

**Report To: Environment and Regeneration
Committee**

Date: 2 May 2019

**Report By: Corporate Director, Environment,
Regeneration and Resources**

**Report No:
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AW**

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Subject: Pre-consultation Draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of publication of the Pre-consultation Draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan and to seek approval of the proposed response on behalf of the Council.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 18 March 2019 the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership published its Pre-consultation Draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan. Regional Marine Plans are being produced to interpret and support Scotland's National Marine Plan at a regional level.
- 2.2 Comments have been requested to help develop a further draft Plan which will then be subject to a formal consultation. Once adopted by the Scottish Ministers, the Plan will provide a statutory policy framework to manage development, activities and users in the marine environment.
- 2.3 The Plan sets out aims, objectives and policies relating to a range of topics pertaining to the marine environment. These have been assessed for their content and compatibility with the Inverclyde Local Development Plan and any other relevant documents.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (a) notes the publication of the above consultation document; and
 - (b) approves the Council's response to the consultation set out in Section 6 and Appendix 2.

**Scott Allan, Corporate Director
Environment, Regeneration and Resources**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Demands on the use of our seas and coastline are increasing, resulting in a rise in pressures on the marine environment. Under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 Regional Marine Plans are being produced to take account of development, activities and users that impact on inshore waters out to 12 nautical miles.
- 4.2 On 18th March 2019 the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership published its Pre-consultation Draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan. Comments on the Plan have been requested to help develop a draft Plan for further formal consultation. Once adopted by Scottish Ministers, the Plan will provide a statutory policy framework to support effective decision making within the Clyde Marine Region (see Appendix 1) which will be in accordance with Scotland's National Marine Plan and the UK Marine Policy Statement. The Plan will operate in alignment with other statutory and non-statutory plans, including the adopted Inverclyde Local Development Plan.
- 4.3 Marine planning covers an area from Mean High Water Springs out to 200 nautical miles, although regional marine plans cover out to 12 nautical miles. Planning authorities' responsibilities extend to Mean Low Water Springs, except for marine fish farming for which responsibilities extend out to 12 nautical miles, when planning consent is required. The area between low and high water springs is subject to both, planning authority and marine planning controls.

5.0 SUMMARY OF CLYDE REGIONAL MARINE PLAN

- 5.1 The Plan sets out the following 20 year vision:

The marine and coastal environment of the Clyde Marine Region is clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse and accessible for all. It is managed sustainably to support productive and thriving coastal communities and to allow nature to flourish.

- 5.2 This vision is supported by the following framework of general and topic policies.
- 5.3 Climate change – supports development and activities which mitigate and adapt to climate change, and which avoid damage to and enhance the identified carbon sinks. The Plan recognises that the Clyde Marine Region contains numerous carbon sinks including a horse mussel bed off the coast of Gourock.
- 5.4 Historic environment – supports development that mitigates significant impact on the marine historic environment. The Plan recognises that the cultural and historical heritage covers both sea and land based activities and makes a notable contribution to visitor and tourism experiences, as well as providing an educational resource and contributing to the sense of place. The Plan identifies the Historic Marine Protected Area which designates the wreck of the Iona 1 paddle steamer off the coast of Gourock.
- 5.5 Landscape/seascape – requires the visual impact of marine development to be taken into account. Landscape and seascape are both key elements of the physical environment and provide spectacular scenery as well as contributing significantly to a sense of place, supporting wellbeing and quality of life.
- 5.6 Coastal processes, coastal flood & storm alleviation – the policies in this section have regard to flooding infrastructure and the impact of flooding. The Plan recognises that rising sea levels will increasingly affect many parts of the Clyde Marine Region's coast, bringing increased risks of estuarine and coastal erosion and flooding.
- 5.7 Natural heritage – The policies in this section seek to manage development and activities that could have an adverse impact on natural heritage. The Clyde Marine Region is home to a diverse range of coastal and marine habitats and species, including European protected species and sites. Their good health and condition

contributes to the provision of many ecosystem services.

- 5.8 Non-native species – are species that have been intentionally or unintentionally introduced outside their native range through human activity. Once established, if a threat to biodiversity and/or cause economic damage, they are referred to as 'invasive'. Policies are included in the Plan to seek to control the introduction and spread of non-native species.
- 5.9 Marine litter – is a major issue with 80% of marine litter coming from terrestrial sources. In UK waters around 70% of marine litter is plastic, which will persist in the environment for thousands of years. The Plan sets out policies which seek to limit the creation and spread of marine litter.
- 5.10 Sea fisheries – consist of all commercial fishing activity within inshore waters including trawling, dredging, pots/creels/traps, diving and line fishing. Stocks are in decline. The Plan encourages practical and research measures to support sea fisheries.
- 5.11 Aquaculture – is production of marine species within aquaculture installations including cultivated shellfish beds. It is a major contributor to the Scottish economy and is important for supporting rural and coastal communities. The Plan sets out a framework for assessing aquaculture proposals. Aquaculture is almost entirely restricted to the Argyll and Bute authority area within the Clyde Marine Region
- 5.12 Sport, recreation and tourism - is a broad sector combining marine and coastal based sport and recreation, including accommodation and food and drink. It contributes to local economy and to the health and wellbeing of local communities and visitors alike. The Plan is supportive of such activities and events.
- 5.13 Shipping, ports, harbours and ferries – consists of activities associated with vehicle/passenger ferries, ships, cruise vessels and commercial freight operations, along with the ports, harbours and other infrastructure that support these activities and also covers dredging and the disposal of dredged materials. The Plan specifically supports the cruise ship market in a number of locations including Greenock. Oil and renewable industry development is also supported in Greenock.
- 5.14 Defence – comprises Ministry of Defence naval activities, including training, and naval exercises. The Plan recognises the presence of Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde and the activities of naval ships on the Clyde.
- 5.15 Energy, subsea cables and pipelines – encompasses energy generation, transporting oil via pipeline and power and telecommunication infrastructure/cables. The Plan supports offshore wind and marine renewables, decommissioning of oil and gas infrastructure and the laying of communications and power cables, and oil and gas pipelines, all subject to criteria. It also recognises the National Renewables Investment Plan site at Greenock.
- 5.16 Marine aggregates – are naturally occurring sand, gravel or crushed rock used in construction, principally as a component of concrete, or for land reclamation and coastal defence. The Plan conditionally supports the extraction of marine aggregates.

6.0 INVERCLYDE COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

- 6.1 The Baseline information collected in 2018 and the subsequent background papers produced are very important in supporting the statements made in the Clyde Regional Marine Plan. The depth of information on the subjects covered will provide a valuable source of information for use not just in relation to the Marine Plan.
- 6.2 The production of a Marine Plan that will operate within the context of, and seek alignment with, both statutory and non-statutory plans, including Local Development Plans, is welcomed in the interests of consistency and comprehensiveness of

approach. It will provide an additional tool in the determination of applications relating to the marine environment and in the preparation of master plans for sites within the area. The policies in the Plan are generally in accordance with the Inverclyde Local Development Plan. Comments on the individual policies, as they relate to Inverclyde, can be found in Appendix 2. It is intended to submit these comments to The Clyde Marine Plan Partnership for consideration in the preparation of the next stage of the Draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Financial implications

One-off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Annually recurring costs/(savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Legal

7.2 There are no legal issues associated with this report.

Human Resources

7.3 There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

Equalities and Diversity

7.4 There are no equality issues associated with this report.

Repopulation

7.5 There are no repopulation issues associated with this report.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 None

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 The Pre-consultation Draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan, 2019 can be viewed online at <https://www.clydemarineplan.scot/marine-planning/consultations/>



Inverclyde Council Comments on Clyde Regional Marine Plan Policies

The wording of the policies could be stronger. In a number of places, policies state that development/activities 'will be supported if.....' This would be stronger and in line with the wording of the adopted Inverclyde Local Development Plan and Proposed Plan if the wording was 'will only be supported if...' In addition, the replacement of 'should' with 'must' or 'will be expected to' would be more compelling.

Climate Change

Policy CC1 supports measures to mitigate effects of climate change including minimising greenhouse gas emissions as does the Local Development Plan and is welcomed. Policy CC2 is aimed at protecting and enhancing carbon sinks which is welcomed given the location of the horse mussel bed carbon sink located off Gourock.

Historic Environment

Policy HE1 regarding development with a potential to affect historic environment largely concurs with the Local Development Plan and is welcomed to provide additional consideration of developments affecting sites such as Newark Castle, the Timber Ponds and the Iona 1 Marine Protection Area.

Landscape/Seascape

Inverclyde was involved in the preparation of the Landscape/Seascape Assessment for the Firth of Clyde and is in agreement with Policy SCAPE1 requiring high design standards and Policy SCAPE2 referencing development affecting Local Landscape Areas (LLA) which would complement the newly designated West Renfrew Hills LLA.

Coastal Processes, Coastal Flood & Storm Alleviation

Policy CP1, identifying criteria against which development at the coast or in the marine environment should be assessed, is supported as is Policy CP4 relating to the proactive management of open space to take account of future sea level rises.

Natural Heritage

Policy NH1 is established on similar principles of minimum impact and mitigation as the Local Development Plan and is welcomed. The criteria of Policy NH2 for assessing marine and coastal development are also supported.

Marine Litter

Although litter does not come under planning jurisdiction, it does impact on placemaking and the attractiveness of areas. Policies to minimise waste from various sources affecting the marine and coastal environment are therefore supported.

Sport, Recreation & Tourism

A number of planning considerations come under this remit. Policy SRT1 builds on planning policies relating to tourism and active travel and is welcomed. Policy SRT2 supporting a network of publicly accessible slipways and shore-side infrastructure is particularly relevant to Inverclyde with 23 miles (37km) of coastline and numerous access points and is welcomed.

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries

Policy SHIP1 which supports cruise market development at Greenock is supported.

Policy SHIP2 which supports oil and renewable industries, including construction, decommissioning and servicing, at Greenock, is supported. However, it should be recognised that alternative uses may be brought forward for the Inchgreen site.

Policy SHIP4, supporting dredging activities where Best Practicable Environmental Options are used, complies with the factors taken into consideration in Inverclyde when dredging applications are received for comment and where appropriate disposal of dredged materials would also be considered.