

Solway Firth Partnership Business Plan 2013 – 2015



Working together towards a sustainable Solway Firth

Solway Firth Partnership

BUSINESS PLAN 2013 – 2015

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1 SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP

1.1 Business Plan

The Solway Firth Partnership Business Plan 2013 – 2015 sets out how we intend to maintain our strategic aims while adapting to meet the changing needs of our working environment.

The Business Plan spans the following two years while recognising the need for review and revision during this time resulting from implementation of the Marine Acts. Nevertheless, it is important to be clear about our purpose and to set out actions against which progress can be measured in relation to achievement of our strategic objectives and the requirements of our funding partners.

Our annual report is published in conjunction with our accounts. All our governing and strategic documents are available on our website: www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

1.2 Mission

To support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of our marine and coastal area.

1.3 Strategic Aim

To provide a framework for marine planning and management that enables engagement by everyone with an interest in our marine and coastal area.

1.4 Strategic Outcomes

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

2 FOCUS

2.1 Responding to the Marine Acts

Solway Firth Partnership is an independent charitable company¹ and has acted as a voluntary coastal management mechanism since 1994. The Solway Firth has complexities arising from its cross boundary situation, proximity to the Isle of Man and position on the northern edge of the Irish Sea. This results in a high number of organisations operating under different legal and cultural systems. The Partnership supports integration between people and policies related to the local marine and coastal area.

While this need to address cohesion remains, the legislative background against which the Partnership operates has fundamentally changed with the introduction of the Marine Acts². The Acts resulted in establishment of marine governance bodies: the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Marine Scotland. The MMO is a non-departmental public body incorporating the work of the Marine and Fisheries Agency and has responsibility for preparing marine plans in English inshore and offshore regions. Marine Scotland is a division of the Scottish Government bringing together a range of functions including planning, science, fisheries and compliance. The Partnership is developing closer working relationships with these organisations while at the same time maintaining strong links with long-standing partners.

The Marine Acts have developed in parallel with the Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union³ and the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive⁴. The common aim is to support sustainable use of our seas and coasts through an integrated approach to management and governance which fosters interaction between all sea-related policies. This aligns closely with Solway Firth Partnership's founding objectives⁵.

Delivering the high level marine objectives⁶ to which all UK administrations have committed requires shared responsibility amongst a range of organisations. Efficient interaction between these organisations is critical to success and aligning policies and actions in the Solway area presents particular challenges. It is imperative to engage all stakeholders to deliver high quality decision making and foster genuine understanding and ownership of plans. This approach is fundamental to Solway Firth Partnership's way of working.

Marine planning is a central means of achieving shared objectives, in conjunction with other key measures including creation of a marine protected areas network and the development of improved fisheries management. There are significant commitments to mitigate the effects of climate change and there is a need to find ways in which our local marine environment can contribute to these. With regard to all these endeavours, the

¹ The Solway Firth Partnership is a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee and without share capital under Company Number SC250012 and a Scottish Charity under Scottish Charity Number SC034376.

² The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009; The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

³ European Union Integrated Maritime Policy: established 2007.

⁴ European Union Marine Strategy Framework Directive , 2008.

⁵ Solway Firth Partnership Memorandum and Articles of Association, 2003 (amended 2004, 2007).

⁶ Our seas - a shared resource - UK High Level Marine Objectives: HM Government, Northern Ireland Executive, The Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government, 2009.

Solway must be considered in a holistic way in line with the joint ministerial commitment to cross-border planning⁷.

In England, preparation of marine plans is being led by the MMO. In Scotland, it is anticipated that plan making will be delegated to Marine Planning Partnerships. Mechanisms for joint planning in the Solway Firth that meet the needs of both systems must be developed. Solway Firth Partnership has an integral role to play in taking this forward in a way that supports environmental protection, economic development and community wellbeing across the local marine and coastal area as a whole.

The Partnership is supporting marine planning by gathering data to improve the evidence base for decision making. This has included preparation of a sectoral interactions matrix based on interviews with over 30 stakeholders from around the Solway Firth.

2.2 Setting geographic scope

In addition to the area widely regarded as the Solway Firth⁸, the Partnership's work area has expanded in recent years to include the west coast of the Rhins of Galloway. Further, consultation on Scottish Marine Regions, which it is anticipated will be established under the Scottish Marine Act, resulted in a strong recommendation for inclusion of Loch Ryan and the North Channel in the Solway marine plan area. Consultation also highlighted the importance of planning across administrative boundaries with the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland, as well as England and Scotland.

A forum has been convened to address integrated marine planning for the Irish Sea. This transnational initiative is being led by the University of Liverpool⁹ and builds on the Irish Sea Pilot Project¹⁰ to consider an ecosystem approach to marine management at regional sea scale. Engagement with this initiative further widens the scope of the Partnership's work.

The Partnership's landward boundary has never been geographically defined and involvement is dependent upon features and activities which have an integral relationship with the marine environment.

2.3 Protecting the environment

Areas of the inner Solway Firth are designated both as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive and a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive – collectively known as the Solway Firth European Marine Site (EMS). The Solway Firth SAC designation reflects the importance of the site's marine and coastal habitats including merse (saltmarsh), mudflats and reefs. The Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA designation recognises the large bird populations that these habitats

⁷ Joint Ministerial Statement on Marine Planning in areas bordering England and Scotland, 2009.

⁸ The area regarded as the Solway Firth is subject to varied interpretation with the Admiralty Chart Bay Closing Line between St Bees Head on the Cumbrian Coast and the Kirkcudbrightshire coastline of Dumfries and Galloway being the mariners' definition. In more general terms, the Solway Firth is often regarded as including the sea off the Dumfries and Galloway coastline to the Mull of Galloway and this was the original scope for Solway Firth Partnership's operation.

⁹ Marine Spatial Planning and Transnational Partnership Working in the Irish Sea: University of Liverpool, North West Coastal Forum and the UK National Oceanography Centre, 2010.

¹⁰ The Irish Sea Pilot - Marine Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2004.

support, particularly in winter. Luce Bay and Sands SAC in the outer Solway Firth has been designated principally for its seabed and dune habitats.

The estuary is also a Ramsar¹¹ site, as it is an important wetland for overwintering birds and the rare natterjack toad. The Solway Firth is important for the passage of migratory fish including sea and river lamprey, as well as salmon and sea trout, and provides an important nursery area for species such as skates and rays.

The Solway coastal lands are heavily influenced by the maritime conditions, creating unique and nationally important landscapes. On the south side of the Solway an area is designated as the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and on the north side there are three National Scenic Areas.

Solway Firth Partnership has had a central role in developing management schemes for European Marine Sites and will continue to have a pivotal role in this respect. It can be anticipated that, in future, landscape and conservation objectives for designated sites will be addressed in the marine plan. In the immediate term, it is likely that the Partnership will be required to act as an independent facilitator for further work on Luce Bay and Sands SAC.

In English waters, work is underway to identify Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) which will be designated under the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act, according to their importance in protecting species, habitats and geological features of national importance. In Scottish inshore waters, work is being undertaken to identify potential Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which can be designated for nature conservation, demonstration and research or historical reasons. European Marine Sites (SPAs and SACs), MCZs and MPAs are together intended to form an ecologically coherent network of protected areas across all UK seas.

A government commitment has been made to ensure that these projects and their outcomes align with one another, but it is unclear how this will be achieved in the Solway estuary. Solway Firth Partnership will support work to ensure that MCZ and MPA projects are coordinated across the national boundary. Ways of doing this include provision of information to local stakeholders and cross-border consultation on any proposed new sites or changes to the designations of existing sites.

Marine planning will be supported by GIS¹² data systems and this may provide an opportunity for improved integration of biodiversity survey and monitoring work and greater accessibility to data in the future. Solway Firth Partnership has co-ordinated discussions with key organisations about biodiversity data issues and, as greater clarity is brought to the marine planning system and the scope of the Solway marine plan area, there is an opportunity to progress this work further. Existing biodiversity data initiatives such as Seasearch¹³, which the Partnership has helped to establish locally, will continue to have an important role in building the marine biodiversity evidence base needed for sound decision making.

¹¹ The Ramsar Convention (The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat) is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of wetlands

¹² A geographic information system (GIS), geographical information system, or geospatial information system is a system that captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data with reference to geographic location data

¹³ Seasearch is a Marine Conservation Society project for divers and aims to map the types of sea bed found in the near-shore zone around Britain and Ireland.

The Solway Firth is part of the Solway Tweed River Basin Management Planning unit for the purposes of implementing the Water Framework Directive. This places a duty on the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment Agency to work together to jointly prepare a River Basin Management Plan for the Solway as a whole. The process is supported by a Solway Area Advisory Group comprising partners from Scotland and England including Solway Firth Partnership. Continuing to provide input on marine and coastal issues and ensuring integration between structures for delivering work on WFD and marine planning will form a key part of the Partnership's future function.

2.4 Supporting sustainable fisheries

The Solway supports a diverse mixed fishery, resulting in local fishermen targeting a wide range of fish and shellfish species. There are currently around 90 commercial fishing boats based in Cumbria and smaller numbers working out of Kirkcudbright, Annan and Isle of Whithorn on the Scottish Solway coast. The Solway is also fished by boats from further afield including the Isle of Man, Ireland and larger ports to the north and south such as Girvan and Fleetwood. As well as commercial sea fishing, cockle, mussel and winkle fisheries also operate on the Solway shores.

Fish processing businesses are estimated to employ in the region of 1,500 people around the Solway. This includes large processing businesses at Annan and Kirkcudbright, as well as smaller smokehouses on the Galloway coast. The fisheries sector is an important part of the rural economy for the communities of Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria and is also a primary pressure on the marine environment.

The former Sea Fisheries Committees in England and Wales have been replaced by Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act. The North West IFCA jurisdiction extends north to the national boundary in the Solway and its responsibilities include making and enforcing byelaws for the management and conservation of fish and shellfish stocks and conserving the wider marine environment. Ministers have agreed that the vision for IFCAs is one where: "Inshore fisheries and conservation authorities will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries...".

The North West IFCA has a governing Board and a staff of fishery officers, scientific staff and administrators working from coastal offices in Whitehaven and Carnforth. The MMO also has a local office in Whitehaven where three members of staff are based.

In Scotland, regulation of fisheries is carried out by the Scottish Government through divisions of Marine Scotland. Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFGs) have been established in six areas of Scotland with the aim of improving fisheries management and giving commercial inshore fishermen a voice in wider marine management although, unlike IFCAs, these are not statutory bodies. It is proposed that the boundaries of existing IFGs will be expanded to cover the whole Scottish coast. The Solway would then become part of an IFG extending from the English border to Mull. Solway Firth Partnership has offered to act as the local delivery mechanism for implementation of IFG policy in the Solway.

The Solway Shellfish Management Association (SSMA) was established in 2004 as a means to manage local cockle fisheries on the Scottish side of the Solway Firth. The SSMA was funded by Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and

others. A Regulatory Order¹⁴ was granted in 2006, which legally entitled the SSMA to manage and enforce activities relating to the cockle fishery. Due to low cockle stocks, the fishery had limited opening for a number of years which, in turn, created operational difficulties for the SSMA as a result of limiting income from licensing. The SSMA disbanded in 2011 when the Regulating Order ended and Solway Firth Partnership is currently supporting consultation on future management options.

An enquiry into the future of fisheries management in Scotland¹⁵ led by an independent multi-disciplinary panel was published in November 2010. Its remit was to develop alternative models of fisheries management that best suited the circumstances of the Scottish fisheries sector and optimised the benefits for coastal communities and the marine environment. The report recognises the growing importance of an integrated approach to marine management as reflected in changes to legislation and the need for fisheries management to adapt accordingly. A theme throughout the report is the need to stimulate a cultural change in the governance of Scotland's fisheries, devolving more responsibility to the industry and taking an innovative co-management approach.

There is an opportunity to build on the fishing industry led Code of Conduct¹⁶ in the Solway, active engagement with the Solway Firth Fisheries Initiative¹⁷ and positive industry contributions to consultations on management schemes and marine legislation by ensuring local delivery of fisheries policy in the north Solway is directly linked to marine planning.

There are opportunities for the local fishing sector associated with the Marine Stewardship Council accreditation scheme. The European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 programme also has potential to support environmental, social and economic improvements Solway-wide. Both schemes are based on sustainable management principles and are geared towards providing benefits to the fishing industry as an integral part of good marine stewardship and viable coastal communities. Promotion of sustainably sourced local seafood has the potential to play a much stronger role in the local tourism offer.

Fishing for Litter¹⁸ has been operating successfully at Kirkcudbright for several years and the Partnership established the scheme at the Isle of Whithorn in 2011.

2.5 Generating energy options

The UK Climate Change Act (2008) sets legally binding targets for reduction of carbon dioxide emissions: 26% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels. The Scottish Government has set a more challenging target of 42% by 2020 through its Climate Change (Scotland) Act. The Scottish Government also has a target of meeting 50% of electricity demand from renewables by 2020, whilst the UK Government has a target of 15% by 2020.

The Robin Rigg offshore wind farm operated by E.On Climate and Renewables in the Solway Firth is the largest offshore wind farm in Scottish waters. There has been

¹⁴ The Solway Firth Regulated Fishery (Scotland) Order 2006: under the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 and subsequent amendments.

¹⁵ The Future of Fisheries Management in Scotland: Report of an Independent Panel Inquiry into Future Fisheries Management, commissioned by Richard Lochhead MSP in 2008 and published 2010.

¹⁶ Code of Conduct between Galloway Static Gear Fishermen's Association and Solway scallop fishermen amended annually since 2004 and supported by a wide range of partners.

¹⁷ Solway Firth Fisheries Initiative 2004, Nautilus Consultants and Solway Firth Partnership.

¹⁸ KIMO International Fishing for Litter: engaging the fishing industry directly to address marine litter issues.

controversy about the landscape impact of the Robin Rigg development and there are wide ranging views about the effects of the project on tourism and quality of life for local communities. These issues have been highlighted by the local response to consultation on the Scottish Government Offshore Wind Plan. Solway Firth Partnership has provided a means of engagement between E-On and local groups through events such as World Oceans Week. The Partnership has also distributed the E-On Robin Rigg newsletter as an insert in Tidelines magazine since 2008 and will continue this arrangement.

Solway Energy Gateway Ltd has been established to assess the potential for tidal energy generation in the Solway Firth. A feasibility study¹⁹ examining a range of options was launched at the Solway Firth Partnership conference in 2010 although consultation made it clear that a scheme entailing confinement of water and permanent inundation of the saltmarsh east of a proposed alignment between Bowness on Solway and Seafield at Annan would not be acceptable. Work is underway to test innovative technology in several Cumbrian watercourses with a view to exploring the potential to build a porous weir across the Solway. Solway Firth Partnership contributes to the cross-border Solway Energy Gateway liaison group.

The Partnership has a fundamental role to play in highlighting the implications of climate change and the need to seek more sustainable energy options. The Partnership also provides a channel which enables the flow of information between regulators, developers and local communities. The Partnership works to support a coherent approach across the national border and holistic assessment of Solway-wide opportunities as well as cumulative impacts of renewable energy developments.

2.6 Enjoying the seaside

Recreational sea angling is widely enjoyed on the Solway shores as well as from small boats with several charter boat businesses operating in the area. A variety of species are targeted according to location and time of year including tope, smooth-hound, pollack and mullet. Economic impact studies²⁰ have illustrated that the activity has a high value to the local economy. Solway Firth Partnership encourages engagement in angling as part of World Oceans Week, promotes Sharkatag²¹ and is revising a guidebook promoting responsible practice.

Haaf netting is unique to the Solway Firth and the Partnership is working with the University of Glasgow Solway Centre of Environment and Culture to progress a research project on this and other local heritage fisheries to increase understanding of our cultural heritage and develop interpretive and promotional opportunities.

Sailing, kayaking, diving, wildlife watching and coastal walking are further important recreational activities on, in and around the Solway. The Partnership encourages engagement and supports good practice by a range of means including promotion of the Green Blue boating initiative, publicising Marine Conservation Society diving guidance and advertising ranger led events.

¹⁹ Solway Energy Gateway Feasibility Study, 2010, Halcrow Group Ltd, Mott MacDonald & RSK Group plc.

²⁰ Technical Report: Economic Impact of Recreational Sea Angling in Scotland, 2009, Glasgow Caledonian University, Grid Economics, Cogent Research International Ltd; Research into the economic contribution of sea angling, Report to Defra, 2004, Drew Associates (Crabtree et al).

²¹ Sharkatag is an annual event organised by the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network involving tagging elasmobranchs in order to increase understanding of populations and behaviour.

2.7 Appreciating our assets

Facilitating community engagement, increasing understanding of our natural and cultural heritage, celebrating and promoting the Solway Firth have always formed a core part of the Partnership's activities.

Tidelines magazine is produced bi-annually and distributed widely around the Solway and beyond. World Oceans Week brings together around 18 different organisations in a series of beach based events in June. The Partnership also provides advice and equipment to support community beach cleans and promotes the Marine Conservation Society Beachwatch and Adopt-a-beach schemes.

The Partnership has developed a Making the Most of the Coast project based on protection and celebration of the high quality Dumfries and Galloway coastline. The project has enabled the employment of a Coastal Ranger and supporting Administrator and allows provision of a complementary service to the Solway Coast AONB. The project is enabling Solway Firth Partnership to support national initiatives such as the Shore Thing – a biological survey project monitoring the effects of climate change – and Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk – a coastal archaeology survey project. Considerable environmental education is being delivered for local schools, coastal communities and special interest groups. A series of publications are being developed as part of the Making the Most of the Coast project including Seashell and Good Beach guides. A wide range of events are being delivered to promote the coast including a series of landscape art events during summer 2013 intended to deliver environmental messages and attract widespread media interest in the Solway Firth.

The Partnership's core activities can be categorised in terms of the following areas:

- ≈ **Partnership**
- ≈ **Planning**
- ≈ **Environment**
- ≈ **Fisheries**
- ≈ **Energy**
- ≈ **Recreation**
- ≈ **Appreciation**

3 ACTION

The Partnership will pursue its strategic aims and outcomes by taking the following actions. Achievements, priorities and changes will be reviewed, assessed and agreed at quarterly meetings of the Solway Firth Partnership Working Group and regular meetings of the Board of Trustees. Actions which are a condition of existing grants, funding applications or a constitutional requirement are shaded.

Activity	Action
Partnership	Maintain regular contact with all stakeholders to support the networking function of the Partnership specifically cross-border linkages
	Facilitate consultation on issues affecting the marine and coastal area and act as an intermediary in conflict resolution
	Hold a bi-annual conference.
	Hold regular management group meetings in compliance with the Partnership's Memorandum and Articles of Association
	Maintain, update and improve the Partnership database and website
	Provide partners with regular updates on key issues
	Work with management groups and others to develop the Partnership's delivery model as appropriate
	Attract additional funding to develop the Partnership's capacity
	Manage the Partnership's income and expenditure
	Undertake business planning beyond 2015
Planning	Contribute to Scottish and English marine policy development through collation and submission of responses to consultations and attendance at events
	Work with partners to develop mechanisms to deliver joint planning across national boundaries
	Develop an activities interactions matrix for the local marine and coastal area using methodology which satisfies all relevant planning systems
	Develop working relationships with marine planning bodies in the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland as well as England and Scotland
	Contribute to the Irish Sea Maritime Forum initiative
	Develop pilot marine plan for Loch Ryan
Environment	Ensure that conservation objectives for European Marine Sites are recognised and addressed by relevant and competent authorities and form a core part of the future marine plan
	Develop monitoring review of Solway Firth European Marine Site
	Support integration of the MCZ and MPA programmes and promote understanding and stakeholder engagement with both

Activity	Action
	Maintain and develop engagement with all marine recording schemes and centres including the Marine Conservation Society, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre and D & G Environmental Resource Centre.
	Develop analysis of coastal and marine biodiversity data availability, accessibility and identify knowledge gaps
	Develop marine non-native species strategy for the Solway Firth
	Maintain input to Solway Area Advisory Group of the Solway Tweed River Basin District and ensure integration with delivery structures for implementation of the Marine Acts
	Support further development of Seasearch recording in the Solway.
	Facilitate further stakeholder consultation regarding Luce Bay and Sands SAC if required
Fisheries	Develop options for local fishery management as an integral part of future marine planning structures
	Support consultation on options for sustainable future management of the Solway cockle fishery
	Support cohesion between English, Scottish, Manx and Northern Irish fisheries management regimes
	Support continued development of the good practice sectoral Code of Conduct
	Work with local stakeholders to progress the Marine Stewardship Council accreditation scheme for local fisheries
	Contribute to the North and West Cumbria Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) and the D & G FLAG to ensure local opportunities arising from EFF Axis 4 are maximised
	Maintain the Fishing for Litter initiative
Energy	Provide information about the local implications of climate change and the need for sustainable energy sources through publications and events
	Provide a means of engagement between existing and prospective offshore energy developers and the local community
	Distribute the E-On Robin Rigg newsletter
	Contribute to the Solway Energy Gateway liaison group
Recreation	Produce a Solway Firth Recreational Sea Angling Guide
	Explore opportunities to develop heritage fisheries research
	Promote good practice and publicise opportunities for marine and coastal recreation
Appreciation	Produce and distribute two issues of Tidelines annually
	Support organisation of World Oceans Week
	Co-ordinate and support local action on beach cleans and surveys in line with Marine Conservation Society objectives
	Deliver the Making the Most of the Coast project

Activity	Action
	Support opportunities arising from new initiatives such as establishment of the Solway Centre
	Issue regular press articles

4 DELIVERY

4.1 Management Framework

The Partnership is constituted as an independent Scottish Charity Limited by Guarantee and operates to a Memorandum and Articles of Association in compliance with the Companies Acts. The Partnership has an open membership policy, including corporate and individual members, and all are eligible for appointment to the Board of Trustees (Appendix 1 – Board of Trustees). The Board meets approximately four times per year and directs the work of the Partnership with particular responsibility for financial matters.

The Partnership is further guided by an Advisory Group comprising representatives of Corporate Members of the Partnership (Appendix 2 – Corporate Members). The Advisory Group meets as required with meetings focused on key issues.

A smaller Working Group comprises key funding partners, a sub set of the Advisory Group, and acts as a regular steering group.

Solway Firth Partnership currently employs a Project Manager, Project Officer, Coastal Ranger and Administrator who work closely with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (Appendix 3 – Meet the team).

Solway Firth Partnership communicates and engages with the wider community by means including regular email updates, Tidelines, website, meetings, consultation events and the annual conference. The Partnership manages a database of around 1,500 individuals and organisations around the Solway.

4.2 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of progress on actions identified in this plan is carried out through the Partnership management structure. Minutes of all meetings are recorded. A comprehensive review of progress on this Business Plan will be carried out annually.

5 FUNDING

5.1 Resources to date

Solway Firth Partnership relies on core funding support by Corporate Members who are local authorities or government agencies. The Partnership also benefits from private sector funding from E-On, specifically for publication and distribution of Tidelines. The Partnership is very grateful to all those who have provided funding support to date.

5.2 Future funding sources

The Partnership will seek continued financial support for delivery of all actions from its Corporate Members. Marine Scotland has made a short term funding commitment, effectively replacing funding previously received from SNH. The Partnership will continue to seek more active engagement with the MMO.

Continued support for delivery of projects will be sought from sources including The Crown Estate, Scottish Natural Heritage, the National Lottery and the European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 programme.

5.3 Core funding

Figures below are based on financial support to date and the best information currently available.

The Partnership carried forward £38,982 of core (unrestricted) funds at the end of financial year to 31 March 2013. The Solway Firth Partnership's reserves policy is to maintain a sufficient level of resources to enable operating activities to be maintained, taking account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time such as:

- Shortfalls in income: when income does not reach expected levels as a result of reduced or withdrawn grant support;
- Unexpected expenditure: for example when projects overrun or unplanned events occur.

The general reserve should represent approximately four months' core expenditure. At predicted levels of activity, the reserve should be approximately £30,000. The Trustees review the policy and progress towards maintaining the target level of reserve annually.

CORE FUNDING		
INCOME	2013-14	2014-15
Marine Scotland	38,000	38,000
Natural England / MMO	10,000	10,000
E-On Climate & Renewables	6,666	6,666
Dumfries and Galloway Council	10,000	6,000
Cumbria County Council	5,000	5,000
Carlisle City Council	750	750
Project fees	12,000	16,000
TOTAL INCOME	£82,416	£82,416

CORE FUNDING		
EXPENDITURE	2013-14	2014-15
Staff Costs		
Salaries and employment related costs	52,000	52,000
Training	500	500
Travel & Subsistence	4,000	4,000
Total Staff Costs	£56,500	£56,500
Operating Costs		
Rent, heating, lighting	9,000	9,000
Contents and employers insurance	260	260
Electricity	400	400
Telephone/internet	700	700
Postage	400	400
Stationery & Equipment	800	800
IT costs	3,000	3,000
Meetings & seminars	800	800
Legal & accountancy support	5,000	5,000
Tidelines	5,000	5,000
Website	500	500
Total Operating Costs	£24,860	£24,860
TOTAL CORE EXPENDITURE	£82,360	£82,360

5.4 Project funding

The Partnership is currently delivering a Making the Most of the Coast project which started in August 2012 and will run until August 2014. The project is enabled by restricted funding from Dumfries and Galloway Leader, Dumfries and Galloway Council, The Crown Estate and the Robertson Trust. A range of other outputs and activities are enabled by additional grant support for individual projects.

Solway Firth Partnership has a proven track record of maximising the value of core funds by drawing in additional project (restricted funding).

APPENDICES**Appendix 1 Board of Trustees**

Name	Organisation	Member type
Mr Gordon Mann (Chairman)	Scottish Natural Heritage	Corporate
Cllr Anthony Markley	Cumbria County Council	Corporate
Cllr Michael Heaslip	Allerdale Borough Council	Corporate
Cllr Jim McClung	Dumfries & Galloway Council	Corporate
Cllr William Whalen	Carlisle City Council	Corporate
Mr Andrew Shankland		Ordinary
Mr Charles Edwards	Dumfries Cruising Club	Ordinary
Mr James Mitchell		Ordinary
Mrs June Lochhead		Co-opted
Mr Alastair McNeill		Co-opted

Appendix 2 Corporate Members

Allerdale Borough Council

Annan District Salmon Fishery Board

Associated British Ports

Carlisle City Council

Copeland Borough Council

The Crown Estate

Cumbria County Council

North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (formerly Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee)

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Environment Agency

Marine Management Organisation (formerly Marine and Fisheries Agency)

Natural England (formerly Countryside Agency)

Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Water

Appendix 3 Meet the team

Gordon Mann

Chair, Solway Firth Partnership; OBE, FRICS, MRTPI
Chair, Destination Dumfries and Galloway
Chief Executive, Dumfries & Galloway Chamber of Commerce

Gordon was instrumental in setting up the Partnership and (with a short break) has been its Chair since its inception almost 20 years ago. For the past two years he chaired Scottish Coastal Forum and has given evidence to Scottish Parliament Committees in relation to marine matters and the Scottish Marine Act. He also chaired the Working Group that prepared the guidance on structure and governance of Marine Planning Partnerships now accepted by Scottish Government. Working closely with the Solway Firth Partnership Project Manager and Marine Scotland he negotiated the joint cross border planning arrangements with the Defra Minister responsible for marine matters. This agreement now forms part of the UK National Marine Policy Statement.

Following a career in local Government where he was Director of Planning in Banff and Buchan District Council, Shetland Islands Council and Dumfries & Galloway Council, he then led the team that bought the Crichton and, as Managing Director of Crichton Development Company, developed it into an award winning University, business and conference campus. Since November 2011, he has been full time as Chief Executive of Dumfries & Galloway Chamber of Commerce. As Chair of Destination Dumfries and Galloway, Gordon has a close involvement with tourism initiatives including the Wild Seasons programme.

Pam Taylor

Project Manager, Solway Firth Partnership

As Project Manager of Solway Firth Partnership for the past 6 years, Pam has developed the organisation's capacity and project portfolio. This has been enabled by attracting funding from a wide range of sources and successfully delivering a broad work programme. Playing an active part in marine planning and policy has contributed to increased recognition at both local and national level of the role that coastal partnerships can play in supporting statutory processes and facilitating effective stakeholder engagement.

Pam represents Solway Firth Partnership on forums including the University of Glasgow Solway Centre of Environment and Culture Advisory Group, the Natural England European Marine Site Network and the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Steering Group. Pam has supported development and promotion of the European Fisheries Fund on both sides of the Solway Firth and is a member of the Dumfries and Galloway Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG). Following a recent Marine Management Organisation recruitment process, Pam was appointed to the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

Pam has worked in project management, conservation, countryside access, community engagement, environmental education and interpretation for 26 years including positions

with the National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Clair McFarlan

Project Officer, Solway Firth Partnership; B.Sc (Hons) Microbiology

As Project Officer with Solway Firth Partnership for the past 3 years, Clair has been involved with a wide range of projects and is leading work to develop a marine invasive non-native species strategy for the Solway Firth.

Clair represents Solway Firth Partnership on fora including the D & G Local Biodiversity Partnership and the Solway Tweed River Basin Area Advisory Group. In Clair's former position as Ecologist with Solway Heritage, she was responsible for managing projects including Eco-Schools Dumfries and Galloway, The Sulwath Connections Wood Pasture Project and The Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Resources Centre.

Clair has worked in project management, conservation, countryside access, community engagement, environmental education and interpretation for 26 years including positions with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Nic Coombey

Coastal Ranger, Making the Most of the Coast Project

Over the next eighteen months Nic will be working on the Making the Most of the Coast Project working with communities, landowners, businesses, and schools to raise awareness of the Dumfries and Galloway coast-line.

Nic, a Landscape Architect for over 25 years, has increasingly specialised in the management of heritage projects and spent 13 years as an employee of Solway Heritage nurturing and delivering community aspirations to enhance and conserve the built, natural and cultural landscapes of Dumfries and Galloway.

Alison Robertson

Administrator

Alison was recruited as Administrator for the Making the Most of the Coast project and has since taken on the administration for the rest of the organisation as well. Her previous post was with RSPB where she acquired a taste for complex funding systems. Her interest in the natural world forms the ideal antidote to the Excel spread-sheets that dominate her working day.



CONTACT

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