

THE SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP

A company limited by guarantee

Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2016

Charity number: SC034376

Company number: SC250012

**Montpelier Professional (Galloway) Limited
1 Dashwood Square
Newton Stewart
DG8 6EQ**

THE SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP

Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016

Contents	Pages
Legal and administrative information	1
Report of the trustees	2
Independent examiners' report	8
Statement of financial activities and income & expenditure account	9
Balance sheet	10
Notes forming part of the financial statements	11

THE SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP

Legal and administrative information

Governing Documents

The Company was incorporated on 16 April 2003 as a company limited by guarantee without share capital. The Company registration number is SC250012. It is a Scottish Charity under Scottish Charity Number SC034376 and this has been accepted by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and, for tax purposes, by HM Revenue & Customs.

Directors and trustees

The directors of this charitable company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.

Trustees

Councillor A J Markley
Mr A Shankland
Mr C H G Edwards
Mrs J C Lochhead
Mr A McNeil, Chair
Mr J Mitchell
Mr M J Heaslip resigned 03.12.15
Councillor J McClung
Councillor L Tickner
Mr S Hardy
Mr W H Jefferson appointed 03.12.15

Secretary

Mr P Mackey

Partnership Manager

Ms C McFarlan

Registered office

Campbell House
The Crichton
Dumfries
DG1 4UQ

Accountants

Montpelier Professional (Galloway) Limited
1 Dashwood Square
Newton Stewart
DG8 6EQ

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
91 High Street
Dumfries
DG1 2BN

THE SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2016

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report.

The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is registered as a limited company and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The methods of recruiting and appointing new trustees are outlined in Articles 31-33 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. In summary, new trustees can be recruited or co-opted via nominations from the partnership's membership.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association were revised and changes approved at the AGM in October 2007 creating a new ordinary Membership and enabling the appointment of individual trustees to the Partnership Board.

The Partnership holds regular governance and management meetings. Trustee meetings are held as required and 4 Advisory Committee meetings are held per year (the Advisory Committee is comprised of all Corporate Members of the Partnership).

Risk Policy

The Partnership's trustees receive regular reports on activities and provide advice on risk management. There is no specific risk register however the trustees discussed the need for professional and trustee indemnity insurance during the year (which has subsequently been put in place).

THE SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2016

Objectives and Activity

The Solway Firth Partnership Business Plan 2015 – 2018 sets out how the organisation intends to maintain its strategic aims while adapting to meet the changing needs of the working environment. The Business Plan spans three years while recognising the need for review and revision during this time resulting from implementation of the Marine Acts. It is intended to supplement the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, provide clarity about the organisation's aims and set out actions against which progress could be measured. The Business Plan, as with all Solway Firth Partnership's governing and strategic documents, is available on the company's website: www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk.

Solway Firth Partnership's mission is to support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of the marine and coastal area.

The organisation's strategic aim is to provide a framework for marine planning and management that enables engagement by everyone with an interest in the local marine and coastal area.

The organisation is working towards the following strategic outcomes:

- To make a significant contribution to sustainable development and environmental protection through supporting integrated marine and coastal planning and management.
- To provide a transparent, balanced and respected mechanism that supports objective, impartial and evidence based decision making for the local marine and coastal area.
- To provide distinctive input to development of a cooperative network of relationships between everyone with an interest in the local marine and coastal area.
- To provide assistance to coastal communities and businesses resulting in tangible local benefits.
- To promote greater recognition and understanding of the high quality environment, culture and heritage of the local marine and coastal area.

Activities for achieving objectives

The Partnership's core activities, as set out in the Business Plan 2015 – 2018, can be categorised in terms of the following areas:

- Partnership
- Planning
- Environment
- Fisheries
- Energy
- Awareness

Grant Making Policy

The charity does not distribute grants.

THE SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2016

Achievements and Performance and Future Plans

During the financial year ending 31st March 2016, the Partnership's activities can be summarised as follows:

Partnership

- The Business Plan 2015 – 2018 is currently being followed.
- During this year Core staff consisted of Clair McFarlan 4 days/week and Paul Mackey 2 days/week (Alison Robertson took early retirement in July 2015 and was replaced by Paul). Henriette Scholz, final year student at University of Glasgow (Dumfries campus), worked 1 day/week from Sept to March 2016. Project staff consisted of Pam Taylor working full time on the 'Out of the Blue' Project until August 2015 and then 4 days/week to the end of the year and Nic Coombey worked 1 day/week on implementing the Brow Well project until the end of March.
- Quarterly Board and Working Group meetings were held throughout the year.
- The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Partnership took place on Thursday 3 December 2015 at Tullie House Museum in Carlisle.
- The Partnership had input to the work of a wide range of complementary initiatives such as Solway Coast AONB Steering Group, D&G Local Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group, the Local and National Coastal Partnership Officers' networks, the Inshore Fisheries Group, the North West Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority and the EMS Officers network.
- SFP has contributed to the development of a coastal project within the proposed Galloway Glens HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme, led by Dumfries and Galloway Council.
- SFP has contributed to and sits on the LEADER Dumfries and Galloway Communities Local Action Group.
- The SFP website was regularly updated throughout the year and an E-newsletter sent out to around 1300 subscribers in May, July, August, September, November, December 2015, January and March 2016.

Planning

- A paper on the potential set up and governance of the Solway Marine Planning Partnership has been produced following consultation with SFP Board of Trustees and Advisory Group members.
- SFP promoted the national (Scottish) marine recreation and tourism survey.
- There has been a contribution to a range of partnership initiatives including Marine Strategy Framework Directive Consultation; Marine Spatial Planning workshops; European Marine Site Officers network; National Coastal Partnership Network Forum and Scottish Coastal Forum.
- SFP worked on the implementation of the Loch Ryan management plan:- The Loch Ryan booklet (Places to Bird Watch and Explore) was printed and widely distributed; Three interpretation panels were produced and erected on site – High Balyett car park, West Pier and the Wig car park along with public viewing binoculars; The WW2 lookout post at the Wig was cleaned up, structurally reinforced, installed with a battleships game and a sound piece of flying boats; Concrete seating was installed at the car park, half way along the track to the point and at the Kirkcolm point; Black guillemot nesting boxes were installed under the walkway of the West Pier at Stranraer; A leaflet on the WW2 Heritage of Loch Ryan was produced and distributed; A launch of the site took place at Kirkcolm Primary School with a 1940s themed afternoon tea after a walk out to the art installation with the artist. Good publicity surrounded the event with it appearing on Border TV, in local newspapers and on the Border Life television programme.

Environment

- There has been regular input to Solway Area Advisory Group of the Solway Tweed River Basin District / Solway Flood Risk Management Group and to biodiversity initiatives including D&G LBAP Steering Group and D&G Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) group.
- A report has been compiled for Natural England on the distribution of roosting birds within the Solway EMS in Cumbria. SFP worked with RSPB Campfield Marsh and Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre to help complete the project in March 2016.
- As part of an ongoing partnership project to look at coastal and marine biodiversity data availability, accessibility and knowledge gaps, Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Resources Centre (DGERC) sent out an on-line questionnaire to partners across the Solway. A report has been produced for Natural England based on the 20 responses received. Results should help contribute to data collection for Regional Marine Planning.
- SFP contributed to the Celtic Seas Partnership Invasives Task Group and attended the conference in Paris where SFP helped to lead a workshop on marine invasive non-native species. The Scotland 'Country' Workshop was then attended in Glasgow. Following on from the workshop information was provided to the Celtic Seas Partnership to help populate their website.
- The report 'Marine Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in the Solway' has been reviewed and updated for 2015-18 (available on website).
- A presentation on marine INNS in the Solway was made to the 'Wild Bunch' group in Eastriggs.
- SFP provided assistance to a fourth year student from Glasgow University, Dumfries campus – Environmental Stewardship course carrying out a final year dissertation on 'Micro-plastics in the Solway'.
- Engagement with NE/MMO has been maintained by attending the annual EMS workshop and other meetings.

