LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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Membership (63 Councils)
ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL
ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
BOURNEMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL
CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL
CHRISTCHURCH BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORNWALL COUNCIL
CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL
DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL
DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL
EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Hartlepool Borough Council
HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
KING’S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK BOROUGH COUNCIL
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL
LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL  
NORTH DEVON COUNCIL  
NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE  
NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Northumberland County Council  
PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL  
PURBECK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ROther DISTRICT COUNCIL  
SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL  
SOUTH TYNESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL  
SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL  
SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL  
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL  
THURROCK COUNCIL  
Torrance District Council  
WAVENEOY DISTRICT COUNCIL  
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL  
WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL  
WIRRAL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL  
WYRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Aim**
- Support coastal councils in delivering sustainable development on England's coast
- Strengthen the capacity of coastal councils to deliver sustainable coastal management
- Promote awareness of the important role of local government on the coast
House of Lords and Coastal Regeneration
The Coastal SIG was asked by a House of Lords Select Committee to support their evidence gathering on Regeneration of Seaside Towns and Communities. The SIG facilitated a workshop for Leaders and Chief Executives of twenty-three authorities and with ten Lords committee members present, five of whom facilitated the workshop tables themselves. The report is now available.

Coastal SIG support managing the coast in a changing climate
In response to the SIG highlighting concerns, the Committee on Climate Change initiated a report on the long-term challenges facing authorities who manage England’s coastline. The report concluded that the current approach to coastal management is not sustainable in the long term. Report at https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/managing-the-coast-in-a-changing-climate/

Coastal Adaptation
The SIG continues to champion this topic with government. Defra have undertaken research (yet to be published) that identifies for the first time a +ve benefit cost analysis of coastal adaptation. Work continues with the EA, Defra, MHCLG etc however government is reluctant to acknowledge and deal with this issue.

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management
Members and officers were represented on some key focus groups that fed in to the development of the Environment Agency’s FCERM strategy, which is currently under consultation till 4th July.

Coastal Concordat / Defra 25-year environment plan
The Defra 25 year plan mentions that all coastal authorities will be signed up to the Coastal Concordat by 2021. The Coastal Concordat originally developed in 2013 by the Coastal SIG and the MMO to help to streamline the planning application process and speed up application time. The SIG are now working with Defra to sign all coastal authorities up.

Fair Funding Review
The SIG has been working to ensure that maintenance of coastal assets was recognised as a local burden. Further discussions with MHCLG, Defra and EA have been focussed on finding a fairer way to allocate funds.

National Infrastructure Commission
The group have developed beneficial links with the National Infrastructure Commission, working to change the status of coast defence assets to be recognised as infrastructure.

Marine Licensing
The SIG has developed improved relationships with the MMO marine licensing team who attend two meetings a year to stay in touch with coastal authorities to maintain good understanding of the process.

Environment Agency Large Project Review Group (LPRG)
The SIG has managed to establish representation for a local authority officer to sit on the Environment Agency LPRG. Great news so we can better understand the system and ensure l.a.s receive fair treatment.

Brexit, Ports and Planning
The SIG were invited to take part in the Department for Transport’s Summit to discuss governance of Ports, Port Authorities, and the planning and regulatory systems.

Bathing Water
Many of our coastal authorities have struggled to get the excellent blue flag status that they work hard to achieve. Working through Defra, the EA have now agreed to provide resource and expert opinion to help.

Coastal waste sites
Concern has been highlighted by the SIG about erosion of historic coastal waste sites and the potential of pollution. There is both a lack of understanding of the issues nor any designated funding streams to access. Working with partner l.a.s and university researchers, this issues is now recognised and being discussed.

Sharing learning and issues
Members continue to share good practice and help a knowledge exchange at Lewes District Council.

8 national consultations were responded to: https://lgacoastalsig.com/resources/consultation-responses/