



Action Plan 2015

www.coastalpartnerships.org.uk

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Who we are

The Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN) is a voluntary, not for profit umbrella body, formed in 2006, that exists to encourage the exchange of information and debate between around 80 Coastal Partnership Officers representing the local coastal partnerships

CPN promotes the value of the work of Coastal Partnerships (CPs) to their supporting partners, other coastal stakeholders and relevant initiatives including policy development. It also offers increased opportunities for learning and influence, strengthening and supporting Coastal Partnership Officers (CPOs) in their work.

CPN believes in and supports Integrated Coastal Management and is working to facilitate a joined up approach to the management of coastal areas and to represent coastal partnerships at regional, national and European levels.

CPN is run by a small voluntary committee. Current committee membership is listed on page 9.

What we are doing

At the 9th CPN Annual Coastal Forum held in Grange-over-Sands in November 2014, a workshop session was held to build on the work of the previous year.

This delivered a strong mandate for CPN to continue and also a clear message that there was a real need for CPN and an opportunity for CPs to develop their role and services and become pivotal in the future management of our coast.

The Action Plan

Actions are divided into three main work areas:

1. Outward-facing activity Page 4
2. Internal business activity Page 7
3. Resources Page 9

Under each section is a range of tasks. Each task may meet one or more of the aims of the CPN, which are listed below.

Aims of the Coastal Partnerships Network:

1. *Representing coastal partnerships and their interests at regional, national and European levels*
2. *Increasing the representation of the value of the work of Coastal Partnerships to their supporting partners, other coastal stakeholders and relevant initiatives including policy development*
3. *Facilitating a joined up approach to the management of coastal areas*
4. *Providing opportunities for learning and influence, strengthening and supporting Coastal Partnership Officers in their work*

The aims being met are noted by a numerical reference in each task.

Priorities are noted under each task, as low, medium or high.

1.0 Outward-facing Actions – Connect and Communicate

TASKS		WHO BY AND HOW	TIMING	AIMS MET
TASK 1.1	<p>The strong representation and championing of Coastal Partnerships at national level</p> <p>To advocate the role and benefits of CPs to key government departments, their executive agencies and strategic groupings. Advocacy is also to be carried out at local and regional level by the relevant CPs individually or together.</p> <p>PRIORITY: HIGH</p>	<p>Currently this work is carried out by committee members on an ad hoc basis. Engagement will be as resources allow, prioritised to key opportunities as they arise. Increasing the capacity of the Network to engage is key internal priority (see 3 below). Key advocacy targets are:</p> <p>Defra key contacts and relevant Ministers, Defra ALB Directors including AIFCAs. DCLG key contact and relevant Minister Crown Estate LGA Coastal Special Interest Group National Liaison Panels Coastal Communities Alliance APPG Coast/Coastal Communities Coastal LEPs Major national/international social responsibility Directors</p>	Committee to report to Forum in late 2015	1,2,4
TASK 1.2	<p>The creation of a formal Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)</p> <p>A CPN CIO will allow a clear, distinct voice and establish a separate legal entity. It will also allow access to a broader range of funding opportunities</p> <p>PRIORITY: HIGH</p>	<p>This work will be led by the Committee. Early establishment is a clear statement of intent.</p>	By March 2015	1,2,3,4
TASK 1.3	<p>A visible, central contact point</p> <p>This is needed to provide easy engagement for those interested in CPs and the opportunities they provide.</p> <p>PRIORITY: HIGH</p>	<p>The website provides key contact details for the secretariat, Chair and Vice Chairs. CPN will actively seek resources to enable recruitment of a secretariat officer as resources allow.</p> <p>Currently the CPN is run on a voluntary basis.</p>	Ongoing; source resource for an officer by March 2015	2,3,4

TASKS		WHO BY AND HOW	TIMING	AIMS MET
TASK 1.4	<p>Prompt and considered consultation responses These are required to ensure a two way flow of information, evidence and opinion. External bodies have stressed that early engagement actively shapes policy, priority and direction of travel and will build the reputation of CPN by demonstrating the added value of CPN input.</p> <p>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</p>	Currently Tasks 1.3 and 1.4 are carried out by committee members on an ad hoc basis, engagement will be as resources allow, prioritised to key opportunities as they arise. A forward view on known consultation processes will assist delivery. Increasing the capacity of the Network to engage is key internal priority (see Task 3 below).	Ongoing	1,2,3,4
TASK 1.5	<p>Provision of advice Provide CPN representation on relevant groups and committees as needed to support development and delivery of relevant policy and strategy at local, regional, national and European scale</p> <p>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</p>	See 1.3 above	Ongoing	1,2,3,4
TASK 1.6	<p>Develop and disseminate support material. Simple tools like banners and fliers are needed to share information about the value of engaging with coastal partnerships with key agencies, e.g. promoting the benefits of joint working and the efficiencies to be gained by using established networks and processes</p> <p>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</p>	A communications sub- committee will develop a communications strategy and the resources required.	Sub-committee established by 31/03/15; materials produced by June 2015 to support advocacy activity.	2,4
TASK 1.7	<p>Hold an Annual Coastal Forum Resource and deliver a national event bringing together coastal partnership officers with key agencies and organisations to provide information about key national policy development, examples of local good and best practice and enabling sharing of experience and relationship-building opportunities.</p> <p>PRIORITY: HIGH</p>	The annual conference forms is the key event for the Network.	Conference planning to start in April 2015; funding to be in place by September 2015. Conference to be delivered by November 2015.	1,2,3,4

TASKS		WHO BY AND HOW	TIMING	AIMS MET
TASK 1.8	<p>Develop and share best practice guidelines and establish an on-line resource of best practice</p> <p>This will act as a gateway facility to external bodies who seek to pilot new ways of working, testing approaches, developing research; including interpreting statutory remit. The possibilities for this will be included in the relevant business cases and representations to national level organisations.</p> <p>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</p>	Tasks 1.7 and 1.8 will need a volunteer or secretariat officer (if resourced)	To be launched at 2015 Forum	1,2,3,4
TASK 1.9	<p>Develop a national database of relevant projects and project suggestions (partner search).</p> <p>This can be achieved through setting up a self-completion database through the CPN website. The work will include categorisation of local partnerships.</p> <p>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</p>		To be launched at 2015 Forum	2,3,4

2.0 Internal Business Activity

TASKS		WHO BY AND HOW	TIMING	AIMS MET
TASK 2.1	<p>Develop Professional standards Develop a set of professional standards for CP officers and explore establishment of CPN as a formally recognised professional body.</p> <p>PRIORITY: HIGH</p>	Vice Chair Tony Child has offered to lead a small working group to scope and develop initial ideas. Suggestions include requesting a session with bodies with a similar evolution e.g. IPROW.	Draft Proposals Workshop at 2015 Forum	2,4
TASK 2.2	<p>Review and develop the CPN website and newsletter The website and e-news function require a refresh, including new areas such as those in Section 1 tasks 1.7 and 1.8 above. An initial review has been completed and this will be further considered by the communications sub-group (see task 1.5).</p> <p>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</p>	Agreed work will be done on an adhoc basis by committee volunteers. Work requiring web designer input, e.g. database capability, will be carried out when funding is sourced. CPN Newsletter to be published December 2014 and April 2015 to showcase CP activity.	Website to be reviewed by June 2015, any new design elements to be completed in time for the annual forum in November 2015 (subject to funding)	4
TASK 2.3	<p>Explore opportunities for joint-working and EU funding With the new EU Programmes becoming clearer there are real opportunities. CPs have a strong history of working with EU funds, including transnationally. However there are few examples known of joint UK coastal partnership projects. Ongoing discussions with the key agencies and stakeholders required.</p> <p>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</p>	All CP officers, the Committee as opportunity arises	Ongoing	1,2,3,4

TASKS		WHO BY AND HOW	TIMING	AIMS MET
TASK 2.4	<p>Develop Higher Educational links Strong contacts already exist on a local basis with HE institutions, but fewer at national level. This lack of clear connection requires addressing, senior academics are amongst the strongest supporters of CPs.</p> <p>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</p>	All CP officers, the Committee as opportunity arises	Ongoing	1,2,3,4
TASK 2.6	<p>Commission social and qualitative benefit research It is believed that there is a significant gap in the evidence base around the social benefits derived from CPs, as well as a broader qualitative benefit analysis. Scoping the research could be a post-graduate project</p> <p>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</p>	Committee and other interested CP officers to develop the research brief and explore opportunities for resourcing and delivery of both a scoping stage and the final research project	Research scoping by Autumn 2015 Research delivery by Autumn 2016	2,3,4

3.0 Resources

KEY TASKS	WHO BY AND HOW	TIMING	AIMS MET
<p>TASK 3.1</p> <p>Source funding and appoint a CPN Officer. A CPN Officer would act as a key contact, with the ability to input to appropriate bodies, develop opportunities, including exploring new funding opportunities, service and develop the website, etc, liaise with CPs and raise awareness of CPN as well as co-ordinating consultation responses and other key inputs.</p> <p>PRIORITY: HIGH</p>	<p>CPN Committee to seek opportunities</p>	<p>Have someone in post by September 2015</p>	<p>1,4</p>
<p>TASK 3.2</p> <p>Develop the capacity of CPN to deliver outputs through more active engagement and involvement of individual CPOs in CPN business Committee members have a role; other CPOs can volunteer to assist for discrete tasks.</p> <p>PRIORITY: HIGH</p>	<p>CPN Committee to encourage CPOs to volunteer their involvement</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>TASK 3.3</p> <p>Develop a funding strategy for CPN to include a new funding model to resource the CPN Annual Forum A concise funding strategy would identify sources of funding and the associated timeframe. Develop the Forum offer. This has to be unique if it is to provide value to delegates and value to CPN.</p> <p>PRIORITY: HIGH</p>	<p>CPN Committee</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>2,4</p>

Committee 2015:

Chair: Niall Benson – Durham Heritage Coast Officer E: niall.benson@durham.gov.uk

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Vice Chair: Sue Hawley – Isle of Wight Estuaries Officer E: susan.hawley@iow.gov.uk

Committee members: Jane Cunningham, Manhood Peninsula Project Officer
Graeme Smith, Teign Estuary Partnership
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