

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on
Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town
Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

PRESENT: Councillors C Sampson (Chair), A Bubb, A Bullen, S Collop,
C J Crofts (substitute for J Kirk), M de Whalley, I Devereux, G Hipperson,
S Squire and M Wilkinson.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor P Kunes – Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

OFFICERS:

Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director
Honor Howell – Assistant to the Chief Executive
Neil Gromett – Managing Director Alive West Norfolk
Barry Brandford – Waste and Recycling Manager
Alexa Baker – Monitoring Officer

BY INVITATION:

Dr Pamela Buchan – Motion for the Ocean.

EC28: APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

RESOLVED: Councillor Bubb was appointed Vice Chair for the meeting.

EC29: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Kirk.

EC30: MINUTES

RESOLVED: The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

EC31: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EC32: URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

EC33: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillors Kemp and Morley.

EC34: **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

The Panel discussed the following correspondence received by the Chair:

Muntjac Deer

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Collop informed the Panel of an issue in her Ward relating to an increase in Muntjac Deer in Reffley Park and they were causing distress to people walking their dogs on leads and she asked if the Panel could assist with information and signposting on how to deal with this issue.

Councillor Bullen commented that it was important that people did not feed them, however there was lots of natural food available to them.

The Panel discussed the issue and reference was made to sensitive ways of dealing with the problem, signage to discourage people feeding them and specific issues in other Wards.

The Assistant Director agreed to look into the issue and report back to Councillors as required.

Following the meeting the Assistant Director has provided information on a recent DEFRA consultation on a Deer Management Strategy [Deer management strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) which could be considered in the future once the response to the consultation had been published.

Councillor Devereux Appointment to Elected Members Forum for The Wash Shoreline Management Plan

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Devereux informed the Panel that National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy was being implemented through Shoreline Management Plans. Councillor Devereux explained that he had been appointed Chair of the Elected Members Forum for The Wash Shoreline Management Plan. He explained that the Environment Agency were leading on an assessment of the Plans to ensure that they remained up to date and reliable. The Elected Members Forum would provide Governance on all the work that was ongoing including a focus on reviewing the original actions and

overseeing a 'health check' of the Shoreline Management Plan and was made up of Members from Councils across Lincolnshire, Norfolk, and Cambridgeshire.

The Chair congratulated Councillor Devereux on his appointment.

EC35: **MOTION FOR THE OCEAN PRESENTATION**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Dr Pamela Buchan attended the meeting for this item and presented Members with information on a 'Motion for the Ocean'. A copy of her presentation is attached.

The Chair thanked Dr Pamela Buchan for her presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel as summarised below. The Chair explained that the Council did already work with a number of partner organisations.

Councillor Squire indicated her support for the presentation and asked for examples of actions other Local Authorities that had implemented the Motion had taken. Dr Pamela Buchan explained that it was early days and most Local Authorities would be reviewing their action plans in twelve months' time and she was in the process of surveying Councils on what actions they had taken. Example actions included adding supplementary planning documents relating to the preservation of access to water and the waterfront and some related to raising awareness and education.

The Chair commented that the Panel could note the information and consider it in the future as opportunities arose.

Clarification was provided on the Borough Council's responsibility of The Wash, and it was explained that a range of organisations had responsibility for different aspects of The Wash, including the Environment Agency, the Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership, the Marine Management Organisation, and the Conservancy Board.

RESOLVED: The presentation was noted.

EC36: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

EC37: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 3 January 2023 in the Town Hall, King's Lynn.

EC38: **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

EC39: **EXEMPT - CABINET REPORT - OPTIONS FOR KASSET AT LYNNSPORT**

The Assistant to the Chief Executive presented the report which investigated future options for the Skatepark at Lynnsport with a view to providing a range of new facilities to enhance and improve the offer. The next stage of the work would be to carry out the work to achieve cost certainty.

The Chair thanked the Assistant to the Chief Executive for her report and invited questions and comments from the Panel.

The Assistant to the Chief Executive and the Managing Director of Alive West Norfolk responded to questions from Councillors. It was explained that Alive West Norfolk was reviewing their offer to look to reduce the leisure subsidy and the Kasset facility was currently operating at a loss.

Information on the options for the facility were provided to members and it was explained that sustainable and popular activities would be considered.

Councillor Bullen commented that investment was also required in Downham Market and the Managing Director explained that this project was looking at options for an existing facility at Lynnsport, however Alive West Norfolk were committed to invest in Downham Market.

Councillor Kemp addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34 and indicated her support for investment in the younger generation. She stated that she would like to see free facilities available and commented that young people should be consulted on what facilities they would like. The Managing Director, Alive West Norfolk confirmed that a skate bowl would be made available as part of the development and there would be provision for people with disabilities.

Councillor Morley addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34 and commented that there needed to be a technical feasibility study. Officers provided information on the research that had already been carried out as part of the feasibility study and the work that was still to be done. Information was also provided on how the next stage of taking the project forward would be funded and Members were reminded that a further report would need to be brought to Cabinet for any development.

Councillor Squire commented that young people needed to be consulted on what facilities they would like to see and that with the cost of living crises families may not be able to spend money on leisure activities.

The Assistant to the Chief Executive explained that the Business Case would be robust and the Council would ensure that due diligence was carried out and a further report would be brought to Cabinet to set out any proposals for development.

Councillor Crofts commented that this type of facility had been popular in other parts of the Country and it was important to undertake a commercial venture to reduce the amount of leisure subsidy.

Councillor Squire proposed an amendment to the recommendation so that it read: "Cabinet is requested to agree to support Alive West Norfolk to progress the work to form a full Business Case". This amendment was seconded by Councillor de Whalley and agreed by the Panel.

RESOLVED: That the Environment and Community Panel recommend the below revised recommendation to Cabinet:

That Cabinet is requested to agree to support Alive West Norfolk to progress the work to form a full Business Case.

EC40: **EXEMPT - CABINET REPORT - EXTENSION TO MRF CONTRACT**

The Waste and Recycling Manager presented the Cabinet Report which set out details of the extension to the MRF contract. He reminded the Panel that Cabinet had considered a report on the MRF contract at their meeting in August 2022 and this further revised report set out changes to the contract risks.

The Chair thanked the Waste and Recycling Manager for his report and invited questions and comments from the Panel.

The Waste and Recycling Manager responded to questions from Councillor de Whalley relating to national policy considerations and government proposals.

Councillor Squire asked for clarification on the implications should the Council not take forward the contract and any costs involved and this was provided by the Waste and Recycling Manager.

Councillor Morley addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34 and was provided with information from the Monitoring Officer and Waste and Recycling Manager on the contract, negotiations and management of risk.

RESOLVED: That the Environment and Community Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as set out in the report.

The meeting closed at 6.26 pm

Motion for the Ocean

OCEAN RECOVERY DECLARATION

Dr Pamela Buchan, Emily Cunningham, Nicola Bridge





#Motion4TheOcean

A local government model motion that brings together

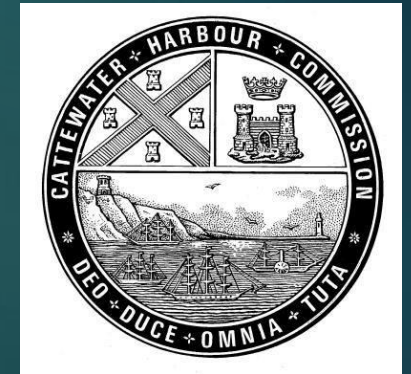
- ▶ Coastal communities
- ▶ Local government leadership
- ▶ Planning and decision-making
- ▶ And grows ocean literacy and marine citizenship.

About me

- ▶ Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Exeter
- ▶ Research Associate, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
- ▶ Marine social science research consultant
- ▶ PhD in Marine Citizenship, Exeter University
- ▶ Vice Chair, Devon & Severn IFCA
- ▶ Cattewater Harbour Commissioner (duty holder)
- ▶ Plymouth City Councillor 2018-2022
 - ▶ Represented a coastal ward
 - ▶ Coastal partnership TECF
 - ▶ Regional Flood and Coast Committee
 - ▶ National Marine Park



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of Exeter



The model motion co-authors



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University of Exeter

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Formerly LGA Coastal SIG

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Nicola Bridge
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Rationale

- ▶ The ocean is integral in climate regulation.
- ▶ But has been missing from climate conversations.
- ▶ The Ocean is a common good and all people are its stakeholders.
- ▶ Local government is as an important actor in marine policy.
- ▶ The ocean can be a gateway for environmental citizenship.
- ▶ Communities and councils can put pressure on national government.

The Ocean Literacy Principles

- ▶ Earth has one Ocean with many features.
- ▶ The Ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of earth.
- ▶ The Ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.
- ▶ The Ocean makes earth habitable.
- ▶ The Ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
- ▶ The Ocean and humans are inextricably linked.
- ▶ The Ocean is largely unexplored.



Evidence-based



- ▶ 1) Marine citizenship is a political act.
- ▶ 2) Marine citizenship includes a right to participate in the transformation of the human-ocean relationship.
- ▶ 3) Marine citizens view local decision-making processes more positively.
- ▶ 4) Marine citizenship develops from marine place attachment and marine dependency, which come from positive marine experiences.
- ▶ 5) Knowledge is a tool that supports effective marine citizenship (ocean literacy and civic/political literacy).

Marine citizenship is exercising the right to participate in the transformation of the human-ocean relationship.

-
1. **Report to Full Council** within [6-12] months of the start of projects that will begin an ocean recovery in [authority area]. **Accountable**
2. **Embed ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Council** (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. **Embedded**
3. **Ensure that local planning supports ocean recovery**, working closely with the Marine Management Organisation to embed strong links between the Local Plan and the [area] Marine Plan to support ocean recovery. **Planning**
4. [For English councils:] **Ensure that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy** supports ocean recovery. **Partnerships**
5. **Work with partners locally and nationally** to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries and develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy, supporting local jobs and local prosperity, including the local fishing industry and the vital work of [local] NGOs. **Communities**
6. **Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship** in the [authority area], including given the opportunity to have a **first-hand experience of the ocean** being visited, striving to include home-schooled children - and promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences for all residents. **Digital**
7. **Create an online portal** of the Council website to show progress, signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities, and provide a central point of contact for the public.

Evidence-based



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

- ▶ Feb 2020 – Plymouth University marine scientists called on government to:
 - ▶ Enable the **repair and renewal of marine habitats** rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ▶ **Unite conservation policy and fisheries management** as the two are critically dependent on each other rather than competing interests.
 - ▶ Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits from ocean protection in a format that leaves in no doubt **the links between ocean protection and human lives and livelihoods**.
 - ▶ Develop a smarter approach to **managing the health of the entire ocean** that moves beyond MPAs and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
- ▶ <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/news/scientists-call-on-government-to-increase-uks-ambition-to-save-our-ocean>

8. Write to the Government 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 enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
- b) **Work with coastal communities to co-develop marine policy** to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes in local placemaking.
- c) Appoint a dedicated **Minister for Coastal Communities**.
- d) **Stop 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 microfibres produced in the wash cycle.
- e) 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 management, climate adaptation and fisheries **policy holistically** rather than competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the **health of the entire ocean**, 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.

Inshore fisheries

Coastal communities

Plastic pollution

Respond to natural and social science

The first Ocean Recovery Declaration

502



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council



Ocean Recovery Declaration – 'Motion for the Ocean'

Plymouth City Council is leading the way in connecting people to the ocean through the development of the UK's first National Marine Park, in Plymouth Sound, champions of sustainable fishing industry and advocates for good marine management. In 2019 we unanimously declared a climate emergency. This Council recognises the role of the ocean in climate regulation.

2021 is the first year of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The UK has just hosted COP26 in Glasgow and in the summer the G7 came to Cornwall. The UK Government has publicly declared its ambition to be a global leader in marine conservation. All eyes are on the ocean.

There is national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean is profound, including in our local waters. Raised atmospheric carbon dissolves in the seawater and causes ocean acidification, dissolving the shells, reefs and other hard parts of marine animals. The heating of the climate causes ocean heating too, which makes some parts of the ocean intolerable for life and is changing what lives and is caught locally. It also increases the volume of the ocean, causing sea level rise, added to by ice melt at the poles. Thanks to a more turbulent climate, increased storminess and sea level rise is a serious threat to all coastal communities, economies and infrastructure in the world, including Plymouth. Marine microplastics have been found in all marine environments and in the bodies of many species, including humans. Fish stocks collapse from permitted and illegal overfishing. Poor water quality impacts seafood and prevents safe bathing.

And yet the ocean is a place of incredible importance for people, providing food, energy, connections from one nation to another, and regulating the climate system which is so threatened by human activity. We must play our part in securing the sustainability and health of the ocean.

Plymouth Sound is at the heart of our economy, and the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our community. Urgent action is needed to recover the health of our ocean to enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including capturing and storing carbon through coastal salt marshes and seagrass beds, regulating our climate, supporting a sustainable and equitable blue economy, with equitable access to clean, safe recreation and nature experience for happy, healthy communities. Action is needed at all levels, from national and local government, down to individuals developing their ocean literacy (understanding of the relationship between people and the ocean), and individual and collective marine citizenship (promoting and demanding a relationship with the ocean that is healthy for people and nature).

This 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. The Leader to report to Full Council, in line with the development of the National Marine Park, on the actions and projects that will continue and improve ocean recovery in Plymouth Sound.
2. Consider the impact on ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, budgets, and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning ocean recovery with climate emergency plans.
3. Ensure that the Local Plan supports ocean recovery as part of the National Marine Park planning considerations, and through the existing TECF partnership.

4. Work with partners locally and nationally to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries, and invest in the development of a sustainable and equitable blue economy, including the local fishing industry and the vital work of Devon & Severn IFCA.
5. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in the city, including ensuring all pupils have a first-hand experience of the ocean before leaving primary school, and promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences, ensuring these are key outcomes in the development of the NMP.
6. Create an online portal of the Council website to update on ocean recovery progress, signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
7. The Leader to write to the Prime Minister to call on the Government 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. Incorporating social scientific evidence and lived experience to improve community co-production of policy and develop more effective and equitable solutions.
 - c. And by listening to marine 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 from ocean management, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods and wellbeing.

Proposed by: Councillor Dr Pam Buchan

Signature: Approved by email

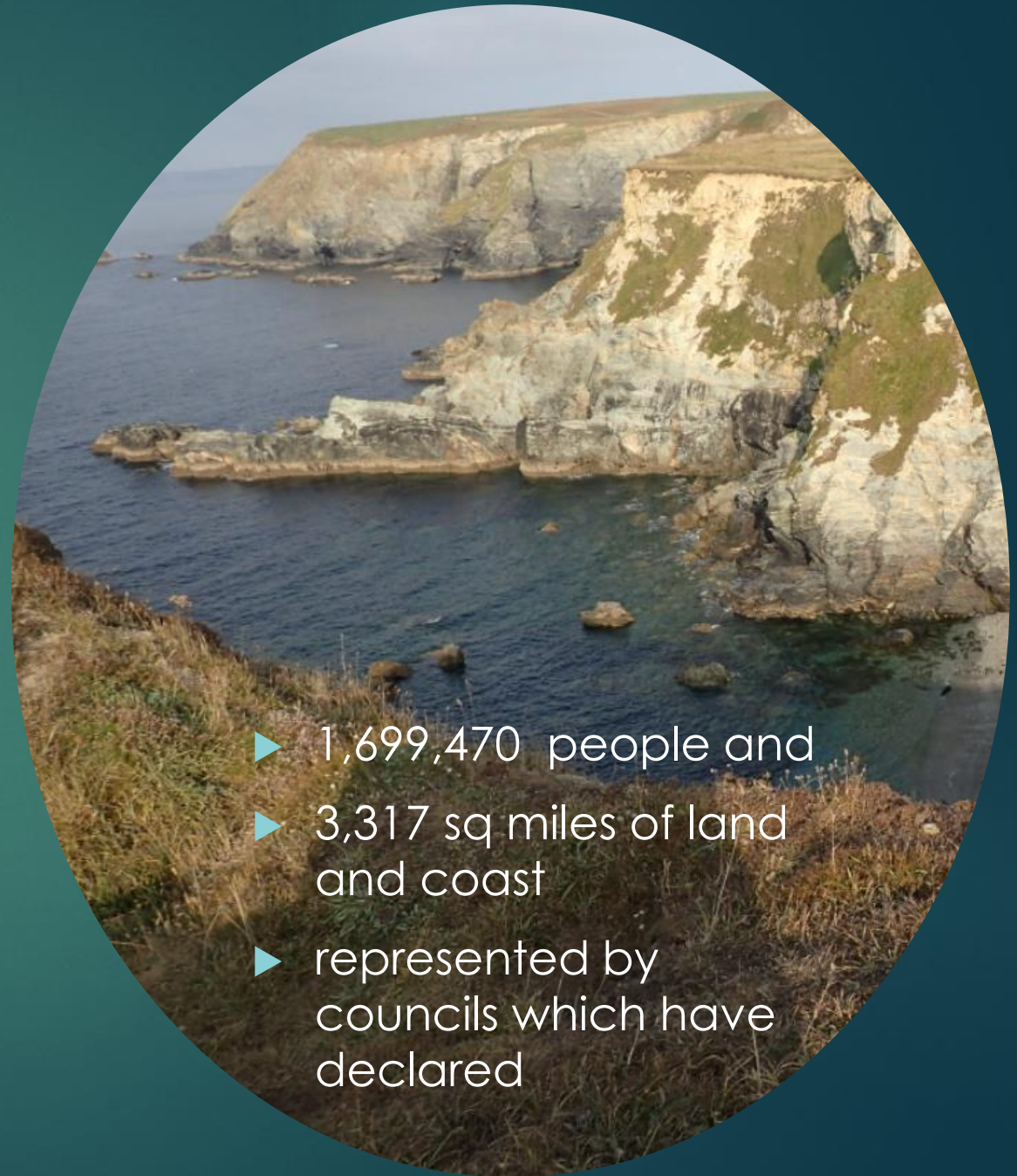
Seconded by: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE

Signature: Approved by email

Declarations to date

- ▶ Plymouth City Council – Nov 2021
- ▶ Falmouth Town Council – Jan 2022
- ▶ South Tyneside Council – Jan 2022
- ▶ North Norfolk District Council – Feb 2022
- ▶ North Devon Council – Feb 2022
- ▶ Monmouthshire County Council – Mar 2022
- ▶ Seaton with Slingley Parish Council - March 2022
- ▶ Seaham Town Council – March 2022
- ▶ Torridge District Council – April 2022
- ▶ Portsmouth City Council – May 2022
- ▶ Devon County Council – May 2022
- ▶ Blandford Forum Town Council – Jul 2022
- ▶ Teignbridge District Council – Jul 2022

- ▶ 1,699,470 people and
- ▶ 3,317 sq miles of land and coast
- ▶ represented by councils which have declared



Next steps



- ▶ Continue research into marine citizenship – action research
- ▶ Engage with others – MMO, NE, IFCA, AIFCA, Surfers Against Sewage, Healthcare Ocean, marine sectors
- ▶ Improve website and information for audience (OCT/SIG)
- ▶ Create support pack
- ▶ Community of practice: <https://khub.net/group/motion-for-the-ocean/>
- ▶ Hold councils accountable – support citizens to do this

This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery.

Will your Council support the Motion for the Ocean?

<https://lgacoastalsig.com/motion-for-the-ocean/>

<https://oceanconservationtrust.org/project/the-motion-for-the-ocean/>

#Motion4TheOcean #OceanRecovery

#Motion4TheOcean

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