

LGA Coastal Special Interest Group

Our calls to a new Parliament to enable coastal communities to become resilient, sustainable and thriving



Adapting to a changing coastline

Communities dependent on tourism are unable to access coastal management funding

We want to see funding formulas amended to include the substantial value (£17.1bn) that coastal tourism brings to enable coastal communities to increase resilience

Recommendations of the Climate Change Committee have not been implemented

We call on the new Parliament to review the Recommendations of the Climate Change Committee with a view to implementation of recommendations

Coastal communities impacted by coastal erosion are not supported in the same way as those impacted by coastal flooding

A Coast-Re Scheme should be developed to amend this disparity

Coastal local authorities do not receive the same financial support in their role as Risk Management Authorities in comparison to the Environment Agency

Financial support for all Risk Management Authorities should be aligned to support value for money to the taxpayer as this would enable LA's to deliver effective maintenance programmes

No long-term commitment has been shown to support coastal communities needing to transition in the face of a changing coastline

Long-term support must be made for these communities who will risk becoming our climate refugees and need national support to adapt to a situation that impacts us all

Local authorities face consistent cuts to central funding putting vital services at risk

We want to see secure funding for local authorities to enable them to continue to support vital services such as lifeguarding and signage to protect visitors and therefore the wider valuable visitor economy

Emergency services, delivered by volunteer lifeboat services, are at risk from our changing coastline

We call on the new Parliament to review the potential impact of coastal change on the ability of volunteer emergency lifeboat services to be delivered and produce an action plan to ensure the protection of access sites into the future

Not all school children learn to swim and for those that do, the current curriculum does not encourage learning with real-life experience, placing our future generations at risk

Enhance in-school swimming education by enhancing inclusion and expanding the remit to include requirements for children to experience swimming in outdoor environments

Beach & Water Safety



An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Brighton, showing the seafront, beach, and surrounding residential areas. The text 'Regeneration of coastal & maritime communities' is overlaid in a large, dark blue font.

Regeneration of coastal & maritime communities



Local authorities and their coastal communities are being funded unequally and use up huge levels of squeezed capacity and resource into beauty contest style funding streams

We must move away from ineffective use of squeezed capacity and resource to produce funding bids that encourage siloed delivery ineffectively supporting our communities but can only do this through fairer funding formulas that are based on raising up the community, as a whole, based on granular metrics and encouraged cross-sector collaboration and delivery

Dedicated funding streams for coastal communities have been absorbed into other funding pots

We call on the new Parliament to reinstate the Coastal Communities Fund and provide this money to these communities as it is so intended, and to fund coastal local authorities, and their partners, in a way that makes it possible to deliver effective coastal capacity and resource.

Regeneration of coastal communities is not investable or seen as attractive to the wider business communities

Collaboratively, the LGA Coastal SIG and Maritime UK, delivered the Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto which we call on the new Parliament to review and consider its recommendations to support investment whilst considering the general need to deliver education/training programmes that are supportive of the environment and upskilling of local communities rather than the current focus on transient skilled populations

Our coastal heritage includes a strong connection with fisheries but the future for this industry looks bleak

We want to see a commitment to supporting the development of innovative, sustainable fisheries including aquaculture and supporting a move towards spatial management of the marine area to support all interests, and understand where there can be co-existence

Coastal councils are actively showing their unanimous commitment to addressing the climate and nature crisis but central lead on this is siloed

We call on the new Parliament to change their approach to enhancing our country by understanding the need to integrate, collaborate and encourage cross-sector, cross-party delivery of planning, development, economic, social, educational and heritage values. We believe a dedicated Minister for the Coast, supported by a cross-departmental task-force would be the solution with a cross-sector coastal strategy for delivery.

National Parks successfully connect people and nature, deliver economic benefits, improve skills and enhance areas yet currently are land-based.

We support the opportunities that National Marine Parks can bring around their guiding principles of sustainability, connectivity, fundability, lifelong learning, and equity and inclusion, and we call on the new Parliament to commit to enabling such visions to be taken forward across the UK.



Coastal Water Quality

The substantial economic drivers of tourism and fisheries, including aquaculture, are being severely impacted by degrading coastal water quality

We call on the new Parliament to rethink the current approach to water quality monitoring and recognise the value in properly resourcing the Environment Agency to effectively monitor and, where necessary, tackle the increasing issues relating to coastal water quality.

The current monitoring regime for bathing water quality, alongside the Pollution Risk Forecasting system, are ineffective.

We want to see an extension and expansion of the current monitoring regime for bathing water quality and a review of the Pollution Risk Forecasting System in collaboration with users.

Local authorities are the first line for information, and for criticism, on coastal water quality however they have no control over monitoring or regulation.

We call on central government to provide Local Authorities with the right level of funding to enable them to carry out their duties and deliver improvements, or influence change, where they can do so. To fund this, we would like to see utility or other fines to put back into the community who have been impacted directly by the degradation of water quality.

Our coasts and estuaries are home to “ticking time bombs” as coastal landfill sites become exposed via erosion and/or inundated by flooding however the extent and understanding of the level of threat posed by these sites is unknown

We want to see the new Parliament accept and recognise the threat of this issue and fully commit to further research to inform the development of an implementable, and fully costed, delivery plan for tackling this issue to support a funding mechanism that can be accessed by local authorities

Coastal local authorities are deemed financially responsible for these sites despite these being inherited from other sources

We call on the new Parliament to support a change in funding formulas that enables Local Authorities to prioritise spend to deliver works to those sites that are deemed most critical by coastal local authorities as an interim approach until a full strategy is developed



Historic
coastal
landfill