

What's Happening on the North West Coast 2022

Pilot Report

A North West Coastal Forum report forming part of the Coastal Partnerships Network
Championing Coastal Coordination Project

North West Coastal Forum, March 2022



Contents

- Introduction 3
- Strategic Information..... 5
 - Strategic vision and outcomes..... 5
 - Quick Reference Matrix 6
 - International 8
 - National 9
 - Regional 11
 - Dee Estuary & Cross Border with Wales..... 19
 - Merseyside 21
 - Lancashire 22
 - Lancashire and Cumbria Cross Border 26
 - Cumbria 27
 - Solway Firth and Cross Border with Scotland..... 29
- Appendix A: Usefulness of a ‘What’s Happening on the North West Coast’ online resource? 31
- Appendix B: Updating the Vision 32
- Appendix C: Updating the Strategic Outcomes 33

Introduction

Aims

The aims of the 'What's Happening on the North West Coast' pilot report are *to provide a comprehensive overview of strategic actions and policies* at sub-regional or regional scale of significance for the North West coast, and which contribute to creating a more sustainable future for our coast, and to *help organisations working on the coast to identify key gaps in activity and find opportunities for shared learning, best practice and future collaboration*.

The information will be made available in a freely available, online and updatable¹ resource which will be published on the North West Coastal Forum website at www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk

Background

This Pilot Report forms part of a Regional Demonstration Project: '*Exploring the Benefits of a Regional Approach to Coastal Coordination in North West England*', which is one of a series of Regional Demonstration Projects taking place across England as part of the '*A National Framework Championing Coastal Coordination*' project led by Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN) and supported by the Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) fund. The North West's RDP is led by the North West Coastal Forum.

Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) is an Environment Agency initiative with support from Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities. It is a collaboration seeking to explore how to enhance and progress coordination for coastal sustainability and resilience in England.

The North West Coastal Forum (NWCF) is a multi-sector, non-profit, partnership working together across boundaries to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits for coastal communities in North West England by promoting and helping to deliver integrated coastal zone management to secure the long-term sustainability of the North West coast.

In 2008 the NWCF worked with the regional planning body and organisations across the region to develop a Regional Coastal Strategy looking ahead to 2032, with a vision for the North West coast and a series of strategic outcomes contributing to the vision. Organisations were asked to input activity they were doing that matched these. Due to the abolition of the regions in 2010 this work was not updated, however the NWCF Management Board could see the value in a document bringing strategic actions into one place as a source of useful information and maintained the ambition of creating such a document, should funding become available.

The 3Cs funding offered an opportunity to *test whether such a report might be welcomed*, and to *revisit the vision and strategic outcomes developed in 2008 and test whether they are still fit for purpose or need updating to reflect current needs and ambitions*.

¹ Subject to future resourcing

Methodology

A survey form was developed and circulated to 125 individuals from 99 organisations across the North West, and neighbouring areas in North Wales and Southern Scotland. It was also placed on the North West Coastal Forum website and publicised via Twitter.

The consultation ran from 7th to 31st January and the value of such a report was also tested during a separate survey on regional coastal working with key stakeholder organisations, and at the Collaborative Coastal Projects in North West England workshop which was held on 23rd February, all also part of the 3Cs Regional Demonstration Project work.

Results

The results presented below are an amalgamation of all the survey work undertaken. The vision and strategic outcomes have been used as they currently stand – without the suggested updating amendments – as further consultation would need to take place on any changes and the information supplied by respondents to populate the ‘What’s Happening’ tables were coded against the existing strategic outcomes. The usefulness of such a report, vision and strategic outcome results have been summarised and are included as appendices; for full verbatim comments on these please see the separate Regional Demonstration Project report which will be published on the North West Coastal Forum Website at the end of the 3Cs project.

Due to the limited time² available for consultation and delivery, there was only a 13% response rate and it has not been possible to develop a comprehensive report but it has been possible to trial the idea and assess its perceived usefulness, as well as revisiting and testing the vision for the coast and the strategic objectives for current relevancy so the *results presented below are a pilot to demonstrate what could be achieved with more time*.

As this is a new survey with people unsure of what the product would be and how useful it might be to them the low response rate is not surprising, and future iterations would be expected to generate a better response.

Where information about initiatives has been provided by more than one organisation the information has been combined as appropriate to avoid duplication.

² Funding delivery period constraints meant a very short timeframe for consultation when compared to the months of preparatory awareness-raising, information gathering and then a full 10 week public consultation which was undertaken for the more comprehensive Regional Coastal Strategy in 2008.

Strategic Information

The tables on the following pages give information provided by a range of organisations across the North West about regional or sub-regional policies and strategies, and activities, including research work, undertaken either alone or in partnership with others, that are potentially significant for or of interest to coastal communities, industry and the marine and coastal environment of the North West – including the Scottish and Welsh parts of the Solway Firth and Dee Estuary.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: the information in the tables below has been provided for publication by a range of external organisations and is reproduced here in good faith; as such the North West Coastal Forum is not responsible for any errors or inaccuracies but will endeavour to correct any inaccuracies if these are found. **Please check information provided before relying on it** and report any errors or inaccuracies found to info@nwcoastalforum.org.uk

Strategic vision and outcomes

A strategic vision for the North West coast, underpinned by 6 strategic outcomes, which was developed in 2008 for the Regional Coastal Strategy is reproduced below. For future iterations of this What's Happening on the North West Coast the vision and outcomes will be updated in line with comments received during this consultation. Those comments can be seen in Appendix B and Appendix C.

Strategic Vision: *Our vision for the North West coast is that, by 2032, it will be a place of diverse use and beauty, with thriving, and sustainable communities where quality of life is matched by economic success, social equity and well-being; where the immense natural and cultural resources that characterise our coastline and near-shore areas are appreciated as key regional assets and are protected and managed for the long-term benefit of all; above all a place where our children and our children's children wish to be.*

Strategic Outcomes:

PM - Well-integrated planning and management of the coastal zone including achieving coherence between adjacent terrestrial and marine spatial plans

EP - The economic, social and cultural potential of the North West coast achieved in ways which safeguard, enhance, restore and sustainably use our natural and cultural assets

CC - Improved wellbeing of coastal communities

RV - Improved recreational opportunities and visitor experience

HQ - A high quality natural and built coastal environment able to adapt to climate and other change

RA - Raised appreciation of the coast, its value and its needs

Many of the entries listed below are cross cutting, so to avoid repetition, the 2 letter codes above are used to indicate which of the strategic outcomes they help to achieve. To aid navigation they are arranged by geographic area and a quick reference matrix is provided showing all the items listed and their fit with the themed strategic outcomes below, in geographic area/coverage.

Quick Reference Matrix

Strategic Policy, Strategy, Activity	PM	EP	CC	RV	HQ	RA
	Well-integrated planning and management of the coastal zone including achieving coherence between adjacent terrestrial and marine spatial plans	The economic, social and cultural potential of the North West coast achieved in ways which safeguard, enhance, restore and sustainably use our natural and cultural assets	Improved wellbeing of coastal communities	Improved recreational opportunities and visitor experience	A high quality natural and built coastal environment able to adapt to climate and other change	Raised appreciation of the coast, its value and its needs
Irish Sea Maritime Forum						
Irish Sea Network						
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy						
Co-Opt (Co-benefit Solutions for Resilient Coasts) research project						
Dynamic Dunescapes, including Sefton and Cumbria projects						
The North West Marine Plan						
Shoreline management Plan 22 (North West England and North Wales)						
NW Regional Flood and Coastal Committee						
North West and North Wales Coastal Group						
North West Coastal Forum						
Turing Tides Partnership and the LOVEmyBEACH campaign						
North West Regional Coastal Monitoring programme						
Ecological Coastal Buffer Strips (Eco-CoBS) project						
Coastal water quality modelling for the Welsh coast						
LIFE Dee River						
Our Dee Estuary project						
Tidal Dee Catchment Partnership Action Plan						
Liverpool City Region & W Lancs Joint Recreation Mitigation Strategy						
Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 – 2027						
Beach Litter Surveys – St Annes						
St Annes Seawall Scheme, St Annes Town Centre & Island Masterplan						

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Fylde Coast Sand Dune Management Plan						
Wyre Beach Management Scheme						
Wyre Estuary Group						
Arm Hill Restoration Project						
Wyre Estuary BioBlitz						
The Bay: a Blueprint for Recovery						
My Local Catch						
Grey Seal Monitoring						
Cumbria Coastal Strategy						
Marine Natural Capital Development on the Cumbrian Solway						
Solway Marine Natural Capital Pilot Project						
Revealing the Archaeology of the Solway						

International

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Irish Sea Maritime Forum The ISMF, established in 2012, aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a broad-based forum for all Irish Sea users and provide an opportunity for voices to be heard facilitate marine planning knowledge exchange and capacity building across all administrative areas and sectors facilitate sharing of data and information encourage and maintain political support for transnational partnership working in support of marine planning, with the aim of promoting sustainable development in the Irish Sea region facilitate a more coordinated, efficient planning process for transnational issues/projects and good working relationships among Irish Sea partners 	A voluntary secretariat is provided jointly by the Universities of Aberystwyth, Cardiff and Ulster, working with the Severn Estuary Partnership. The Steering Group is Chaired by Irish Senator Gerry Horkan and includes representatives from a wide range of organisations including governments, marine planning authorities, other statutory agencies, NGOs, sector representatives and academia from all 6 jurisdictions around the Irish Sea; NW England involvement includes Liverpool University, the North West Coastal Forum, Natural England, the NW IFCA, the Wildlife Trusts, the MMO and Historic England.	Ongoing	In 2021 the ISMF published research into the Future and Changing Context of the Irish Sea in the 2020s. The research captured a wide range of views on the reasons why the Irish Sea is an important and special place and a draft set of 'Irish Sea Headlines' was developed for use by organisations developing policy or projects in the Irish Sea. The intention is to test and refine these at the next Irish Sea Maritime Forum conference. The ISMF is currently developing plans for its next international conference, which is due to take place in autumn 2022. For more information see http://www.irishseamaritimeforum.org/about/	PM EP CC RV HQ RA

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Irish Sea Network This is a new partnership comprising of representatives from conservation organisations surrounding the Irish Sea. Its purpose is to improve the understanding of marine conservation activities and pressures across the Irish Sea, and to provide a forum for communication and co-operation by members. It is funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the John Ellerman Foundation .	Members include Manx Wildlife Trust, North Wales Wildlife Trust, North West Wildlife Trusts (lead), Scottish Wildlife Trust, Sustainable Water Network (SWAN), The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, and Ulster Wildlife.	There is funding for 5 years but hope the network will continue after this time	4 quarterly meetings have been held with 'Deep Dives' into each region in the Irish Sea and a summer workshop with guest speakers and discussions around 30by30 (a campaign for at least 30% of our land and sea to be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030) and Marine Protected Areas. A technical report and policy brief are being produced to identify the pressures surrounding the Irish Sea and recommendations to advocate for its protection. For more information see: Irish Sea Network	PM RA

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National

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy A strategic document containing many coastal related measures. It describes what needs to be done by all risk management authorities (RMAs) involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management for the benefit of people and places.	Environment Agency (lead), North West & North Wales Coastal Group members (delivery in North West England)	Ongoing	The National FCERM Strategy is now officially live. The North West & North Wales Coastal Group will be working collaboratively with the Environment Agency over the coming years to support the development of the strategy action plan and ensuring that the future coastal FCERM work programme in North West England is aligned to support the delivery of the strategy.	PM CC EP HQ

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Co-Opt (Co-benefit Solutions for Resilient Coasts) research project Research into nature-based solutions and development of tools that enable assessments of their benefits. Co-Opt (Co-benefit Solutions for Resilient Coasts) will deliver a new integrated and interdisciplinary system-based framework that will effectively support the required transition from hard 'grey' defences to softer 'green' solutions in coastal and shoreline management. The project is funded by the Sustainable Management of UK Marine Resources programme.	National Oceanography Centre (lead), University of Liverpool, Cranfield University, St Andrew's University.	3 years from November 2021 to 2024	Co-Opt Only just started (Nov 2021), connections with the Coastal Groups to be established, particularly for key areas of interest such as Pensarn. Researchers are being recruited. Co-OPT summary: https://www.smmr.org.uk/funded-projects/co-benefit-solutions-for-resilient-coasts-co-opt/ Real project website about to be developed.	PM EP HQ

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<p>Dynamic Dunescapes, including Sefton's and Cumbria's Dynamic Dunescapes projects.</p> <p>Dynamic Dunescapes is a national project to restore sand dunes across England and Wales for the benefit of wildlife, people and communities. It is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and EU Life.</p> <p>It will restore nine key dune areas in England and Wales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglesey and Gwynedd • Carmarthenshire • Cornwall • Cumbria • Devon • Dorset • Lincolnshire • Sefton coast • Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot. <p>The work on the Sefton coast is taking place across the vast inter-connected sand dune system, including Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve and Formby. Part of this project is to increase the connection of people with the dunes at Ainsdale through art and wellbeing projects.</p> <p>On the Cumbrian coast the work is taking place across a range of different sites including Grune Point, Silloth Dunes, Drigg Dunes, Eskmeals, Haverigg, Roanhead, Sandscale Haws, North Walney including West of Airfield, and South Walney.</p>	<p>Project partners are Natural England, Plantlife, National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Cumbria Wildlife Trust, with National Lottery Heritage Fund and EU Life (funders).</p> <p>In Cumbria the project is led by Natural England, working with Cumbria Wildlife Trust and National Trust.</p> <p>In Sefton the project is led by Natural England (at Ainsdale NNR) and the National Trust (at Formby)</p>	<p>The project runs until 2023</p>	<p>Mid-term report produced in 2021.</p> <p>Dynamic Dunescapes- Management measures for Rosa Rugosa undertaken including spraying, planning permission sought for notching work. Several activities including the public undertaken including raising good practice for dog walkers on sensitive beaches and the launch of the John Muir Award, launch of the webpage and Facebook group and citizen science app.</p> <p>For more information see: https://dynamicdunescapes.co.uk/</p>	<p>RA</p> <p>CC</p> <p>HQ</p>

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Regional

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<p>The North West Marine Plan</p> <p>The North West Marine Plan, prepared under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, introduces a strategic approach to planning within the English inshore and offshore waters between the Solway Firth border with Scotland and the River Dee border with Wales. It provides a policy framework to help inform decision-making and provides a clear, evidence-based approach to inform decision-making by marine users and regulators on where, when or how activities might take place within the North West inshore and offshore plan areas, balancing environmental, economic and social factors.</p> <p>Due to the commonalities and dependencies between the inshore and offshore marine plan areas, a single document has been produced (the North West Marine Plan) but it is acknowledged that they remain two separate plans as specified in legislation – the North West Inshore Marine Plan and the North West Offshore Marine Plan.</p>	MMO (lead), regulators and decision makers including statutory agencies and local authorities (delivery)	Ongoing, the plan will be reviewed at intervals of no more than 3 years.	<p>Agreed and adopted by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2021 and published in June 2021.</p> <p>A monitoring survey on use of the marine plan closed on 7th March 2022.</p> <p>For more information see: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-north-west-marine-plans-documents</p>	PM EP CC RV HQ RA

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<p>Shoreline management Plan 22 Great Ormes Head to Scotland (North West England and North Wales)</p> <p>The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a non-statutory, high level policy document for coastal flood and erosion risk management planning. Covering the area between Great Orme's Head in North Wales and the English coast to the Scottish it provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes, and identifies the most sustainable policies for managing flood and coastal erosion risks in the short-term (0-20 years), medium-term (20-50 years) and long-term (50-100 years). SMPs form an important part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) strategy for managing risks due to flooding and coastal erosion.</p> <p>As well as the overarching SMP there is an associated Action Plan. The North West and North Wales Coastal Group (see separate entry) is responsible for the management and monitoring of the delivery of the Shoreline Management Plan and reports annually on progress made in delivery the SMP Action Plan.</p>	North West & North Wales Coastal Group (lead) and its member organisations	Ongoing	<p>The 2nd SMP 22 was adopted in August 2016 and has recently undergone a refresh process.</p> <p>For more information see: https://www.mycoastline.org.uk/shoreline-management-plans</p>	PM EP CC HQ

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<p>NW Regional Flood and Coastal Committee</p> <p>The NW Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) is a committee established by the Environment Agency under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that brings together members appointed by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) and independent members with relevant experience for 3 purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines • to encourage efficient, targeted and risk-based investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management that represents value for money and benefits local communities • to provide a link between the Environment Agency, LLFA, other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to build understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in the North West. <p>Five sub-regional strategic flood risk partnerships underpin the RFCC to provide more local co-ordination, prioritisation and monitoring of actions and investment. These include Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership, Lancashire Flood Partnership, Merseyside FCERM Partnership and Cheshire Mid-Mersey Partnership. The RFCC also has links with the North West & North Wales Coastal Group.</p>	Environment Agency (lead), Lead Local Flood Authorities, independent members including United Utilities	Ongoing	<p>New Business Plan 2022-2025 published.</p> <p>For more information see https://thefloodhub.co.uk/north-west-rfcc/</p>	PM CC HQ

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<p>North West and North Wales Coastal Group</p> <p>The North West North Wales Coastal Group is one of six Coastal Groups in England. The North and West North Wales Coastal Group is a strategic partnership focused on developing a long-term sustainable vision for the North West Coast by encouraging proactive management and pooling resources across the region for flood and coastal erosion risk management. It is a group of Local Authorities, the Environment Agency and other organisations who provide flood and coastal erosion risk management for the coastline from Great Orme's Head in Wales to the Scottish Border on the Solway Firth, the area covered by SMP 22 (see separate entry). There are also two sub-groups formed of coastal practitioners:</p> <p>Liverpool Bay Coastal Sub-Group spans from Conwy County Council to Sefton Council. The Northern Coastal Sub-Group spans from West Lancashire Borough Council to Allerdale Council.</p> <p>The North West & North Wales Coastal Group is responsible for monitoring and delivery of the Shoreline Management Plan and works closely with and reports to the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (see separate entry) to contribute coastal expertise and inform flood and coastal erosion risk management investment programmes.</p>	<p>Environment Agency, Coast Protection Authorities including Wyre Council (Chair), Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Historic England, MMO, Welsh Government, Network Rail, North West Coastal Forum, NW Regional Flood and Coastal Committee</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The group is actively working on delivering recommendations from the SMP Refresh process, including recently completing work on policy sub-categorisation. It has also successfully bid for Resilience Innovation Funding for a ground-breaking project piloting the use of natural coastal buffer strips (ECO-CoBS project – see separate entry).</p> <p>For more information see: https://www.mycoastline.org.uk/</p>	<p>PM EP CC HQ</p>

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<p>North West Coastal Forum</p> <p>A multi-sector non-profit partnership working to promote and deliver integrated coastal zone management for the long term sustainability of the North West coast.</p> <p>The NWCF works with organisations and initiatives across the region as funding permits to progress better and more sustainable coastal management and to help organisations and people working on coastal issues to connect. As well as having representatives from organisations and projects on the NWCF Management Board the project officer sits on many external groups to facilitate 2-way communication of key issues, including Turning Tides Partnership and the North West & North Wales Coastal Group.</p> <p>The NWCF also provides linkage to national and international initiatives through its involvement on the Coastal Partnerships Network Committee and the Irish Sea Maritime Forum Steering Group.</p>	<p>Blackpool Council, British Destinations, Environment Agency, Halton Borough Council, Historic England, Keep Britain Tidy, Lancashire County Council, Liverpool Bay and Northern Coastal Sub-groups, Liverpool City Council, Turning Tides Partnership, Morecambe Bay Partnership, Mersey Rivers Trust, National Trust, Natural England, National Oceanography Centre, North West & North Wales Coastal Group, The North West Wildlife Trust, NW IFCA, Our Dee Estuary, Peel Ports, RSPB, Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership, Sefton Council, Solway Firth Partnership, United Utilities, University of Liverpool</p> <p>Warrington Borough Council, Wirral Council and Marine Management Organisation (observer)</p>	Ongoing	<p>Since 2017 the NWCF has been operating on a mainly voluntary basis, with sporadic ad hoc funding for pieces of work such as assisting the MMO with stakeholder engagement for marine planning. Delivery has therefore been limited but following a recent review of the need for the NWCF as part of the 3Cs-funded Regional Demonstration Project the Management Board is currently looking at options for securing a stronger delivery capability going forward.</p> <p>Current work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering a Regional Demonstration Project exploring the benefits of coastal coordination in North West England • Leading the Communications & Engagement Task Group for the Shoreline Management Plan Refresh process. • Keeping the website up to date with relevant coastal news and circulating information on behalf of partner organisations as needed. 	<p>PM</p> <p>EP</p> <p>CC</p> <p>RV</p> <p>HQ</p> <p>RA</p>

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<p>Turing Tides Partnership and the LOVEmyBEACH campaign</p> <p>Turning Tides Partnership is a strategic regional partnership of organisations working together in North West England to improve the quality of the North West's bathing waters. The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire and change perceptions and values of key decision makers, the media, politicians, the private sector and the wider community • Collaboratively strive to raise the quality of North West bathing waters • Identify and raise awareness of funding streams for North West bathing water improvements <p>The LOVEmyBeach campaign is being delivered through Turning Tides working with groups across the region and has a range of public-facing campaigns.</p>	<p>Turning Tides Partnership: Blackpool Council (Chair), Environment Agency, Keep Britain Tidy, British Destinations, Allerdale Council, Barrow Council, Sefton Council, Wyre Council, United Utilities, Morecambe Bay Partnership, North West Coastal Forum</p>	<p>Established 2012, ongoing</p>	<p>Turning Tides Partnership: 10 year review recently completed.</p> <p>LOVEmyBEACH active campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Pollution leaflet – informs people what to do if they see a pollution source at the coast. See also https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eF9RfBY9Xc • A motorhome leaflet was developed to inform motorhome users of how to dispose of their grey/black water • WOOP (Wipe Out Ocean Plastics) – this campaign is aimed at young women as it discusses reusable and biodegradable alternatives for menstrual products. • A social media campaign - 'Swap out Sundays' which gives one example of eco-friendly swaps you can do in the bathroom each week. See also https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDyTUJ8rowc • FOGs – a fats oils and greases campaign brochure aimed at catering businesses. Businesses have been contacted across the NW asking them to implement new practices in order to reduce the amount of FOG's entering the drains. • Dogs campaign – being updated to include more information on how to be a responsible dog owner at the beach. <p>For more information see https://lovemybeach.org/resources/</p>	<p>EP CC RV HQ RA</p>

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<p>North West Regional Coastal Monitoring programme</p> <p>This monitoring programme stretches from the Wirral to the Scottish border and is one of six regional monitoring programmes that forms a national network across England.</p> <p>The programme facilitates the systematic collection of coastal monitoring data to inform sustainable decision-making on the coast and is funded by Defra through the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Data is gathered and managed by Sefton Council and made publicly available through the Channel Coast website. Data collected includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic beach profiles • Dune toe surveys • Cliff edge surveys • Laser scans • Bathymetry • Wave and tidal data • Coastal defence inspections • Aerial photography • Light Detection and Ranging LiDAR 	Sefton Council (lead), North West & North Wales Coastal Group members (including Environment Agency), other coast protection authorities	Ongoing since 2006	<p>Since 2006 a wide range of data has been collected to inform understanding of coastal processes and provide data and evidence for a range of coastal defence schemes.</p> <p>All of the data is freely available on the Channel Coast website at: https://coastalmonitoring.org/northwest/</p>	PM EP CC HQ

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Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
<p>Ecological Coastal Buffer Strips (Eco-CoBS) project</p> <p>The North West & North Wales Coastal Group, through Wyre Council, has been successful in securing £6.2m funding for the Ecological Community Owned Coastal Buffer Strips project through the Environment Agency's Innovative Resilience Funding initiative. The project will pilot innovative approaches to natural coastal defences such as sand dunes and saltmarsh and explore their wider benefits. Pilot activities will take place at a range of locations along the North West coast from Cumbria to the Wirral.</p> <p>Development of new monitoring techniques to measure changing resilience of natural assets will take place as part of the project, this section of work is led by NOC.</p>	Wyre Council (lead), North West & North Wales Coastal Group members including the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), Local Authorities, Morecambe Bay Partnership, Lancashire Wildlife Trust	6 years from 2021	2 workshops held, team being recruited, currently preparing Outline Business Case.	EP CC HQ RA

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Dee Estuary & Cross Border with Wales

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Coastal water quality modelling for the Welsh coast Welsh Water (Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water or DCWW) has refreshed their coastal modelling suite for the whole Welsh Coastline at a cost of some £9m. This includes that part of the South Eastern Irish Sea around the Dee Estuary. Welsh Water uses the models to understand water quality issues around the coast. Access to the model(s) is available to academics and other parties upon request (run at their own cost). DCWW hopes the model might be of use in delivering several of the above outcomes.	DCWW	n/a	Completed, ongoing use.	PM HQ

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
LIFE Dee River This sets out to improve the aquatic habitat of the river which will of course improve in turn the estuary and associated aquatic biodiversity. It has a value in excess of £6m.	Natural Resources Wales (lead), Welsh Government, Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water (funding partners)	Several years.	The LIFE Dee project has just started started and will run for the next few years. https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/nature-projects/life-dee-river-project/?lang=en	PM HQ

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Our Dee Estuary project A £900k sense of place initiative designed to inspire coastal communities on the Wirral and in Flintshire and Denbighshire about the nature heritage of the Dee Estuary. A cross border project working on both the English and Welsh sides of the estuary engaging communities across the estuary by reconnecting them to a common estuarine heritage.	Cheshire Wildlife Trust (lead), Local Authorities, statutory agencies, NGOs, local groups	2021-2025	Project started Nov 2021 Natural England is working with the Our Dee Estuary project with the aim of addressing recreational disturbance through improving public engagement.	RA HQ PM CC RV

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Tidal Dee Catchment Partnership Action Plan The Tidal Dee Catchment Partnership has updated the Action Plan for the Tidal Dee catchment area. There are a wide range of initiatives, from the overarching Our Dee Estuary £900k project (see separate entry above), to smaller projects such as the Dee Dairy£130k project, working with dairy farmers across the Dee Catchment to reduce agricultural pollution through advice and implementing interventions.	Cheshire Wildlife Trust (host organisation), Local Authorities, statutory agencies including Natural England and Natural Resources Wales, NGOs, local groups	2015 onwards	The latest (March 2022) Action Plan is available to download from: https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/get-involved/tidal-dee/	PM EP HQ RV RA

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Merseyside

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
<p>Liverpool City Region and West Lancashire Joint Recreation Mitigation Strategy Its purpose is to mitigate the damage done to the coastline by recreational use. It will seek some sort of tariff on new residential development to pay for the mitigation work and possibly staff.</p>	<p>Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (lead) are coordinating the work. and West Lancashire Borough Council is working with the six Liverpool City Region authorities. Footprint Ecology are doing the consultancy work.</p>	<p>Study to finish by 2023; to be implemented via planning policies – Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).</p>	<p>The study is well underway; individual Councils are seeking to establish the legal basis for the Supplementary Planning Document / provide a 'policy hook' in local authorities' respective Local Plans that the SPD can hang off.</p> <p>Interim policies have been developed for Recreational Disturbance in Liverpool and Halton. This is related to housing developments over a certain size requiring input to mitigation such as wardening. Further evidence gathering is currently being undertaken.</p> <p>For more information on the Recreation Mitigation Strategy, please contact Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service: http://www.meas.org.uk/</p>	<p>RV RA</p>

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Lancashire

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 – 2027 Lancashire's Lead Local Flood Authorities have produced a joint strategy which sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The context for how flood risk is managed local flood risks, challenges and opportunities a vision for how these risks and challenges can be addressed, and how to make the most of opportunities a business plan, setting out how and when measures will be implemented to achieve this how the delivery of the strategy will be monitored and reviewed 	Blackburn-with-Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council (Lancashire's Lead Local Flood Authorities)	2021-27	Cabinet approvals were secured from Lancashire County Council (4 November 2021), Blackpool Council (11 October 2021) and Blackburn-with-Darwen Council (8 November 2021) through October and November 2021, with the last approval being granted on 8 November 2021 For more information see https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/environmental/lancashire-and-blackpool-flood-risk-management-strategy/ .	PM EP CC HQ

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Beach Litter Surveys – St Annes Beach litter surveys will start in February in St Annes. Litter types will be counted into sub categories.	LOVEmyBEACH (lead), Blackpool and the Fylde Collage (Marine Biology Degree students)	Initial survey to be conducted Feb – April 2022 with repeat surveys to hopefully continue annually and possibly as other times in the year.	This project is in its initial phase of planning with the first survey to be conducted w/c 7 th February 2022. https://lovemybeach.org/	PM (loosely)

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<p>St Annes Seawall Coast Protection Scheme and St Annes Town Centre and Island Masterplan</p> <p>BDP Consultants are currently developing a Masterplan for the Town Centre and Island Site behind St Annes Sea Wall. The Masterplan will guide the sustainable development of St Anne's town centre and the Island site and is aimed at delivering the council's vision for St Anne's as a high-quality and sustainable coastal resort.</p> <p>The existing sea wall is 90 years old and needs replacing to secure protection to the area behind, which will be covered by the new masterplan. The new sea wall will attract further investment and act as a catalyst for the redevelopment of the Island site.</p>	<p>Fylde Council (lead), Blackpool Council, Wyre Council, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, BDP Consultants.</p> <p>25 businesses and the RNLI are engaged in the St Annes Sea Wall replacement project.</p>	<p>Island Masterplan – summer 2022</p> <p>St Annes Seawall - due to start works on site 2023</p>	<p>Ongoing dune enhancement project – very successful. £1m funding received from the Environment Agency for dune enhancement work over the next 5 years</p> <p>St Annes Sea wall £12.1m Environment Agency funding secured, but behind programme due to challenging stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Town Centre and Island Masterplan: consultation taking place in March 2022.</p> <p>For more information on the Masterplan see: https://new.fylde.gov.uk/stannesregen/</p> <p>For more information on St Annes Sea Wall see: https://www.discoverfylde.co.uk/stannesseawall/</p> <p>For more information on the dune enhancement project see https://new.fylde.gov.uk/million-pound-boost-to-fylde-coast-sand-dunes/</p>	<p>EP</p> <p>CC</p> <p>HQ</p>

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
<p>Fylde Coast Sand Dune Management Plan</p> <p>This long-standing project is intended to improve the sand dune habitat along the Fylde Coast to increase the standard of erosion and flood protection to nearby properties as well as maintaining the improvement of designated sand dune habitat and providing wildlife benefits - the dunes are home to several internationally significant plants, rare invertebrates, and Priority Species birds. Sand lizards, the UK's rarest lizard, have been successfully reintroduced since 2018 now that habitat conditions are deemed favourable.</p>	<p>Blackpool Council (lead), Fylde Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, community volunteers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing dune enhancement project currently providing protection for 493 properties from coastal erosion and 8 from flooding. A further. £1m funding has now been received from the Environment Agency for dune enhancement work over the next 5 years which should provide protection for a further 400 homes.</p> <p>For more information on the dune enhancement project see https://new.fylde.gov.uk/million-pound-boost-to-fylde-coast-sand-dunes and https://www.lancswt.org.uk/our-work/projects/fylde-sand-dunes</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>HQ</p>

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Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Wyre Beach Management Scheme Wyre Council has secured over £40 million in government funding schemes to significantly reduce the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to over 11,000 properties and critical infrastructure. This will be achieved by constructing both rock armour groynes to help build a high stable beach. This will in turn reduce wave height and energy and the risk of overtopping and damage to the sea defences. The rock armour toe protection will also protect the existing structures from being undermined if and when beach levels drop.	Wyre Council (lead), Environment Agency (funder)	4 years from 2022	Consultation with local residents, visitors and key stakeholders has contributed to the final design which will start on site in 2022 and will be completed over a four year period. For more information see https://www.wyre.gov.uk/coastal-defence/beach-management-scheme-2020/1	EP CC HQ

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Wyre Estuary Group This is a sub-group of Wyre Waters Catchment Partnership, focussing on estuarine issues, delivery and development of projects. Development of Wyre Estuary landscape plan proposed as part of future work.	Wyre Rivers Trust (lead), Wyre Council, Environment Agency, Natural England, United Utilities, RSPB, LERN, Fylde Bird Club, NPL Estates, Catchment Sensitive Farming, Royal Society of Biology, NWIFCA, Keep Britain Tidy, SEALIFE Centre, Blackpool Council, Blackpool and The Fylde College.	Ongoing	The Estuary Group has met since 2015 and has helped to facilitate, develop and deliver a wide range of projects. The group went into something of an abeyance during the COVID-19 pandemic but is now re-formed.	PM EP CC RV HQ RA

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Arm Hill Restoration Project (Part of the wider Eco-CoBS project led by Wyre Council). Saltmarsh restoration at the Arm Hill site which is located on the Wyre Estuary. Principal aim is the reduction of coastal and fluvial flood risk along with the restoration of breeding bird habitats at the site.	Wyre Rivers Trust (lead), Wyre Council, Environment Agency, Natural England, RSPB, Fylde Bird Club, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, NPL Estates, Royal Society of Biology, Lancaster University	Project completion during 2023/24	The Arm Hill Project board has been formed and work has commenced on developing a delivery, monitoring, communications, dissemination and engagement strategy for the project. Baseline monitoring will take place during the early part of the 2022 financial year and concept designs for the project will be drawn up.	PM RV HQ RA

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Wyre Estuary BioBlitz The delivery of an estuary wide BioBlitz every three years to help maintain and create a baseline dataset for the estuary which covers as wider range of species as possible. The event also engages with local communities, schools and a wide range of other organisations based on or working on the estuary.	Wyre Rivers Trust, Wyre Council, Royal Society of Biology (3 joint leads), Fylde Bird Club, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, NPL Estates, LERN, MCS, local commercial fishers and a wide range of amateur and professional naturalists.	Triennially	BioBlitzes have taken place in 2015, 2018 and 2021. Each event has recorded more species than the last and has been more successful than the last. The events are arguably among the largest environmental data gathering events taking place in Lancashire engaging well over 1000 people and allowing the general public to take part in the monitoring of species and habitats within the Wyre Estuary.	PM EP CC RV HQ RA

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Lancashire and Cumbria Cross Border

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
<p>The Bay: a Blueprint for Recovery</p> <p>This is a programme aimed at combating isolation and loneliness in the coastal communities around Morecambe Bay from Barrow to Fleetwood.</p> <p>The aim is to do this by delivering nature and wellbeing sessions run in small groups and community engagement events helping people to get into their natural surroundings to help themselves and nature's recovery.</p>	<p>Cumbria Wildlife Trust, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, The Eden Project, and Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>It is supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery as part of their 'Postcode Recovery Fund'</p>	<p>Work began in September 2021 and is funded for two years but is expected to continue well into the future.</p>	<p>There are three delivery teams in place in Barrow, Morecambe and Fleetwood as well as a Communications team focusing on online engagement.</p> <p>The Wildlife Trusts are running nature and wellbeing sessions which are populated through social prescription via the NHS and other care givers or self-referral and community events around The Bay. There is a social media presence reaching over 50000 people and a website is being launched aimed at helping the community access nature.</p> <p>For more information see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.thebay.org.uk/ • https://www.lancswt.org.uk/our-work/projects/bay-blueprint-recovery • Facebook Instagram and twitter 	<p>CC RV RA</p>

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Cumbria

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
My Local Catch This is a marine conservation project based in Whitehaven, West Cumbria, which works with schools, businesses, and the local community to raise awareness about sustainable fishing and its importance in both protecting local marine wildlife, and safeguarding the future of small-scale fishing in the North West.	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	May 2021- November 2023	Cumbria Wildlife Trust has launched a festival of the sea at St Bees, given cookery demonstrations and tasters of local sustainable seafood, developed exciting community events, and worked with schools and youth groups to explore wildlife, fishing, and the actions we can all take to help protect the ocean. Website: www.livingseasnw.org.uk/my-local-catch	CC HQ RA

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Grey Seal Monitoring The North West Wildlife Trusts monitor the grey seal population at South Walney Nature Reserve with surveys carried out every two weeks between September and March. The number of seals has been increasing over the past few decades from just a few seals in the late 1980s to over 500 seals counted in February 2021. Since 2015, it has become a breeding colony and pups have been born on the reserve every year since.	North West Wildlife Trusts (lead), Sea Changers (provided funding for survey equipment)	Ongoing	Seal numbers have been increasing year on year and the seals provide an excellent avenue to discuss wider conservation issues with the general public as they are such a well-loved, charismatic species. They attract a lot of media attention. Funding has been received from Sea Changers to purchase a drone and camera and rugged tablet to better monitor the seals.	EP CC RV RA

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Cumbria Coastal Strategy The Strategy provides an understanding of coastal flood and erosion risk for the whole of Cumbria in terms of property, habitat and critical infrastructure and where and when investment will be required over the 100 year Strategy period.	Cumbria County Council (lead). Coast Protection Authorities in Cumbria, Environment Agency, NW Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	Ongoing – 100 year plan	<p>Now complete after a 2.5 year delivery programme to produce the Strategy. The Strategy Appraisal Report has been approved. Due to the habitat implications of the Strategy needed to be signed off by DEFRA which has now been done and formal approval given.</p> <p>Early interventions from the Strategy have been included in the 20/21 and 21/22 refresh and into the next 6 year capital programme and will be led by Cumbria County Council (lead authority) for each of the Coast Protection Authorities as follows:</p> <p>Morecambe Bay Erosion Study</p> <p>Solway Firth Erosion Study</p> <p>Silloth Groyne Replacement Appraisal</p> <p>Seascale Coastal Erosion Protection</p> <p>Harrington North Shore Coastal Erosion Protection</p> <p>Copeland Borough Council (lead authority)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seamlills Coastal Erosion works - Rock armour and concrete revetment works to protect 6 properties in partnership with Network Rail works to protect railway infrastructure now complete. 2. Whitehaven Harbour Works 3. St Bees Coastal Erosion Protection – Initial Appraisal works now approved and ongoing <p>For more information see https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/ccs/</p>	PM EP CC HQ

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Solway Firth and Cross Border with Scotland

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Marine Natural Capital Development on the Cumbrian Solway <p>The project aims to highlight gaps and opportunities for marine natural capital habitat/species restoration, protection or enhancement on the Solway Firth. This will be achieved through researching relevant academic and practical work and through consultation with relevant stakeholders. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake research • Engage all relevant stakeholders with an interest in marine natural capital • Produce a report detailing results from the research and consultations with NGOs, academics, charities and community organisations with an interest in marine natural capital 	Solway Firth Partnership (lead)/ Cumbria Wildlife Trust (delivery) / Environment Agency (funder) / Crown Estate (funder)	This 3Cs Environment Agency-funded project is to be complete by 31 st March 2022.	<p>Development work is well underway carrying out research on habitats / species of interest. Stakeholder engagement is ongoing with a workshop planned for early February 2022. Some consultation with organisations doing similar work has begun.</p> <p>At project completion funding will then be sought to carry out recommendations.</p> <p>The project should help to guide further work that could address all of the strategic outcomes, particularly if it can lead to restoration of marine natural capital habitats.</p> <p>For contact information see: https://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk</p>	EP HQ

Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Solway Marine Natural Capital Pilot Project <p>The project will undertake a number of key strategic interventions to restore and expand coastal, intertidal and marine habitats in support of key economic fishery species, water quality, key coastal tourism locations, climate mitigation, adaptation & carbon sequestration.</p>	Dumfries and Galloway Council (lead)/ Solway Firth Partnership / Crown Estate Scotland / South of Scotland Enterprise <p>Although this is a Scottish based project the aim is to also work cross-border with similar work (see Marine Natural Capital Development on the Cumbrian Solway project).</p>	Development work to be complete by March 2022 with Pilot Project starting at end of 2022/23 or beginning of following year.	Currently in development phase - development work is well underway carrying out research on habitats / species of interest. A workshop was held to engage as many relevant stakeholders as possible including Cumbrian organisations. Work is also ongoing on the feasibility of a Centre for Excellence on Stranraer harbourside for species work / education / community hub.	EP HQ

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Summary of activity/policy/strategy:	Organisations involved	Timeframe	Progress	Strategic Outcomes addressed
Revealing the Archaeology of the Solway This cross-border project aims to bring the coastal archaeology around the Solway Firth to life and engage with communities through a series of activities and events.	Solway Coast AONB (lead) / Solway Firth Partnership / Grampus Training / SCAPE Trust	Hoping to submit application May 2022 for a September 2022 decision.	This project is still at early stages of development, but has been given the go ahead to apply for Stage 1 National Lottery Heritage Fund. Community interest is being gauged and applications being completed. For contact information see https://www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk	CC RA RV

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Appendix A: Usefulness of a 'What's Happening on the North West Coast' online resource?

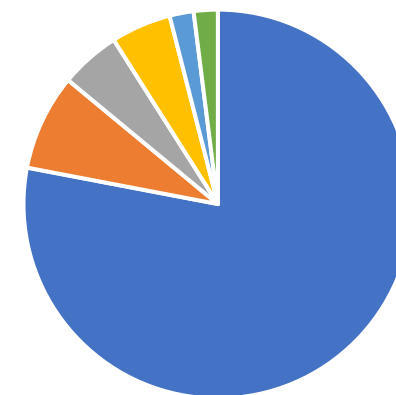
The findings here represent outcomes from the 'What's Happening' survey, the Collaborative Coastal Projects workshop and the key stakeholder survey. Across all 3 workstreams 40 responses were received to the usefulness question. 78% of respondents considered it could be a useful resource although many noted that ensuring it is up to date and is in easily accessible format were essentials in terms of ongoing usability. Of the remaining respondents there was some uncertainty about its purpose and issues raised around who keeps it up to date and how it would be resourced, as well as how working across the national boundaries could be included.

Headlines – how organisations might use the 'What's Happening on the North West Coast' report

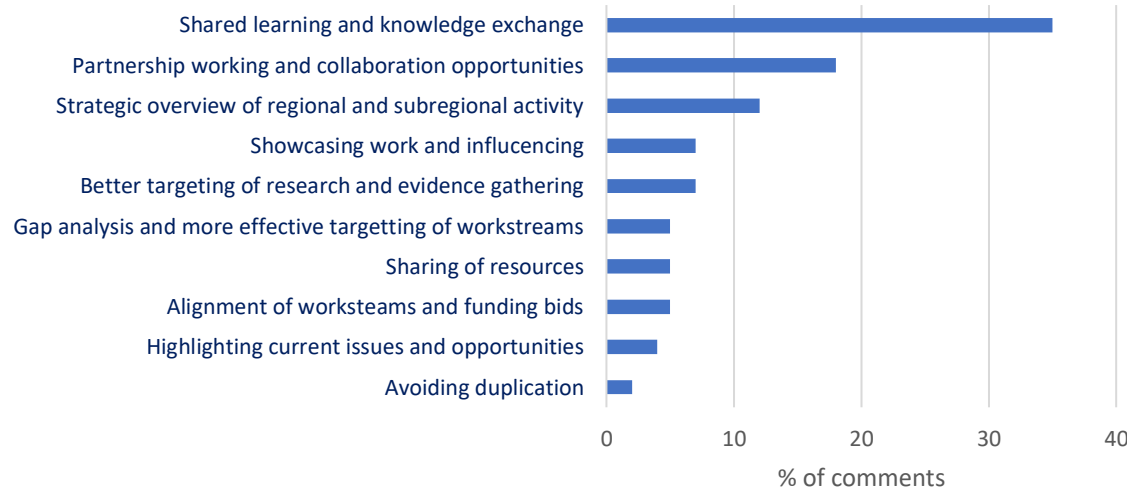
Respondents answered both as contributors to the resource and users of it. All of the comments regarding future use have been reviewed together and grouped into a range of 'headline' categories; these are given below, together with a graph indicating the percentage of comments that fitted into each category.

- Shared learning and knowledge exchange
- Partnership working and collaboration opportunities
- Strategic overview of regional and subregional activity
- Showcasing work and influencing
- Better targeting of research and evidence gathering
- Gap analysis and more effective targeting of workstreams
- Sharing of resources
- Alignment of workstreams and funding bids
- Highlighting current issues and opportunities
- Avoiding duplication

Is such a report likely to be useful?



How might the What's Happening report be used by your organisation?



Appendix B: Updating the Vision

The vision tested was:

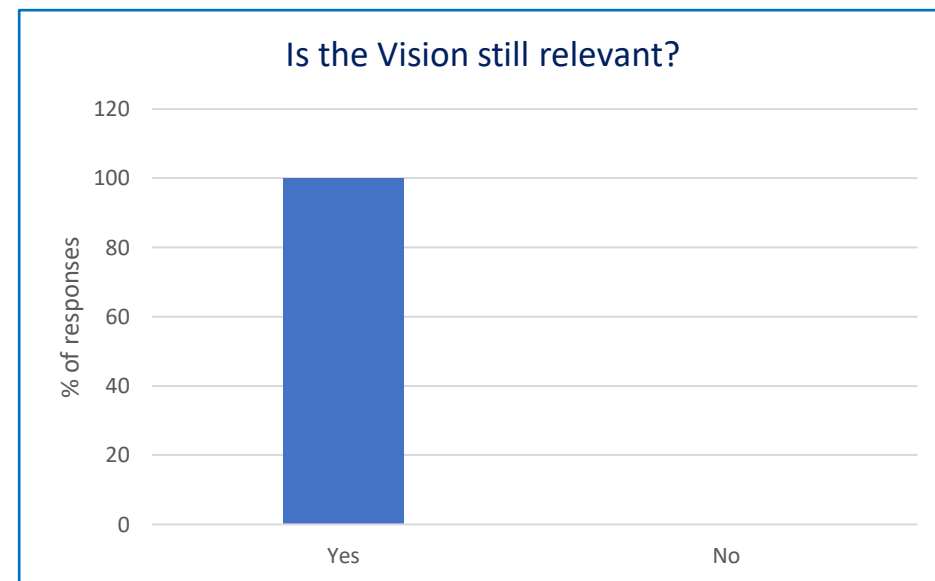
“Our vision for the North West coast is that, by 2032, it will be a place of diverse use and beauty, with thriving, and sustainable communities where quality of life is matched by economic success, social equity and well-being; where the immense natural and cultural resources that characterise our coastline and near-shore areas are appreciated as key regional assets and are protected and managed for the long-term benefit of all; above all a place where our children and our children’s children wish to be.”

Respondents were asked whether the Vision was still relevant. 100% of respondents who answered this question considered it was.

Headlines – updating and improving the Vision

57% of the responses included reference to the need to explicitly mention climate change and resilience, with anthropogenic pressures on the natural environment also featuring in several responses. The behavioural change point included specific mention of the impacts of COVID-19, with more people discovering or rediscovering the UK coast but not being familiar with it or how to behave on it, which is the subject of many current coastal management discussions.

- Climate change and resilience
- Thriving catchments supporting a thriving coast
- Nature emergency - pressures on coastal habitats and biodiversity loss
- Sustainability - improving the health of the marine and natural environments
- Behaviour change - ‘open to all but needs understanding’ message
- Shorter timescale to fit better with other strategic plans



Appendix C: Updating the Strategic Outcomes

100% of respondents who answered this question considered they were still relevant although some (17%) considered some changes would be beneficial. The Strategic Outcomes tested were:

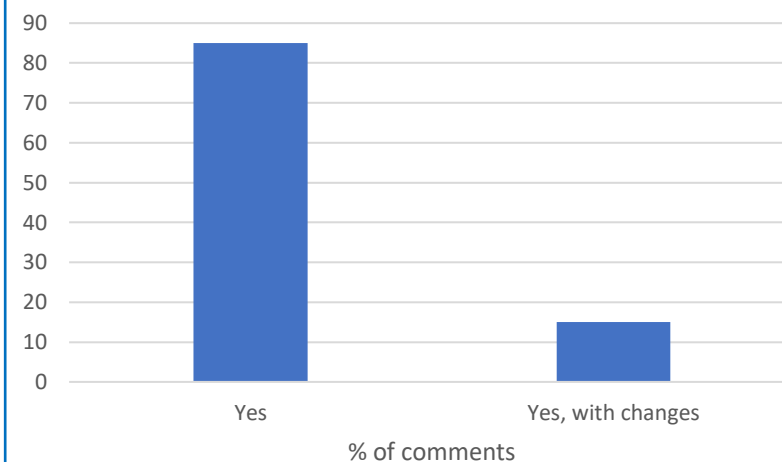
1. *Well-integrated planning and management of the coastal zone including achieving coherence between adjacent terrestrial and marine spatial plans*
2. *The economic, social and cultural potential of the North West coast achieved in ways which safeguard, enhance, restore and sustainably use our natural and cultural assets*
3. *Improved wellbeing of coastal communities*
4. *Improved recreational opportunities and visitor experience*
5. *A high quality natural and built coastal environment able to adapt to climate and other change*
6. *Raised appreciation of the coast, its value and its needs*

Headlines – updating and improving the Strategic Outcomes

81% of the responses suggested changes, the headlines for changes needed are given below.

- Recreation - needs to include more on environmental sensitivity
- Education to enhance understanding and more responsible behaviour
- Economic development should not deplete natural resources
- Climate change, the carbon agenda and climate resilience brought out more
- Reference to national, regional and local strategies
- Include specific reference to biodiversity
- Break down Strategic Outcome 2 into 2 outcomes
- Economic development should not deplete natural resources

Are the Strategic Outcomes still relevant?



Strategic Outcomes - are any changes needed?

