
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

23 May 2019

Planning Committee

Title:	Clyde Regional Marine Plan
Purpose:	To update the Planning Committee on the preparation of a Regional Marine Plan for the Clyde.
Recommendation:	<p>It is recommended that the Planning Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Supports the general themes and content of the pre-consultation draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan;2) That comments set out in this report form the basis of the Council's response to the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership on the draft Plan, including the recommendation that greater prominence within the plan is given to both the Clyde's major assets and its existing plans, programmes and proposals, including the Ayrshire Growth Deal and North Ayrshire Tourism Action Plan.3) That further detail is sought on the future implementation and monitoring of the Plan, specifically, the anticipated role and responsibilities of local authorities.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership are preparing a Regional Marine Plan and have published a pre-consultation draft for comment.
- 1.2 The pre-consultation draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan sets out a vision, aims, objectives and policies for the marine and coastal environment encompassing a wide range of general topic areas and specific sectors. It seeks to provide a consistent overarching framework for decision-making in respect to development and activities within, and impacting upon, inshore waters out to 12 nautical miles.
- 1.3 The draft sets out detailed policies in relation to a number of areas, but it is considered the Plan could usefully provide a more strategic overview of the context for marine planning in the region, considering its assets and sensitivities and wider policy agendas, beyond just marine and land-use planning. Additionally, further consideration and discussion is required around implementation and monitoring, including the measurement of objectives.

2. Background

- 2.1 A new statutory marine planning system for Scotland was established by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 with the purpose of sustainably managing the increasing, and often conflicting, demands on Scottish seas.
- 2.2 A National Marine Plan was published in 2015 covering the management of both Scottish inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12 to 200 nautical miles). Below this level, eleven Scottish Marine Regions have been created, where regional marine planning will be undertaken by Marine Planning Partnerships. North Ayrshire Council is a member of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership, to which Scottish Ministers delegated the task of developing a Regional Marine Plan in March 2017. This Clyde Regional Marine Plan must be in accordance with Scotland's National Marine Plan and the UK Marine Policy Statement.
- 2.3 The draft plan – which interprets and supports the National Marine Plan at a regional level – has a 20-year vision and a wide-ranging set of aims that seek to achieve a marine and coastal environment that is clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse and assessable for all. The Plan seeks to support sustainable development; attract investment; and guide marine development, while also considering local communities; the protection of the Clyde's natural resources; and climate change.
- 2.4 The Plan is designed to provide a consistent overarching framework to guide decision-makers, regulators and marine users in the location and management of existing and proposed development and activities. This will be particularly relevant where development and activities overlap existing regulatory and legislative regimes and plans, for example in the intertidal zone, and where more than one form of consent may be required. In this regard, it is noted that the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership intends to develop a protocol with planning authorities to guide decision-making in relation to the Regional Marine Plan.
- 2.5 The pre-consultation draft is organised into two sections: General Policies and Sector Policies. General Policies provide an overarching framework for the sustainable development and use of the marine and coastal environment and have been prepared in relation to: climate change; the historic environment; landscape/seascape; coastal processes, coastal flooding and storm damage alleviation; natural heritage; non-native species; and marine litter. Sector Policies are included for the following key, current economic activities taking place in the Clyde Marine Region: sea fisheries; aquaculture; sport, recreation and tourism; shipping, ports, harbours, ferries; defence; energy, subsea cables and pipelines; and marine aggregates. Policies are further differentiated between those which relate to authorisations and consents and those which relate to management.
- 2.6 One of the draft Plan's guiding principles is to add value, not complexity. Informed by a Marine Region Assessment which considered the condition of the Clyde Marine Region, significant pressures and the impact of human activity, the Plan identifies factors and issues that need to be considered by developments and activities in the Plan area, spatially where possible. It seeks to interpret and support the National Marine Plan in a local context.

- 2.7 The Clyde is a complex region with many competing demands on the marine resource. Consequently, the draft Regional Marine Plan sets out a wide-ranging policy framework. While the Plan provides detailed policies in a number of areas, it is considered the Regional Marine Plan could be augmented by providing a strategic overview of the risks and opportunities the plan is responding to; the region's existing assets, infrastructure and environmental sensitivities; and a consideration of how the priorities of the Regional Marine Plan relate to a wider set of agendas than those considered, for example the National Planning Framework, growth deal projects and tourism initiatives.
- 2.8 The recently agreed Ayrshire Growth Deal will see multi-million pound investment in helping drive economic development across the region, boosting jobs, creating opportunity and encouraging further inward investment. The Growth Deal includes a number of commitments, including delivering critical infrastructure to enable investment to secure the development of the Marine Tourism industry in North Ayrshire; the development and regeneration of The Great Harbour at Irvine Harbourside and Ardeer; funding for the Centre for Research into Low Carbon Energy and Circular Economy (CECE) at Hunterston Parc; a new International Marine Science and Environmental Centre (ISME) based at Ardrossan; and investment in a subsea fibre optic cable to have its landing point in Irvine.
- 2.9 It is noted the intention is to include a strategic map within the Clyde Regional Marine Plan, presenting an indicative overview of the Clyde Marine Region's key coastal and marine infrastructure and land use designations, natural and historic environment assets and areas of activity. The key locations mentioned above could usefully feature on this map, alongside reference to the Ayrshire Growth Deal – and relevant projects contained in the Glasgow City Region Deal – within the Plan as important elements of the Clyde's future.
- 2.10 Once adopted my Ministers, the Clyde Regional Marine Plan will provide a statutory policy framework to support decision-making and appropriate inward investment. However, there remain questions over how the Plan will be implemented and how implementation will be funded. Additionally, it is noted that progress in achieving a number of the plan's objectives will be measured through the development management regime. Again, more detail is required as to how this will work in practice.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Planning Committee:
- 1) Supports the general themes and content of the pre-consultation draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan;
 - 2) That comments set out in this report form the basis of the Council's response to the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership on the draft Plan, including the recommendation that greater prominence within the plan is given to both the Clyde's major assets and its existing plans, programmes and proposals, notably the Ayrshire Growth Deal.
 - 3) That further detail is sought on the future implementation and monitoring of the Plan, specifically, the anticipated role and responsibilities of local authorities.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	None
Human Resources:	None
Legal:	None
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	A review of relevant socio-economic strategies, policies and reports has been undertaken to assist in the formation of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan. It is the responsibility of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership to undertake necessary assessment of equalities impact.
Children and Young People:	It is the responsibility of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership to undertake necessary assessment of impact on children and young people.
Environmental & Sustainability:	The pre-consultation draft is accompanied by an interim Sustainability Appraisal Report, including Strategic Environmental Assessment, prepared by the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership.
Key Priorities:	The proposed Plan supports the draft Council Plan Priority Outcome that North Ayrshire is a vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment. The vision and aims of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan align with many of the LOIP themes of a North Ayrshire that is healthier, working, safer and thriving and priority outcomes of the Council's draft plan.
Community Benefits:	The Clyde Regional Marine Plan will contribute to the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment in order to support thriving communities by attracting investment; promoting sustainable and socially inclusive development and use of marine and coastal resources; contributing to the wellbeing and resilience of coastal communities and encouraging the reconnection of people with the sea through cultural heritage, work opportunities, educational initiatives and recreational pursuits.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership has published a Statement of Public Participation for the Clyde Regional Marine Plan which sets out a timetable for plan development and provides details of opportunities for engagement and participation in the development of the Marine Plan, including a series of public events. The 'pre-consultation' period is open 18th March – 27th May and will be followed by a statutory 12-week consultation period on the Draft Plan.

Care Lerman

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For further information please contact **Alistair Gemmell, Planning Officer**, on **01294 324021**.

Background Papers

Clyde Regional Planning Partnership: Pre-consultation draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan