



Local Government Association

Coastal Issues Special Interest Group on the edge - the action plan

Final report, November 2001.

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Introduction: on the edge - the coastal strategy

'On the edge - the coastal strategy', prepared by the LGA's Special Interest Group on Coastal Issues, sets out a vision and priorities for one of England's most important assets - the coast. The strategy makes over 60 recommendations affecting all levels of government, amounting to a sweeping review of legislation based on joined-up thinking, efficiency, consistency and accountability.

The process by which the strategy was prepared first identified the need to maintain the economic, environmental and cultural value of the coast through:

- responding to the impacts of climate change in the nation's most vulnerable and dynamic environment,
- unlocking its future sustainable economic potential,
- sustaining the UK's position at the forefront of coastal management through a fully funded and consistent national and regional framework,
- modernising the complex and outdated legislative and administrative arrangements for the coast,
- building upon and sustaining the positive work undertaken by local authorities and their partners,
- responding to the increasing burden of European and international coastal and maritime responsibilities and legislation,

- demonstrating a substantive UK response to the European Union's forthcoming Recommendation on integrated coastal zone management (ICZM),
- achieving 'best value' and Local Agenda 21 targets.

In drawing up the recommendations that follow, six key principles have been identified as the basis for the planning and management of the coast in the future.

1. As a maritime nation **the special character of the coast must be recognised.**
2. **The economic potential** of the coast needs to be unlocked in a sustainable manner.
3. The future lies in the **partnership** of governance between Government, community and industry.
4. Coastal problems require **integrated solutions** that increase capacity, knowledge and skills.
5. **Strategic and innovative planning and management solutions** are needed that reflect the dynamic nature of the coast.
6. **Accountability and community involvement** must be the cornerstone of long term planning and management.

Finally, the Issues Report published in December 1999, set out the vision, which was unanimously accepted following extensive consultation.

It stated that Local Government sought a vision for the sustainable future of the coast, which enables us to have:

- a **vibrant** coast which is home to viable and healthy communities, where social exclusion and poverty have been tackled, and citizens have freedom of choice in the way they live;
- a **dynamic** coast where human activities and development work in harmony with natural processes, and exposure to natural hazards is minimised through improved physical and economic planning;
- a **sustainable** coast where economic activity is supported in balance with social and environmental interests, and coastal resources are protected and managed in a sustainable manner;
- a **democratic** coast where local people have a strong voice in resolving conflicts where they occur;
- a **thriving** coast where the environmental and cultural heritage is protected enhanced and celebrated.
- a **natural** coast where coastal processes are allowed to continue and sustainable use is planned taking these into account.

on the edge - the action plan

This Action Plan takes a closer look at the recommendations proposed by the strategy and addresses current action, actions outstanding and tasks specific to the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG). It also addresses the financial implications in fulfilling each recommendation.

To summarise, a list of generic actions for the LGA SIG to undertake has been agreed with the details of the specific issues to be addressed.

Coastal Strategy Recommendations and Implementation

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
<i>European Union Level</i>				
Set clear targets for quality of EU coasts and Regional Seas and require all coastal Member States to demonstrate progress towards achieving them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission DG Environment DG Regio DG Fisheries European Parliament 	European Commission made Recommendation for action by Member States. The Recommendation encourages Member States to undertake a national inventory of legislation, institutions and organisations involved in the planning and management of the coastal zone and to develop a national strategy to promote ICZM.	<p>Following the adoption of the Recommendation in the European Parliament and by the Council of Europe, clear targets must be set for working towards and achieving ICZM. Deadlines must be set to maintain momentum.</p> <p>Member States will have to establish mechanisms for ICZM.</p>	Lobbying government by LGA to ensure that interests of Local Authorities are represented in the ICZM debate and policy formulation.
Integrated approach by Directorate Generals with a responsibility for the coast.	DGs Environment, Agriculture, Transport, Research, Joint Research Centre, Fisheries, Regio, Energy, PHARE Programme & Community Research and Development Information Service	DG Research has become much more applied to end users benefits. The Demonstration Programme 'Lessons Learnt' document illustrates how policy under each DG will impact on ICZM.	Work on the EU Demonstration Programme was co-ordinated jointly by DGs Environment, Fisheries and Regional Policy. This integration should be maintained and extended.	—
Maintaining recognition of the coast in future research funding programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DG Environment (LIFE). DG Regio (INTERREG). DG Research (Vth/Vlth Framework Programmes). 	There are statements for each of the funding programmes calling for proposals relating to the coastal zone.	Need to maintain profile of coastal zones particularly climate change implications.	LGA to comment upon draft research/funding programmes and disseminate to its Members.

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
<p>Promote co-operation between Member States to promote best practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC • EUCC • Other International Networks (e.g. CPMR, Arc Manche) • Government Departments • Universities • Private Sector 	<p>The level of co-operation is very good at present.</p>	<p>To continue to encourage partnerships and networking between coastal authorities.</p>	<p>LGA to continue its leading role in encouraging collaboration and exchange and dissemination of information by working with European partner organisations.</p>
<p>A new "COAST" programme within "URBAN" (ERDF) to support regeneration of coastal settlements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG Regio • British Resorts Assoc. • LGA • Local Authorities • Partner Authorities 	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with DG Regio • Maintaining Programme calls • Identify lead Authorities
<p>Review Common Fisheries Policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC • LGIB • LGA 	<p>LGA Position Paper submitted to the EC. The LGA will use this paper to guide its input to the Van Gelder/Pluskow opinion of the Committee of the Regions in response to the Green Paper.</p>	<p>Awaiting the adoption of the CFP asking for reduced quotas shared equally and implemented effectively on the ground in all Member States. The CFP should be reformed to provide for the adoption of a decentralised approach with the establishment of zonal management committees.</p>	<p>Continued support from LGA. Fisheries to be a regular topic of discussion by the SIG.</p>
<p>European Environment Agency to produce regular "State of the Coast" reports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EEA 	<p>The EEA has produced a number of coastal issue reports. Their annual report presents a summary of the main activities carried out by the European Topic Centre on Marine and Coastal Environment (ETC/MCE) including the development of the database MARINEBASE and thematic maps and indicators on eutrophication and hazardous substances in European coastal waters.</p>	<p>To aim to produce one summary document highlighting the state of the European coast. This will be subject to a 5 yearly review as with the UK Environment Agency report.</p>	<p>LGA to discuss with the European Environment Agency.</p>

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<p>VIth Framework programme should be developed in co-operation with coastal practitioners to deal with climate change etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC • LGA • Local Authorities 	<p>The EC has put forward its proposal for the VIth Framework Programme, 2002-2006. The new FP has made a break with past FPs with regard to ambition, scope and instruments used. The proposal will now be submitted to other Community Institutions to be adopted in 2002. In the mean time, Commissioner Busquin has called for the consultation & discussion to go on.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>The Commission is therefore calling for comments and suggestions which are not so far reflected in the proposal and which might be a useful input into discussions at the institutional level. LGA to consult/lobby to reflect coastal issues more fully.</p>
<p>The "Regional Seas" concept to be maintained and extended to areas not already covered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions includes: Baltic Commission North Sea Commission Atlantic Arc Inter-Mediterranean Commission Islands Commission 	<p>Inter-commissions working group on Coastal Zones set up with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuit & deepening of the work undertaken by CPMR since the adoption of the European Coastal Charter in the field of ICZM. • Implementation of the objective proposed in the 'overall context'. <p>North Sea Commission published NORCOAST an Interreg IIc project.</p> <p>The Islands Commission adopted 'A Coastal Strategy for the European Islands' in 1996.</p>	<p>The east end of the Channel, Celtic and Irish Seas have not yet been covered.</p> <p>The Arc Manche Environmental and Coastal Working Group could fulfil this role.</p>	<p>LGA to review the range and competence of European membership bodies with a coastal interest. Recommend appropriate links. These include: CPMR AMRIE CEMR NORCOAST COASTLINK EUCC And others Report to be prepared.</p>

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
National Government Level				
Develop a national strategy for England's coast setting out a shared vision for the next 50 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTLR • DEFRA 	<p>A number of guides have been published, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for flood and coastal defence (DEFRA) • SMP Guidance (DEFRA) • PPGs (DTLR) • Coastal Policy Documents (DTLR) 	Updating advice and guidance taking account of EU Recommendation on ICZM and EU Demonstration Programme.	<p>List all documents and discuss with Ministers their response in light of the EU Recommendation.</p> <p>From this discussion with DTLR, DEFRA and LGA, establish revised/up to date position.</p>
English Coastal Forum to have a greater role in co-ordinating and advising on policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA • English Coastal Forum 	The Forum holds two meetings per year.	Re-evaluate role of ECF in line with action by Government on ICZM.	To increase the Forum's role in co-ordinating and advising on policy, establishing a Policy Sub-Group would facilitate this. LGA to Discuss
Coastal policy unit of DETR integrated with MAFF & the revision of PPGs to integrate shoreline management into the planning system.	DETR and MAFF now more integrated within DEFRA (?).	PPG 25 has been revised. Programme to revise other PPGs (e.g.PPG20 and 14)	—	Meeting with DTLR Coastal Policy Unit and Planning Division Discuss Revision programme and their integration with SMPs.

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
<p>Coastal Commission to be established to develop a policy framework to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop research and monitoring • develop resource management • regenerate economic potential • review legislative & administrative arrangements • identify areas of strategic national importance • identify those areas to be managed as "regional seas". <p>The Commission should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report to parliament annually • consult with coastal fora • be fully accountable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA Coastal Policy Unit • Research Councils • English Coastal Forum 	<p style="text-align: center;">—</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">—</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with Ministers • Discussion with Research Councils • Commission Position Statement
<p>The Environment Agency's "State of the Coast" report to be reviewed every 5 years. The Agency's Regional Audits and LEAPs to be reviewed to provide indicators on the state of coast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency 	<p style="text-align: center;">—</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">—</p>	<p>LGA to discuss with EA to support and ensure that their indicators are addressing all the issues. Identify indicators.</p>

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<p>The DTIs Marine Foresight Panel be maintained and its activities publicised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTI • LGA SIG 	<p>The Marine Foresight Panel Task Force addresses issues such as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • production and transport of fresh water • marine biotechnology • coastal water quality • innovations in offshore hydrocarbon extraction • energy from offshore reserves of hydrates • the all electric ship • marine motorways for European trade • invisible earnings from maritime services 	<p>—</p>	<p>LGA SIG to press for the maintenance of the Panel and circulate information and reports to Local Authorities. Link to their website.</p>
<p>Improve research and information through links with Research Councils. Key data sets should be made available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA • NERC • EPSRC 	<p>DTLR held a Research Review, Prof. Penning-Rowsell reviewed MAFF research. CIRIA carried out a study of the Central Government research programme</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>Discuss with Research Councils. Promote coastal research event with Local Authorities and Research Councils.</p>
<p>Support for networking at a practitioner level, which could facilitate learning and disseminate best practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCOPAC • Solent Forum • Dorset Coastal Forum etc. 	<p>Currently funded by network partners, key agencies e.g. EA, EN, and also EU bids.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>LGA to survey members on current status of coastal work at local level and lobby accordingly.</p>

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
<i>The Regions</i>				
<p>Establish Regional Standing Conferences to consider those needs of the coast best addressed at a regional level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Agencies • Regional Assemblies • Local Government Reps. • LGA SIG • Coastal Fora/Groups 	<p>SE: SEERA has working groups established for various topics.</p> <p>NW: Government Office North West is strongly promoting ICZM through the NW Coastal Forum.</p> <p>NE: NECAG brings together coastal Authorities from Tyneside to Flamborough to address coastal defence issues. Work has begun in establishing a regional CZM Forum although it is in the early stages at present.</p> <p>SW: There is a SW Regional Assembly but it has no specific group to deal directly with coastal matters. SWRDA has a Coastal Issues Group. Dorset have had their Coastal Forum for a few years now and Devon convened the third coastal forum in which it participated, in November 2001.</p>	<p>Actions at Regional level to be gradually increased and momentum needs to be maintained.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish present situation in England • Encourage uniform approach • Ensure coastal issues receive adequate profile.

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<p>The conference should identify regional coastal issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Assemblies Coastal Fora/Groups 	<p>SE: SEEDA/SEERA funded £5000 scoping study for the SE to determine if a strategic regional approach to coastal management would provide added value to the system.</p> <p>NW: Following a study by Liverpool University a Conference in May 2000 Launched the NW forum.</p> <p>NE: Through DEFRA's Regional Engineer a Northern Coastal Officers Group meets yearly to address generic issues.</p> <p>SW: A scoping study that supports the idea of a "strategic approach" was carried out in 2000 on behalf of the RDA Coastal Issues Group.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Need to establish situation nationally to develop Regional Action Plans.</p>
<p>Identify regional infrastructure policies that should be considered in an integrated manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Assemblies Local Authorities 	<p>SE: To be investigated.</p> <p>NW: The NW Forum is liaising with central Government to up-date national coastal Planning Policy Guidance.</p> <p>NE: To be investigated.</p> <p>SW: Regional infrastructure policy formed part of the discussion at scoping study level.</p>	<p>These issues to be addressed through an integrated regional strategy.</p>	<p>LGA officers are likely to be involved in emerging regional initiatives relating to the coast. They will provide feedback to the SIG.</p>

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Develop regional integrated strategic guidelines for the coast and inshore waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC • EA • Regional Assemblies • Regional Fora/Groups • Local Authorities • Climate Change Partnerships 	This task will be covered in part by the EC Water Framework Directive but probably nothing addressed as yet.	—	<p>Evaluate any regional coastal strategies that have been developed.</p> <p>LGA to put the funding issue to Central/Regional Government.</p>
Enable inter-regional co-operation through contact with coastal fora in Britain or Regional Seas partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Coastal Fora • Regional Assemblies • Regional Seas Partners 	<p>This is at a very early stage because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal fora do not cover the whole coast • Regions do not necessarily regard coastal issues as a high profile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal issues and Fora to be promoted and expanded through the work of those listed in column 1. • Regional network developed. 	Further investigations required by LGA officers.
Establish regional observatories, "Smart Communities".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Coastal Observatories (e.g. IWCCE) • Regional Assemblies • LGA SIG • Local Authorities 	<p>SE: The Isle of Wight Centre for the Coastal Environment opened in 1997; Kent County Council have previously expressed interest in developing a regional centre.</p> <p>NW: The NW Forum is submitting a bid for Interreg IIIb funding under the theme 'Regional Seas'.</p> <p>NE: Scarborough B.C have expressed interest in the possibility of establishing such an observatory.</p> <p>SW: In line with the Atlantic Living Coastlines study following the EU's Demonstration Programme, Devon County Council, with partners are now looking at the establishment of a Devon Coastal Observatory.</p>	IWCCE will produce an issues paper on its experiences for a future meeting of the LGA SIG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish interest from Local Authorities in 'observatory status' • Develop a Role/Brief for observatories.

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
Local Government Level				
<p>Coastal authorities to review their activities on the coast to ensure they are meeting best practice. Government will be asked to enable LA's to take action through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a review of inter-tidal and littoral administrative boundaries • granting appropriate powers to LA's • adjustment to standard spending assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Authorities • Coastal Fora • Environment Agency 	<p>In some locations coastal zone management plans have been prepared by local authorities. Additionally, elsewhere coastal fora have been established and are running effectively (e.g. Dorset coast, Solent).</p>	<p>Local Authorities should consider both individually and collectively the merits of revision of administrative boundaries to assist ICZM. Coastal fora should in turn report recommendations to the LGA SIG. There is confusion over management and responsibilities within the inter-tidal and littoral zones. Local authorities are responsible for development above low water mark and possible knock-on implications of development below low water mark. Schemes of management for European sites, the Water Framework Directive and activities taking place off the coast can be considered most effectively under the jurisdiction of one authority.</p>	<p>Paper to be prepared on options relating to a review of administrative boundaries taking account of new legislation and guidance including financial implications.</p>
<p>Coastal authorities to identify 'Areas of Local Importance' and to ensure they are managed appropriately.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities • Environment Agency • English Nature • Countryside Agency 	<p>The coastal zone is covered by a range of designations both statutory and non-statutory. This recommendation arose because there was concern that some areas of importance may have "fallen through the net". The LGA strategy team felt that consideration should be given to the possibility of local authorities identifying areas of "local importance" that are not otherwise designated.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>The question as to whether this category of designation is required is something that must be considered further by the LGA SIG in the first instance. If there is not the need for this action then it can be abandoned.</p>

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
<p>Closer integration is needed between SMPs and the statutory planning system. Longer term, LAs should work with the EA to implement the water framework directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Defence Operating Authorities (Local Authorities and the Environment Agency) • Local and Strategic Planning Authorities • Coastal Groups • Environment Agency 	<p>DEFRA's High Level Target No.13 requires Operating Authorities, through Coastal Groups, to report on how SMPs are being incorporated into development plans. Coastal Groups had to provide returns to DEFRA by April 2001 on how SMPs are included in statutory planning documents. This will depend on the date of the next review of the relevant Structure Plan.</p> <p>Central Government as well as the Local Government Association has been consulting on the draft Water Framework Directive. Further consultation will take place this autumn. The EA will take the lead on the Water Framework Directive but there will be a need for close collaboration with local authorities particularly as the Directive includes coastal waters.</p>	<p>To comply with DEFRA High Level Targets.</p> <p>Taking account of the DEFRA report on recommendations for review of Shoreline Management Plans ensure that planners work closely with engineer's from the Operating Authorities in the development of the second round of SMPs.</p> <p>Local authorities through their Association to consider and respond to the Water Framework Directive consultations.</p>	<p>Encourage operating Authorities to respond by fulfilling DEFRA's High Level Targets.</p>
<p>Support local action by acting as a neutral host to facilitate dialogue between coastal interests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities. • Coastal Fora. • Coastal Groups. • Environment Agency 	<p>Coastal Groups cover the whole of the coastline of England and Wales but concentrate on coastal defence issues. The coverage by Coastal Fora is much more restricted. Local Authorities are best placed to assist in the process of ICZM because of their wide-ranging interest in the coastal zone as landowners, statutory authorities and promoters of tourism and a range of other initiatives.</p>	<p>It is recommended that Coastal Fora should be extended to cover the whole of the coastline. Coastal Groups can also fulfil an important role in terms of consensus building.</p>	<p>Support extension of the Coastal Fora initiative.</p>

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
<p>Regeneration, the need for local and regional solutions to local problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities. • Tourism Boards. • Government regional offices. • Regeneration partnerships. • British Resorts Association • European Union. 	<p>A range of initiatives including EU structural funding, SRB/Challenge Fund and Local Authority funding has assisted regeneration of coastal towns. However, there is a need for the success stories to be shared more widely and common problems also shared.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The work of the LGA Coastal SIG and others in terms of highlighting coastal town regeneration initiatives and problem solving should be continued and enhanced. It is vital to ensure that regional strategies give appropriate attention to coastal issues.</p>
<p>Local authorities to consider the range of skills, organisational structures and policy frameworks they require to carry out their functions on the coast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities • LGA • Professional Institutions 	<p>—</p>	<p>Need to encourage careers and obtaining of Chartership by Local Authority staff.</p>	<p>LGA SIG to assess operational needs for coastal zone management through survey of members.</p>

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
<i>The LGA</i>				
Work with Government and national and regional organisations to implement the Coastal Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA • DTLR • Coastal Fora • Coastal Groups • Regional Government 	There are significant problems in terms of implementing ICZM in England. The purpose of the Strategy was to raise the profile of ICZM and to promote a national debate involving in particular DTLR and DEFRA.	Ongoing.	Development of this Action Plan. Discussion with senior civil servants and politicians on awareness- raising and the need for Government funding to support the existing method of approach.
Take a lead in representing coastal issues in Europe on behalf of local authorities through the Local Government International Bureau.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities. • Coastal Fora. • LGA. 	The LGA Strategy was launched in the European Parliament and some Local Authorities have been active in terms of highlighting coastal issues in Europe on behalf of other local authorities. This has been assisted by presentations in the European Parliament, as well as to the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Region, Arc Manche etc.	Ongoing.	Possible joint project with LGIB to be investigated.
Maintain the Special Interest Group on Coastal Issues.	Local authorities who support the LGA Coastal SIG and in particular the Steering Committee.	The officers and their elected members have successfully developed a new "voice" for coastal issues which is now supported by a strategy and an action plan.	Ongoing.	The Action Plan providing the methodology for implementation of the Strategy.
Facilitate the exchange of best practice by local authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGA SIG • Local Authorities 	Presentations and reports to Coastal SIG meetings and the arrangement of study visits and seminars.	Ongoing	Increasing use of web site highlighting Best Practice and existing documents that are available providing information relating to ICZM.

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
<p>Maintain links with Government departments and agencies, and other national and regional bodies on relevant coastal issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGA SIG • Local authorities 	<p>There is an excellent network system amongst local authority officers including those attending the LGA SIG. They are able to transmit information on a range of coastal initiatives and provide feedback from central government as well as from the coastal groups, fora and other organisations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The existing networking arrangements should continue but it would be possible to develop news item pages on the website to transmit news and information more effectively.</p>
<p>Represent coastal local authorities on the English Coastal Forum.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGA SIG • ECF 	<p>There is not currently a formal representative from the LGA SIG on the English Coastal Forum.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>Appoint a representative from the LGA Coastal SIG.</p>
<p>Act as a 'Gateway' to local authorities by setting up databases of key representatives to represent the LGA in their specialist fields on coastal issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialists in local authorities. 	<p>Only on an informal basis at present.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>A register is to be built up highlighting officers with skills in particular fields who may be able to assist the LGA when required.</p>
<p>Work with professional institutions and others to provide guidance on plan development to ensure that all local plans adequately address the coast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities. • Central Government. • Other organisations who are involved in designing and commissioning plans. 	<p>—</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Through the Action Plan, meetings to be held with key organisations to help ensure that coastal issues are fully integrated during plan preparation.</p>

'ON THE EDGE' RECOMMENDATION	KEY ORGANISATIONS	CURRENT ACTION	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	LGA COASTAL SIG ACTIONS
<p>Commission research to address the specific areas of local authority concern on coastal matters. A priority will be to identify and quantify the additional burdens, and monitor additional duties and responsibilities, faced by local authorities because of their coastal location.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities. • Coastal Fora. • Coastal Groups. • LGA SIG. 	<p>Some work has been undertaken to identify the additional burdens and assess the costs associated with new legislation and other initiatives relating to the coastal zone. This has been used as a case to Central Government for additional SSA. However, this needs quantifying in more detail and updating.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>It is proposed that this vital task should be addressed in detail as part of the Action Plan and a report will be brought to the LGA SIG when funding has been released for the task.</p>
<p>Build partnerships with national research councils to more adequately address the concerns and needs of coastal local authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPSRC • NERC • DEFRA • DTLR • Environment Agency • English Nature 	<p>The Chairman of Coastal Groups does have some involvement in the DEFRA Research Programme. Furthermore, a Local Authority representative attends the Quinquennial Research Review of DTLR.</p>	<p>Ongoing but requires expansion.</p>	<p>It is proposed to arrange a series of meetings with key research institutions to highlight the particular concerns of the LGA.</p>

Summary

Actions to be undertaken by the LGA Coastal Issues SIG

LGA SIG GENERIC ACTIONS	TASK ADDRESSED
<p>European Union Discussions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of ICZM, as per EU Recommendation, for Local Authorities. • Comment upon research programmes. • Set up "COAST" regeneration programme within "URBAN". • European Environment Agency to produce "State of European Coast Report". • Respond to VIth Framework call for consultation.
<p>Central Government Discussions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with Ministers. • Establish up to date vision with DTLR and DEFRA in the light of EU Recommendation. • English Coastal Forum to have a greater policy role by establishing a Policy Sub-Group. • LGA SIG to have a representative present at the English Coastal Forum. • Establish position within DEFRA with regard to the former Coastal Policy Unit and establish what effects this will have on Local Government. • Environment Agency - discuss the "State of Coast" Report and ensure that their review indicators address all pertinent issues. • DTI - maintain & circulate information produced by the Marine Foresight Panel. • Lobby for funds to ensure that money is available for networking at practitioner level. • Development of Regional Strategies. • Raise awareness of senior civil servants and politicians regarding the need for Government funding to support current method of approach.

<p>Regions Discussions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage uniform approach to ICZM throughout the regions. • Encourage development of Regional Action Plans. • Ensure regeneration issues are addressed at the regional scale.
<p>Local Authorities Discussions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Authorities for carrying forward regeneration projects under "COAST" programme. • Establish interest in Regional 'Observatory' status. • Establish the need for 'Areas of Local Importance' for conservation purposes. • Coastal town regeneration initiatives should be continued and enhanced. • Encourage operating Authorities to respond to DEFRA's High Level Targets. • Encourage Local Authorities role as neutral host to encourage the growth of coastal groups and fora.
<p>Research Councils Discussions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange meetings with key institutions to highlight the LGAs research needs and potential partnerships.
<p>Professional Institutions Discussions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts of Local Authorities in investigating opportunities for chartership, in order to address the skills and expertise required.
<p>Position Papers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address issues in the establishment and the role of a Coastal Commission. • The role/brief of regional 'Observatories'. • An assessment must be made of the cost implications arising from any recent administrative changes through the preparation of a paper on 'Options relating to a review of administrative boundaries'.

Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop Website.• Set up a 'Representatives & Specialists' Database.• Standard Spending Assessment.• Establish Best Value indicators for ICZM.• Joint project with LGIB.• Survey of coastal Local Authorities.
Conference/Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coastal town regeneration initiatives and issues workshop.• Promote coastal research event with Local Authorities and Research Councils.

10. Joint Project with CEMR and LGIB	B.Shipman	£1250	£1250	
11. Standard Spending Assessment		£2000	Awaiting White Paper £2000	
		Sub total +10% TOTAL	Sub total +10% TOTAL	Total <u>£25,614</u>

Glossary of Terms & Abbreviations

AMRIE	Alliance of Maritime Interests in Europe.
Arc Manche	A grouping of counties in the south of England and Regions in the north-west France, all of which border the Channel.
CEMR	Coalition for Enhanced Marine Resources.
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy.
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association.
COASTLINK	A partnership of regions that contributed to the EU Demonstration Programme through the Commission's TERRA (Spatial Planning Programme).
CPMR	"The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) is a grouping of European Local Authorities that was set up in 1973 to ensure that issues relating to peripherality are taken into account in all aspects of European policy. The Conference is divided into five Commissions, namely: the Baltic Sea Commission; the North Sea Commission; the Atlantic Arc; the Mediterranean Commission and the Islands Commission. These groups meet separately each year and bring their various resolutions to the CPMR's Annual General Assembly. In addition, there are a number of Inter-Commission (Intercom) Groups, including one on fisheries and one on ICZM."
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs.
DEFRA's High Level Targets	High Level Targets set for Coastal Defence Operating Authorities (Coast Protection Authorities and the Environment Agency) to ensure delivery of Government flood and coastal defence policy.
DTI	Department for Trade and Industry.

DTLR	Department for Transport, Local Government and Regions.
EA	Environment Agency; regulators of the environment of England and Wales, covering 15 million hectares of land, 36,000 kilometres of river, 5,000 km of coastline and over 2 million hectares of coastal water. Website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk
EC	European Commission.
EEA	European Environment Agency.
English Coastal Forum (ECF)	A national Forum that meets under the auspices of DTLR to discuss coastal management policy and issues.
EN	English Nature; the Government's nature conservation advisors for England. Website: www.english-nature.org.uk
EPSRC	Environment and Physical Science Research Council.
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund.
EUCC	European Union for Coastal Conservation.
EU Demonstration Programme	Under LIFE Environment, 35 ICZM projects were carried out around the European coastline.
EU Recommendation	on ICZM, requiring action by Member States on implementing the Demonstration Programme findings.
Eutrophication	Gradual increase in the concentration of phosphorus, nitrogen, and other plant nutrients in an ageing aquatic ecosystem.
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

IWCCE	Isle of Wight Centre for the Coastal Environment.
LAs	Local Authorities.
LGA SIG	Local Government Association Special Interest Group.
LEAPs	Local Environment Agency Plan.
LGIB	Local Government International Bureau.
NECAG	North East Coastal Advisory Group.
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council.
NORCOAST	Recommendations on improved Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the North Sea Region, an Interreg IIc project.
PHARE Programme	An EU funding programme that involves collaboration with former Eastern Bloc States.
PPGs	Planning Policy Guidance; a series of Notes issued by the DTLR setting out the Government's policy guidance on planning issues, such as the countryside, nature conservation, coastal planning etc.
RDA	Regional Development Agency.
SCOPAC	Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline. One of 17 Regional Coastal Groups covering the coastline of England and Wales comprising Local Authorities and other bodies with an interest in the shoreline and related matters. Website: www.scopac.org.uk
SEEDA	South East of England Development Agency.
SEERA	South East of England Regional Assembly.

SMP	Shoreline Management Plan. Plans through which local authorities and others provide a framework for sustainable coastal defence policies within a sediment cell or sub-cell.
SRB	Single Regeneration Budget (phased funding programme as part of the Governments Challenge Fund).
SWRDA	South West Regional Development Agency.