



# ENGLISH COASTAL CHALLENGE SUMMIT REPORT

24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018. EUROPE HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON.

## REPORT SUMMARY:

The Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN), Coastal Communities Alliance (CCA) and the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG) held the Coastal Challenge Summit with the aim of facilitating cross-sector, multi-regional debate to explore opportunities for collaboration, address parallelism and begin the process of developing 21st century policies and actions for our coastal communities, industries and assets. The opportunity to identify common ground and discuss solutions confirmed the transformative potential of effective knowledge exchange for our shared, or even disparate, coastal challenges. The value of communicating coastal interests across national, regional and local levels was clearly illustrated. The benefit of consolidating into a connected and united community surrounding coastal management in order to increase opportunity, effectiveness and influence was also strongly substantiated.

70 delegates were present, consisting of representatives from Coastal Partnerships, Coastal Community Teams, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Authorities, alongside other coastal stakeholders. Theresa Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Conservative MP for Suffolk Coastal, opened the event. Wayne Hemmingway MBE, founder of socially sustainable design company Hemmingway Design, then addressed the group regarding effective and sustainable design for the coast. During the first workshop session, potential for project collaboration, coastal policy for the 2020s, common strategic issues and the defining of a shared vision were discussed. The second session addressed regional issues, with delegates discussing funding, MP engagement, USPs and shared vision on a regional level. A succinct summary of the key learning points raised in each of these topic discussions can be found in the full report along with corresponding points of action.

As a whole, the Summit findings can be streamlined into necessitating the following actions:

- Secure funding to make the Coastal Challenge Summit an annual event to continue this process of learning from wider collaboration.
- Develop a twinning programme of similar coastal areas – sharing opportunities and challenges.
- Seek the creation of an All-Party Coastal Group of MPs to aid the championing of coastal issues at a national level.
- Conduct an exploration of LEP and BID engagement – the benefits, drawbacks, barriers - in order to assess advantage of increasing visibility of coastal issues via this route.
- Create a national project database or similar – to allow for ongoing exchange of ideas, methods and practice. Potential to develop into a resource for finding partners for collaborative projects.
- Provide further support for initiating joint working and developing mutually beneficial partnerships – via documentation, workshops.