**The 5th North West Awards for Coastal Excellence (NW ACE)**

**Coastal Best Practice Nomination Forum**

The North West Coastal Forum is pleased to announce the opening of nominations for the 5th biennial NW ACE – an award scheme to recognise outstanding achievement in and contribution to the long-term management of our coast and near-shore marine environments.

**Nominations close on 30th September 2018.**

**Visual accessibility** – if a form with bigger print is required please contact caroline.salthouse@nwcoastalforum.org.uk

**Award Category Description: Coastal Best Practice**

This award will be made to an organisation in recognition of their significant contribution to the long term management of the North West coast.

Nominations are open to open to businesses, local authorities, government agencies and NGOs which have carried out work on the North West coast within the last 2 years.

As well as the overall winner in this category, entries of sufficiently high standard will receive ‘Highly Commended’ status.

This award has a series of sub-categories and entrants are invited to submit their nomination to the most appropriate category. If sufficient entries are received in any one category an additional award may be created to recognise best practice in that category.

Coastal Best Practice Sub-Categories:

* Delivery / implementation of Integrated Coastal Management
* Celebrating Coastal Culture and Heritage
* Nature conservation
* Coastal built environment and regeneration
* Coastal Leisure and Tourism
* Adaptation to climate change
* Coast or marine-related business / industry

Organisations can be put forward by someone or may nominate themselves.

Please see the Award Criteria and the Terms and Conditions below for guidance on how to complete the application form.

**Award Criteria**

All entries will be expected to show how they meet the essential criteria below. Entries should also show if, and if so how, they meet any of the desirable criteria listed.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

Fit with the aim and one or more outcomes of the North West Coastal Forum:

*North West Coastal Forum Aim: We aim to promote and deliver integrated coastal zone management in the North West to secure the long-term sustainability of the region’s coast by achieving:*

* *Well-integrated planning and management of the coastal zone*
* *The economic potential of the NW coast achieved in ways which safeguard, enhance, restore and sustainably use our natural and cultural assets*
* *A high quality natural and built coastal environment able to adapt to climate and other change*
* *Improved recreational opportunities and visitor experience*
* *Improved well being of coastal communities*
* *Raised appreciation of the coast, its value and its needs*

Major activity within the last 2 full financial years – from April 2016 to present date

Significant benefits to coast and / or near-shore marine environments and local communities and businesses arising from the work carried out

A significant contribution to long-term coastal sustainability

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

Effective teamwork and leadership

Successful engagement with a wide range of coastal stakeholders, including where appropriate effective consultation and involvement in decision-making

Capacity building (skills and knowledge) and awareness-raising both within the delivery team and within the wider coastal stakeholder community

Awareness of and alignment/integration with wider coastal issues/policy/plans/activity and contribution of this piece of work to the bigger picture

Effective integration of environmental, social and economic factors

Key elements that made the work particularly successful including clear methodology

Innovation – not a duplicate of similar work elsewhere

Communication of the work and its benefits to a wider audience than that involved in the work itself – how has this work developed the knowledge of and benefited those not directly involved

Development of effective working partnerships and integration across different disciplines – how the right people / organisations were involved and how this made the work more successful

Long-term benefits and legacy – what happened when the work finished (or what will happen at the end of the project), and how the long-term benefit was ensured

**Entry terms & conditions**

1. This award is open to businesses, local authorities, governmental agencies and NGOs that have carried out work on the North West coast within the last 2 years (April 2016 to present). The organisation does **not** need to be based in the North West but the award will only be given for best practice in work carried out on the North West coast.
2. Work must be current or have been completed in the last 2 years (April 2016 to present)
3. Organisations can be nominated or can nominate themselves
4. Entries must address each of the selection criteria outlined on the entry form
5. Entries, which must be made electronically, will only be accepted on the official entry form. The form is designed to be completed on a computer - the answer boxes expand - if you wish to complete it by hand and need more space please contact the secretariat and a form with more room will be provided. You will need to scan your completed entry form and submit it electronically.
6. Electronic images and supporting material demonstrating the success of the entry are encouraged. To enable sharing with judges images and documents should be electronic and in PC readable format (i.e. documents in Word or Adobe Acrobat and images should in jpeg format). Your total entry, including any supporting materials, should be no more than 5 MB. If higher resolution photos are needed you will be contacted.
7. No submitted material will be returned
8. The North West Coastal Forum and any award sponsors reserve the right to use any of the submitted material for publicising the awards, the winning entries and the work of the Forum with regard to the awards. It is entrant’s responsibility to ensure that the copyright on submitted material allows this use.
9. Entries can be submitted at any time once the call for entries is open butall entries and supporting materials must be received by **30th September 2018**.
10. The decisions of the Adjudicating Panel are final
11. Entries and attached supporting information and images should be submitted by emailing them to the North West Coastal Forum Secretariat at caroline.salthouse@nwcoastalforum.org.uk
12. Failure to comply with any of the entry rules may result in the forfeiture of your entry.

**NW ACE 2016: Coastal Best Practice Nomination Form**

This form is designed to be filled in on a computer. If you have any problems or need a version of the form you can write on manually please contact the Secretariat.

**Instructions for completing the form:**

* Grey text boxes: to type text click on the grey area - it will turn black. Start typing and the space will expand as needed.
* Check boxes: to place a cross in a box click on it. To uncheck a box click on it again.
* ‘Choose…’ boxes: clicking on the box will open a drop down menu - click on the relevant answer.

Send completed forms & supporting evidence to caroline.salthouse@nwcoastalforum.org.uk **by 30th September 2018**

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| **1 About the organisation(s) being nominated*****If more than one working in partnership please give details of the lead partner below and list the other partners in the space provided*****Organisation name:**      **Contact person:**      **Address:**      **Contact email:**      **Contact telephone:**      **Does this organisation know you have nominated them?** **List of any other organisations involved:**  |
| **2 About you** ***If different from above*****Name:**      **What is your relationship to the nominated organisation?**      **Address:**      **Contact email:**      **Contact telephone:**       |
| **3 Summary of project / work undertaken** |
| **3 a Name and brief description** ***30 words maximum e.g. SUSTAIN - an Interreg IVc funded European project to develop a coastal sustainability indicator toolkit*** |

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| **3b Which sub-category does the work fit best?** [ ]  Delivery / implementation of Integrated Coastal Management[ ]  Celebrating Coastal Culture and Heritage[ ]  Nature conservation[ ]  Coastal built environment and regeneration[ ]  Coastal Leisure and Tourism [ ]  Adaptation to climate change[ ]  Coast or marine-related business / industry[ ]  Other (**(please describe in the space below)** |
| **3c Pease provide a 50 word summary of why this organisation should receive the award** ***This may be used in any publicity so please give careful thought to what is written here***      |
| **5 Meeting the Award Criteria** |
| **5a Which outcomes of the North West Coastal Forum are supported by this work?*****Mark all that apply*****[ ]  Promotion and delivery of integrated coastal zone management** **[ ]  Well-integrated planning and management of the coastal zone****[ ]  The economic potential of the NW coast achieved in ways which safeguard, enhance, restore and** **sustainably use our natural and cultural assets****[ ]  A high quality natural and built coastal environment able to adapt to climate and other change****[ ]  Improved recreational opportunities and visitor experience****[ ]  Improved well being of coastal communities****[ ]  Raised appreciation of the coast, its value and its needs** |
| **5b When has the activity taken place?** ***Mark all that apply*****[ ]  2016/17****[ ]  2017/18****[ ]  Ongoing** |
| **5c Where has the activity taken place?**       |

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| **5d Has the impact of the work been local or wide spread?** **[ ]  Localised (e.g. a particular beach)****[ ]  Community-level (e.g. village or town)****[ ]  Wider area (e.g. several communities, or a length of coastline)****[ ]  Other (please describe in the space below)**       |
| **5e Please answer yes, somewhat, or no to the following:** **Has the organisation demonstrated effective teamwork and leadership in carrying out the work?** **Does the work demonstrate successful engagement with a wide-range of coastal stakeholders? (**including where appropriate effective consultation and involvement in decision-making) **Has the work contributed to building the skills and/or knowledge and awareness of those involved?** **Has the work contributed to building the skills, knowledge and awareness of the wider coastal stakeholder community?** **Has the work and its benefits been communicated to a wider audience than that involved in the work itself?** |
| **5f Summarise the work and overall contribution the work has made, keeping in mind the award criteria and the following questions which are related to these.** ***Please note we are not asking you to answer each question separately - what we are looking for is a summary of no more than 1000 words which demonstrates these aspects of the work****.** How has the work made a **significant contribution to long-term coastal sustainability**?
* How does the work demonstrate **effective integration of environmental, social and economic** factors?
* What are the **benefits to the coast and or near-shore marine environment AND local coastal communities and businesses** arising from the work carried out?
* What is **innovative** about the work?
* How does the work demonstrate **awareness of and alignment and integration with wider coastal issues/policy/plans/activity** and contribution of this work to the bigger picture?
* How does the work demonstrate the **benefits of development of effective working partnerships and integration across different disciplines**?
* What are the **key elements that made the work particularly successful** (please indicate methodology)?
* How were coastal stakeholders involved in **effective consultation and decision-making**? What successes resulted from this wider engagement?
* How did the organisation ensure the **long-term benefits / legacy** of the work?

**Summary:**      |
| **6 Supporting documents*****Please make a note below of any supporting documents or photographs supplied – see Entry Terms and Conditions notes 6, 7 & 8.***      |