A COASTAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CORNWALL?

The Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) project researched whether a coastal partnership underpinned by a Coastal Based Approach, would be an appropriate & cost-effective means for integrated place-based delivery for our coast.

WHAT OUR RESEARCH TOLD US...

WHY DO WE NEED A COASTAL PARTNERSHIP?

Our complex coast has many stakeholders

involved in its use and management, and there's growing frustration at a lack of coordination needed to tackle future challenges.

Governance is fragmented, with a complicated mix of organisations, strategies & plans. There's also key partners absent at many levels

(including the MMO

at senior levels).

There's partnership activity around Plymouth & the Tamar, the Fowey and the Fal - but large areas have no active partnerships (particularly on the north coast).

Existing partnerships are barely operating due to budget cuts

with funding and management structures not keeping up with the growth in designations and pressures.

collaborative, coordinated. cross-sectoral working is needed; and a 'Coastal Champion' could be the 'glue' that enables vital informationsharing amongst

practitioners

More

Coastal communities need to be more central to delivery; and 'nested' plans in complex areas could provide a scalable approach to expand coverage across the county.

Decision-making needs better monitoring and shared quality data. This is as much about the process of collection as the data itself.

WHAT SHOULD A COASTAL PARTNERSHIP DO?

Work without boundaries across the land /sea divide.

Gather key stakeholders for place-based, communitysupported coordination.

Share data to support effective decision-making and monitoring.



Utilise all available funding streams to ensure maximum benefit for sustainable outcomes.

Be a conduit for engagement with marine and coastal stakeholders.



Use a natural capital approach to support decision-making and wider understanding.



Ensure all of Cornwall benefits from a place-based approach, with 'nested' plans for complex areas.

WHAT DO STAKEHOLDERS THINK?

We engaged 53 organisations across 11 sectors, and found overwhelming support for taking a Coastal Based Approach forward for the following reasons...

24%

find working across the land/sea interface difficult.

43%

cite the complexity of requirements as a key challenge.

A platform to enable communities to engage more with government to better manage the coast.

96%

think governance isn't fit for purpose and needs better collaboration.

A forum for sharing



Awareness & integration of strategies is patchy.

working with the **DEFRA family &** fishing sector - but struggle to involve partners at the right level.

Many want closer

supported a Coastal Based Approach in Cornwall.

97%

STAKEHOLDERS WANT... businesses and local

information on marine and coastal habitat restoration.



Capacity building around marine and coastal stewardship.



A strengthening of the marine & coastal element of local place-based plans & projects.

Improved data sharing, a GIS hub, and more consistent planning for coastal change and climate.

WHAT WOULD A GOOD COASTAL PARTNERSHIP LOOK LIKE?

There's no single blueprint, but it needs a clear focus, appropriate scale, a suitable host authority, and balanced governance. Key success factors are that it...

Helps deliver Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, builds on the 'natural capital approach', and delivers multiple benefits for nature & climate.

Is independent, bringing together stakeholders with a balance of public, private, civic & academic representatives; and a neutral chair.

Delivers efficiencies through collaboration and integrated decision-making.



base in the form of an ecosystem assessment developed through the natural capital approach with shared integrated monitoring.

Has a shared evidence

Employs a dedicated Coastal Champion(s) to act as the facilitator.



Delivers a joined-up approach.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Coastal Coordination is critical** additional resourcing
- **Further discussions with** stakeholders are needed to strategic bodies and clarifying the role of the MMO.
- A full business case should be

Garners broad support and understanding across the whole community with increased community empowerment.





Uses a nested, placebased approach to plans ensuring a county-wide coverage.

Recognises the role and financial constraints of existing partnerships, and that greater support will be needed than for terrestrial systems.

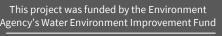
Increases the visibility, awareness and value of the coast.





















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THE CASE FOR CHANGE AND OPTIONS...

WHAT IS THE CASE FOR CHANGE?

To better manage the coast to address climate change, biodiversity loss and growing human pressures.

To better integrate the MMO's statutory Marine Plans – but noting concern about them not being fit for purpose and their lack of strategic senior representation.

To meet the ambitious targets

of various national, regional and county strategies – **and accelerate delivery** with collaborative working.

Clear evidence of savings & leverage from 40 years' of coastal partnerships and 10 years of Catchment Partnerships.

To fix governance failures, with 96% of survey respondents saying it's complex, lacks vision and isn't integrated across the land-sea interface.

£34,000 - £120,000 of savings per year for public and private organisations through involvement in coastal partnerships. (Entec 2008) To integrate at all levels for more multifunctional projects

with funding strategies to matchbringing key players togetherto prevent strategies beingimplemented in isolation.

For every £1 invested by Government, catchment partnerships raise a further £3.20 from the private sector, lottery and Local Authorities. (Collins et al. 2020)

WHAT DOES OUR CHOICE NEED TO CONSIDER?

It is clear that more coordination is needed and that this is only possible with additional funding, with a direct correlation between the amount invested and the benefits delivered. A number of other considerations are vital:

Evidence and Natural
Capital Assessments are
needed for decisionmaking and evaluation;
and there's value in
stakeholder involvement
in collection as much as
the data itself.



Dedicated staffing is needed, with the right skills & experience to draw different parties together, and not be seen as too aligned to the conservation agenda.



A single GIS portal is needed to be a central point for data on assets & features, and provide open access efficiencies.



More comprehensive geographic cover is needed to better cover the north coast, and integration of the Isles of Scilly (Scilly is not priced into the options at this stage).



Application of
Catchment Based
Approach metrics would
underfund. It provides
~£15k per catchment per
annum, but this isn't
directly applicable to the
coast given its complexity
and designations.



WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?	Officer	Assistants	Costs & expenses	Management by CMLG	NCA	GIS portal	Coordination Fund	TOTAL COST PER ANNUM	Evaluation
1 Do nothing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	£0	This will become costly through environmental degradation, stakeholder conflict, and siloed delivery not realising multiple benefits.
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Coordinator + Coastal Coordination Fund Use existing partnerships with a small fund for them to bid for – with CMLG overseeing alongside a host authority.	1 FTE	X	✓	✓	X	×	√	£103k	Meets some objectives and critical success factors but with evidence gaps that ultimately risks weaker coordination, decision-making and monitoring.
	£36k	×	£2k	£5k	×	×	£60k		
Coordinator + Coastal Coordination Fund + Minimal NCA & GIS portal As above plus a light touch NCA and GIS portal.	1 FTE	×	✓	✓	Light	√	✓	£143k	Delivers a good proportion of the identified objectives and critical success factors, but reduced staffing could yield patchy coverage and a light touch NCA will result in insufficient data.
	£36k	×	£2k	£5k	£33k	£7k	£60k		
Full county-wide 2-tiered approach +Full NCA & GIS portal A full evidence base for delivery of nested plans & a network of coastal champions	1 FTE	3 0.6 FTE	√	×	Full	√	×	£157k	For minimal extra cost this delivers all identified objectives and critical success factors, supporting full delivery of the 25YEP through coordinated
	£36k	£53k	£4k	X	£57k	£7k	X		

NEXT STEPS



Further stakeholder engagement to confirm course of action (especially on strategic representation and the MMO's role)



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