put down the drain can impact on ocean health. It can also include learning how to be an active marine citizen.

**Marine citizenship** is exercising the right to participate in the transformation of the human-ocean relationship for sustainability. This means taking individual and collective responsibility to consider one's own and society's impacts on the ocean; and exercising rights as a marine citizen, e.g. writing to a local Councillor to ask them to take action for ocean recovery; or promoting or making local, national or international policy changes.

**Blue Flag** is one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches, marinas, and sustainable tourism boats. In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained

## Appendix I

Councils that have passed a Motion for the Ocean as at January 2024 with links to their Motion wording (where available).

1. [Plymouth City Council](#), 22 November 2021
2. [Falmouth Town Council](#), 10 January 2022
3. [South Tyneside Council](#), 13 January 2022
4. [North Norfolk District Council](#), 9 February 2022
5. [North Devon Council](#), 23 February 2022
6. [Monmouthshire County Council](#), 3 March 2022
7. [Seaton with Slingley Parish Council](#), 16 March 2022
8. [Seaham Town Council](#), 22 March 2022
9. [Torridge District Council](#), 11 April 2022
10. [Portsmouth City Council](#), 17 May 2022
11. [Devon County Council](#), 27 May 2022
12. [Blandford Forum Town Council](#), 25 July 2022
13. [Teignbridge District Council](#), 26 July 2022
14. [Blackpool Council](#), 20 November 2022
15. [Isle of Wight Council](#), 19 July 2023
16. [Canterbury City Council](#), 20 July 2023
17. [North Somerset Council](#), 19 September 2023
18. [Havant Borough Council](#), 20 September 2023
19. [Norwich City Council](#), 26 September 2023
20. [Newark & Sherwood District Council](#), 17 October 2023
21. [Lewes District Council](#), 20 November 2023
22. [Cornwall Council](#), 28 November 2023
23. Nottingham City Council, 15 January 2024
24. [Colwick Parish Council](#), 16 January 2024

In addition to the local Councils who have individually declared, the [Local Government Association](#) also got behind the Motion for the Ocean on 29 September 2022.

The Motion for the Ocean is supported in kind by the University of Exeter, LGA Coastal SIG, and the Ocean Conservation Trust.



**Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Item 9)**

**From:** Dorset Coast Forum <[dorset.coast@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:dorset.coast@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2024 11:03 AM

**Subject:** Update on Marine LNRS

Dear DCF members,

Please see update below about the marine element of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

**Update on the marine extension of Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

A new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is being created for Dorset as a requirement of the Environment Act. The strategy will set out how everyone can play a part in making more, better, bigger and joined space for nature across the county.

The statutory guidance requires Dorset LNRS to cover Dorset Council and BCP Council areas, following their boundaries into the inter tidal zone as far as low water.

Defra had initially permitted coastal counties to do a voluntary extension further into the marine environment but very recently, in May 2024, they strengthened their position against including marine as part of the LNRS. The reasons for this are:

- Maps and proposed activities in marine areas outside the statutory LNRS boundary will not be underpinned by legislation
- Users of the strategy must be clear on which proposals they are obliged to consider
- Having statutory and non-statutory components in the same document could cause confusion, impacting how useful the LNRS is in encouraging delivery
- Work is underway at the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to explore how spatial planning for marine nature recovery might develop in the future

In Dorset, work had started on a marine extension to 12 nautical miles (territorial sea) with lots of valuable inputs from local coastal and marine stakeholders. Thank you. Although we are no longer permitted to include a marine extension in Dorset LNRS, we will:

- Continue using and gathering your inputs on coastal areas that fall within the statutory boundary
- Include nature recovery activities that can be done on land but also benefit marine and estuarine environments
- Work on aligning the LNRS with existing marine spatial plans
- Create a summary report of all the work and inputs relating to Dorset's marine nature recovery to inform future work, this will be shared with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and local stakeholders via the Dorset Coast Form.

**Amy Smith**  
**Local Nature Recovery Officer**  
**Place Services**  
**Dorset Council**

