



## Catchment and coastal partnership workshop on estuaries and coasts workshop notes

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

*This report provides a summary from the workshop sessions and recommendations for future working.*



### 1. Workshop Summary and key actions

#### Key messages

- Better integration will allow us to deliver more and manage pressures at source.
- We need to engage with a wider audience and not just the usual suspects.
- At a local level we should develop shared visions to influence strategic planning and drive the delivering of joint action.
- Sharing, adapting and adopting best practice will help to drive beneficial change.

Estuaries and coastal areas are complex and often less well-understood environments, making them difficult to manage, attract funding for and communicate effectively to potential funders and the public. As a result, Catchment Partnerships and Coastal Partnerships find it challenging to implement measures to achieve environmental and socio-economic benefits to meet Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive objectives. This workshop explored the considerable opportunities to have greater collaboration between partnerships; learn from others; develop joint funding bids and projects; work with industries and local authorities on infrastructure and housing development; fishing and tourism.

There were important discussions on the day and many arising actions. We will need to engage in the next round of Flood and Costal Risk Management planning and River Basin Management Planning to drive a shared vision. We can support the development of 25 year plan policy such as 'net

environmental gain' within marine spatial planning and local authority plans. We will need to work with a wider audience including businesses, landowners, coastal sectors and local communities to realise our ambitions.

### **Key actions:**

- We need action to better communicate our messages. We can do this by improved accessibility to best practice. This should include better information sharing across the catchment based approach portal. We must build on the key messages that have been developed at this workshop.
- We need to develop our ways of working such that integration across our partnerships is common place. We need to look for actions to develop this approach and fund pilot projects to showcase how this works in practice.
- We will need to engage with a wider audience to increase delivery of action.

### **Objective of the day**

*Share evidence, good practice and embed learning at a catchment scale and build future relationships between communities, institutes and partnerships.*

### **Shared goals**

- Bring practitioners together across England to explore issues and identify barriers and opportunities facing Catchment and Coastal Partnerships improving estuaries and coasts (Water Framework Directive (WFD) Transitional and Coastal (TraC) waters)
- Identify how we can work together in future to achieve our goals
- Share and embed best practice and learning on what we've achieved and how
- Identify next steps to improve estuaries and coastal waters

## **2. Barriers discussion**

We explored issues and identified barriers facing Catchment and Coastal Partnerships to improving estuary and coastal water's environment.

Points raised included:

- **Multiple influences** – estuaries are impacted by a multitude of issues and these cannot always be easily isolated out to understand the dominant issues/significance of each. E.g. both diffuse and point source pollution, historical contamination, coastal squeeze.
- **Complexity** – many sectors involved makes it hard to bring so many stakeholders together.
- **Multiplicity of agencies** but a lack of leadership - it's not always obvious whose responsibility it is to look after estuaries as they fall between freshwater and marine.
- The variety of agencies also means there are a huge number of **competing interests** on estuaries that make a common vision or plan very difficult.
- **Funding** – available is often only short-term when long-term plans are generally required on estuaries. Short term funding leads to uncertainty and risk for small organisations. Funding often depends on the availability of monitoring and evidence which has already been identified as a challenge. In terms of the Water Framework Directive it is difficult to show that action will result in a status change and needing to prove this can be an obstructive to focusing on the biggest pressures.
- The **challenge of the problems** are so big there can be a futility about doing the smaller projects that don't seem to be contributing to the wider picture.
- The **scale** of the projects are very big and they are often big capital investments. There seems less space for medium-size projects.

- **Monitoring and Evidence** – is vital but often very difficult to do well. This includes a lack of clear standards for assessing estuary environments or guidance to ascertain the most appropriate methodology. Therefore, the consistency and quantity of monitoring undertaken is very patchy. It also requires funding to carry out which is not always easy to obtain.
- Lack of ability for a **strategic level discussion** of specific coastal and estuarine issues around England. Coastal and catchment partnerships work at a more local scale. There is a need for a more strategic level in the management framework for our coastal and estuarine waters. This would allow sectors such as ports, energy and local authorities to better engage with managing and improving the coastal and estuarine environment.
- Difficulty of **integration** of local schemes and of bringing it together for funding.
- Having a range of local authorities with **different Planning Documents** makes it difficult to understand each well and to come up with projects that fit across them all.

### 3. Solutions discussion

We heard about good practice from the Lune and Wyre catchment partnerships and the Sussex Marine and Coastal Forum. These talks identified good practice in delivering improvements with local businesses on the Lune and the Wyre. We were also told how Coastal Partnerships supported the Catchment Partnerships in Sussex to help show how a Sustainable Shellfish industry supported Water Quality. This was through developing a model to assess the potential Gross Value Added from oyster harvesting under different water quality scenarios in the Chichester Harbour area, both in economic and employment terms. This has provided a good starting point for a better understanding of the Harbours shellfish bed, Natural Capital, and can better inform cost benefit assessments.

#### The solutions that we discussed included:

- **Connecting with new partners** – invite new partners to Catchment and Coastal Partnership meetings and identify their needs/strengths. Not the usual suspects – zoos, aquariums, local businesses, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Flood Coastal Groups. Think how to motivate businesses to improve their profile with the community.
- Linking with other interests for **innovative funding** e.g. heritage, public spaces and multiple benefits including flood and coastal risk management
- Bring the “**CaBA effect**<sup>1</sup>” to coastal issues – helping to mobilise funding for multiple benefits projects – better linking coastal and catchment partnerships.
- **Early identification of multiple benefit opportunities** – discuss early on as a Partnership which opportunities can engage more stakeholders and plan such that there can be input from as many as possible.
- **Better engagement** with local communities/grass roots action
  - Identify where they can benefit from partnership working. Provide opportunities to contribute with citizen science. E.g. Youth in Nature, Hull is engaging young people in conservation.
  - Include an engagement section within the Catchment Plans and make this explicit to TraC.
  - Have TraC champions to raise awareness of the issues.
  - Build a forum of all people with an interest in estuaries.
  - Try to uncover passions – peoples values to enable engagement and care
  - Continuity of engagement and messages over long periods of time – especially in estuaries and coasts
- Catchment scale interactive **decision making tool**. Just a link to show information between different organisations.
- A **wider partnership group** rather than just “marine” or just “freshwater”.

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<sup>1</sup> CaBA = Catchment Based Approach

- **Integrate our catchment planning.** Improve CP's catchment plans in relation to estuaries and the coast. Note that some catchment plans cover fresh and estuarine waters and others just cover the estuaries.
- **National group** to pool and cascade best practice. This could be a sub group to CaBA NSG.

## 4. Session 3 - Resolving barriers and achieving solutions

The following proposed solutions are ranked according to the number of votes they received from delegates.

### **Developing a coherent vision (34 votes)**

Demonstrate how multiple benefits can give more people some of what they want. Find the right examples and case studies to mobilise and inspire communities. Ensure that catchment plans have a TraC element to the plan capturing a vision, pipeline of projects, monitoring and evaluation.

- Develop a vision strategy, targets, actions and gaps
- Finding common objectives and incentives (don't expect altruism)
- Wider involvement- get more businesses involved → think widely, don't narrow down too much, find benefits that relate to them
- Helping local communities realize their role/benefits
- Better engagement with the wider audience around estuaries

### **Funding (24 votes)**

- Longer term funding solutions/ settlements
- Case studies to inspire to funders what is possible
- Creativity of solution and unusual suspects and sharing resources

### **Sharing knowledge (22 votes)**

- Case study guidance and review existing case studies
- Pulling together all evidence, sharing it to make use of it happens, identifying gaps to fill.
- Mechanism for sharing best practice
- We need to continue sharing best practice, how do we do this?

### **Engagement language (19 votes)**

- Engagement tailored to the audience
- Engage unusual suspects
- Origin into the ocean (or source to sea)

### **Action (12 votes)**

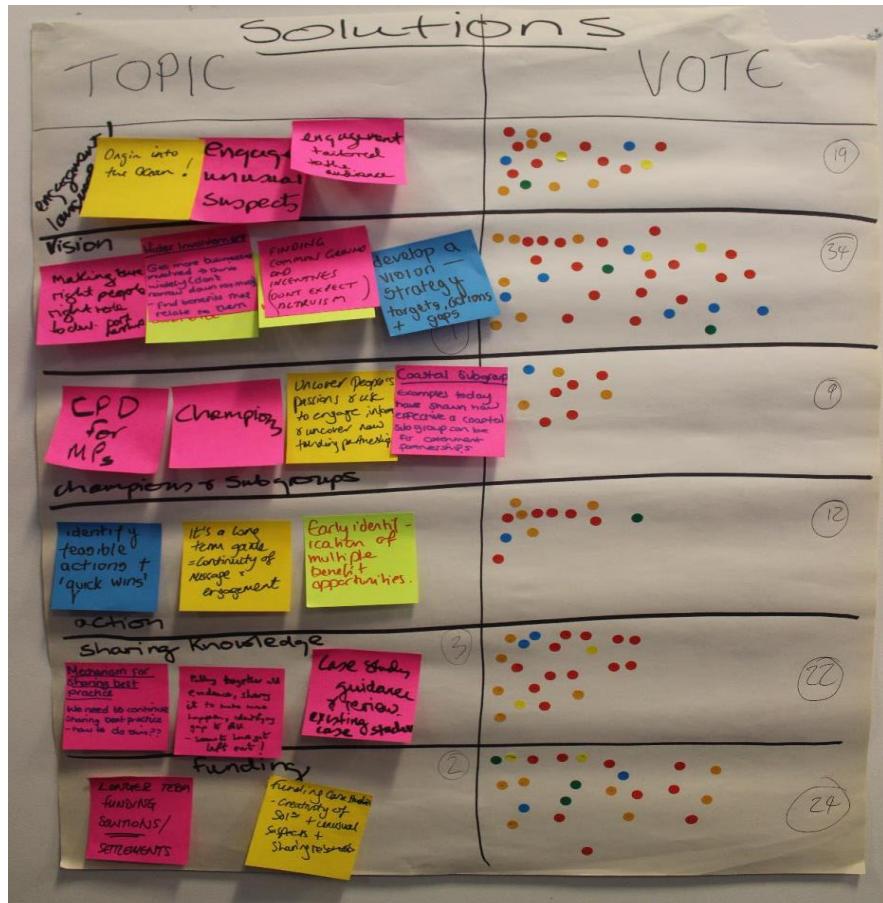
- Early identification of multiple benefit opportunities
- It's a long-term game- continuity of message and engagement
- Identify feasible actions and "quick wins"

### **Partnerships (10 votes)**

- Expanding partners, not just "the usual suspects" (e.g. involve business community)
- Create the partnership
- Utilise universities and similar expertise

### **Champions and subgroups (9 votes)**

- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for MPs
- Uncover people's passion and use to engage, inform, and uncover new founding partnerships
- Coastal subgroup- examples today have shown how effective a coastal subgroup can be for catchment partnerships



## 5. Attendee feedback

The workshop scored an average rating of 8.5 out of 10 (with 10 being very good). People found the specific case studies and best practice and the workshop discussions the most useful. In particular, people commented on the interesting content and the fact the workshop was well planned and facilitated. With people hoping that joint working by many delivers achievable visible change

*'Really great to hear what else is going on in different areas through the presentations Discussions were also really interesting, especially to hear different points of view from different organizations.'*

*'Would like to bring more ideas in future sessions as my involvement in partnership working develops'*

*'facilitators were really good, thanks for all your hard work!'*

## 6. Opportunities, building capacity and forward look

- Feed into the Marine Maritime Organisation (MMO)'s marine plans
- Increase coastal and estuarine issues with Cps
- Use the new metrics and policies within the 25 year plan to realise our ambition
- Offer from EA FCRM workshops based on TBC FRMP boundaries/ river basin districts to collaborate on improving Shoreline Management Plans and FCRM 2021-27 programme. With Coastal Groups (FCRM), Coastal Partnerships and Catchment Partnerships with an estuarine and coastal geography. Establish an informal paid contract with Catchment Partnerships

- World days practical inspiring delivery event – Wetlands Feb, Oceans June, Rivers Sept
- Development e.g. wind power, strategic access and mitigation. Extra cash available for protected sites e.g. Community Infrastructure levy
- 24 April Coastal Challenge summit
- Neighbourhood plans – set 25% community infrastructure levy. Direct development e.g. Essex includes water

## 7. Concluding remarks

The high attendance and energy brought to the workshop by attendees suggests that this was a topic which heretofore has received less attention than it deserves. Estuaries, of all the water environments, are perhaps the most complex to manage with respect to balancing economic and environmental interests. Not only is expertise on the biology of such environments in short supply but they often straddle many local council planning jurisdictions and are particularly economically intense.

The case studies and discussions pointed towards the need for proper engagement of these diverse interests from the outset as an essential component of any plan to improve the environment. Rather than rely on altruism, environmental practitioners should consider the wider stakeholders' interests, utilising case studies to demonstrate the multiple benefits that such greening initiatives can bring. The need to develop a vision for the estuary that accommodates these different interests and facilitates co-operation is perhaps a key message from the workshop.

Improved networking between practitioners around the country was also seen as necessary to ensure best practice is shared effectively. Particularly important is the strengthening of relationships between related Coastal and Catchment Partnerships. This will help develop ways forward that engage a wider stakeholder base. New structures dedicated to driving discussion on TraC waters (e.g. a sub-group to CaBA) were mooted as ways of delivering these outcomes and should be considered at the national level by relevant bodies.