



for
Coastal
Communities

Dear _____,

Call for dedicated Minister for the Coast

I am writing to you today in my capacity as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Coastal Communities. Our group seeks to raise awareness of the issues and challenges faced by these unique communities and bring about action through the delivery of innovative and meaningful solutions via Parliament to make these communities resilient and thriving. Through the Coastal Inquiry that we have been delivering over the past 18 months, we have heard from many experts who have raised many actions including:

- Improved metrics to show the true picture of challenges faced by these communities and the differing impact of these on each as one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate.
- Training and education offering needs to become flexible and adaptable to the communities to enable economic growth and resilience.
- Long-term funding to support communities on the frontline of climate change to enable adaptation and community roll-back and emergency resilience plans.
- Changes to the housing and holiday-let offering to enable coastal communities to become thriving communities once more.
- Coastal communities want to become investable but need an initial means-based fund to support this ask.
- Recognition of the true economic value of the visitor economy and support to moving this from a seasonal to year-round offering.

The challenges faced by these communities are complex, and there are many organisations and local authorities well versed in how meaningful change can be implemented, however they are all clear that Government, whichever party that should be, must recognise the environmental and economic threats to coastal communities and that to enable the coherent delivery of solutions they must have a dedicated **Minister for the Coast** who has oversight and understanding of all the challenges and opportunities.

The recent review of the report by the House of Lords Regenerating Seaside Towns and Committees also raised the need for the dedicated Minister for the Coast and to support this ask, the collaborative *Communities on the Edge* report clearly delivers the challenges and many opportunities these communities offer should a holistic approach to them be taken.

Therefore, I, and all those signatories below, call on all political parties to add a pledge of a Minister for the Coast to show your commitment to these economically and culturally valuable communities.

Yours sincerely

Sally-Ann Hart MP,

Supported by



Emma Lewell-Buck MP
Member of Parliament for
South Shields



Tim Loughton
Member of
Parliament for
East Worthing &
Shoreham



Kate Osborne MP
Member of Parliament for
the Jarrow constituency



**Rt Hon Sir Desmond
Swayne TD MP**



Rt. Hon. Brandon Lewis
CBE MP
Member of Parliament for
Great Yarmouth



Duncan Baker MP
Member of Parliament
for North Norfolk



Tim Farron MP
Member of Parliament
for Westmorland and
Lonsdale



Caroline Lucas MP
Brighton Pavilion



Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair of the Defence Committee



**The Rt. Hon. Sir Conor
Burns MP**
Member of Parliament
for Bournemouth West



Martin Vickers MP
Member of Parliament for
the Cleethorpes
Constituency

Tom McNally
Rt Hon Lord McNally

Ralph Lucas
House of Lords

Councillor Ernest Gibson
Chair, LGA Coastal SIG



Amy Pryor
Executive lead, Coastal
Partnerships Network



Nicola Radford
Chair, Coastal Communities
Alliance



Samantha Richardson MBE
Academy Director,
National Coastal Tourism
Academy



Councillor David Thomas, Leader,
Torbay Council

Councillor Chris Lewis, Deputy
Leader, Torbay Council

Anne-Marie Bond, Chief Executive,
Torbay Council



Julian Gray,
Director SW Coast Path
Association



Liz Gibney

Chair Kent and Medway
Economic Partnership
and Chair SELEP Coastal
Communities Group

Councillor Louise McKinlay
Deputy Leader of Essex
County Council



Councillor Keith Stevens
Chair, National Association
of Local Councils



Brian Horton

Chair of the Margate
Town Deal Board.

Cllr Giles Archibald, Cabinet
Member and Portfolio Holder
for Climate and Nature at
Westmorland and Furness
Council



Councillor Colin Davie
Executive Councillor
Economic Development,
Environment and Planning
Lincolnshire County Council



Councillor Peter Schwier
Cabinet member - Climate
Czar, Environment, Waste
Reduction and Recycling,
Essex County Council



