



The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
The Correspondence & Enquiry unit  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ

10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Chancellor,

We are writing to you as a cross-sector coalition representing the interests of people, businesses and places on our coast. The Covid-19 crisis has profoundly impacted coastal communities. It has exposed and exacerbated long-standing socio-economic and environmental challenges, including notoriously weak labour markets and economies heavily dependent on the tourism sector, which has been greatly affected by the current crisis. Coastal areas now need an urgent and co-ordinated response to level-up and support a sustainable recovery.

As a coalition, we represent 57 local authorities, over 100 Coastal Community Teams, over 87 Coastal Partnerships and wider initiatives, 35 Coastal Destination Management Organisations and thousands of small businesses. We are supported by a network of social, economic and environmental coastal experts.

In your considerations for the Comprehensive Spending Review we collectively ask for £70.8m over the next three years (£23.6m per year) to deliver a programme of activity that will be the catalyst for a green and resilient recovery of our coastal (including estuarine) areas, supporting jobs and increasing wellbeing. This activity will help mitigate the economic loss to coastal communities from the pandemic, forecast to be a drop-in tourism spend of £10.1bn on the coast. Coastal communities are also the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with coastal flooding and erosion posing an ever-greater threat.

This urgently needed programme of support would help restore coastal economies and build resilience against future economic and climate shocks by:

- Investing in projects and businesses that create quality green and blue jobs on the coast, including investment in green and blue skills training, through a reimagined Coastal Communities Fund [Treasury / MHCLG]
- Supporting a Coastal Tourism Recovery Plan to enable coastal economies to rebuild from Covid-19 and address seasonality [DCMS / NCTA]
- Providing seed funding for the Year of the Coast 2023 programme of recovery, reimagining and celebration (moved from 2021 due to Covid-19) [MHCLG]
- Resourcing the Living Coast Partnership to help the new England Coast Path National Trail act as a catalyst for innovation and green recovery and to ensure this potential is delivered for the benefit of communities, nature, business and visitors [Natural England / DEFRA]



- Adopting the “Coastal Based Approach”, a framework for land and sea management to deliver a joined-up approach to development and management of our coastline, bridging the gap in the overlap between catchment and marine management [Environment Agency / DEFRA/MMO]  
*[Further detail of the programme is included in the supporting notes attached]*

To ensure wide-reaching and inclusive change, we are also requesting that the Prime Minister appoints a dedicated Minister for the Coast who can work across Government, supported by the reinstatement of the Whitehall cross-department working group for the coast. A new Minister and cross-departmental working group could begin to tackle some of the deep rooted issues on the coast, such as improving digital connectivity and green transport infrastructure, increasing community and environmental resilience through integrated management across land and water, attracting new investment and catalysing innovative ways of working to ensure coastal communities are not left behind.

We applaud the Government’s levelling up and build back better agendas, for which our programme of activity provides a cost-effective delivery mechanism at the coast. Our tourism, maritime, creative, sustainable fishing, food, renewable energy and environmental economies have the potential to be world leaders but need further support if they are to accomplish their potential.

This urgently needed recognition and investment from the Government will help secure the future of our coast and generate both economic resilience and environmental sustainability through greater connectivity, economic diversity, and by restoring pride in our coastal identity as an island nation. This is a clear and urgent opportunity to improve the lives of the millions of coastal residents and the experience of 248 million visitors each year.

The current pandemic has had a devastating impact on coastal areas, but we believe with urgent Government intervention at the right scale, together we can build a brighter future for the coastal communities we serve.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Ernest Gibson  
Chairman, LGA Coastal Special Interest Group

Nicola Radford  
Lead Officer, Coastal Communities Alliance

Samantha Richardson  
Director, National Coastal Tourism Academy

Amy Pryor  
Chair, Coastal Partnerships Network



## Who Are We?

[Coastal Communities Alliance](#)

[Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group](#)

[National Coastal Tourism Academy / England's Coast](#)

[The Coastal Partnerships Network](#)

## For further information please contact:

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## cc:

Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick MP

(Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government)

Luke Hall MP

(Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government)

Rt. Hon. Oliver Dowden MP

(Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport)

Nigel Huddleston MP

(Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage)

Rt Hon. George Eustice MP

(Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Rt. Hon. Lord Zac Goldsmith

(Minister of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Rebecca Pow MP

(Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)