



A future for Maritime Cornwall: **The Cornwall Maritime Strategy** 2012 - 2030

Report on the results of the
public consultation

August 2012



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Report on the Cornwall Maritime Strategy Public Consultation 2012

1. Introduction

Consultants Enfusion and Jim Claydon Ltd. were commissioned by Cornwall Council in June 2010 to assist in preparing a high level and strategic document to guide Cornwall's maritime future and the Council's maritime functions.

Working closely with the Council's multi-disciplinary Maritime Strategy Working Group, the project began with an information and evidence gathering exercise and consideration of Cornwall Council's activities and wider plans and strategy documents.

A key element in the preparation of this strategy was a one day stakeholder workshop held in October 2010, to which various maritime stakeholders from across Cornwall and neighbouring authorities contributed their aspirations, issues and ideas about the future for maritime Cornwall.

Subsequently, emerging ideas for the strategy were grouped in overarching cross-cutting themes, which were then developed into a draft vision, aims and a more detailed strategy for Maritime Cornwall. Further revision then took place with the Council's Maritime Strategy Project Team.

Those stakeholders who were invited to the workshop and other interested parties were asked to comment on an informal consultation draft in December 2010. There was a further public consultation on the draft Maritime Strategy in December 2011- January 2012. The Strategy was then revised as a result of these consultations and adopted by Cabinet on the 9th May 2012.

This report sets out the results of the public consultation in December 2011 – January 2012.

2. Who Responded?

A total of 68 organisations and individuals responded to the public consultation. Respondents consisted of local residents, academics, elected members, businesses large and small, Town and Parish Councils, fishermen, Government agencies, local charities, Harbour Authorities, landowners and user groups.

There was a slight geographical bias of responses from the Falmouth/Helford area, although Penzance, Hayle, the Tamar, Newquay, the south east and north Cornwall were all well represented.

3. Quantitative Results of the Consultation

Question	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Neither Agree not Disagree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %	Total number of responses
1: Vision	5	12	5	56	22	59
2: A joined up approach..	3	7	12	58	20	59
3: A sustainable future..	3	10	7	59	21	58
4: Encouraging maritime enterprise..	0	5	10	53	32	57
5: Healthy and resilient coastal communities..	0	2	11	57	30	56
6: A working peninsula..	0	7	14	54	25	59
7: Connecting land and sea..	0	4	9	61	26	57
8: Cultural, natural and historic assets..	0	3	9	55	33	60

Table 1: Quantitative results of the consultation

4. Key messages from the Consultation

4.1 General Messages

The draft Maritime Strategy was broadly welcomed by respondents to the public consultation as a step in the right direction. It was felt that in general, it would increase recognition of the importance of the marine and coastal area and industries to the prosperity of Cornwall and improve the integrated management of maritime activities and functions.

There was criticism from some in marine industries that the draft Strategy was too environmentally biased but equally there was criticism from some of the environmental lobby that there was not enough clarity about sustainability and the protection of the natural environment.

Respondents provided a wide range of specific suggestions and comments to help improve the Strategy.

4.1.1 How the Council changed the draft in response to general messages from the public consultation

In light of the useful general comments and suggestions made during the public consultation the Council made the following significant changes to improve upon the draft Strategy:

We provided clarity about the 'next steps', following adoption of the Maritime Strategy.

It was considered that the 'triple bottom line' of socio, economic and environmental factors have to be taken into account throughout the Strategy– without any automatic power of veto from either of them. Useful suggestions for new aims were included where they complemented existing aims.

Suggestions for changes to the draft document, set out in the draft Sustainability Appraisal, were made throughout, to improve the socio, economic and environmental sustainability of the final Strategy.

Checks and changes were made to ensure a fair geographical spread of potential outcomes from the Strategy, covering the whole of Cornwall and not favouring any particular area or sector of the population.

4.2 Vision

As shown in Table 1, of those 59 respondents who answered this question, 78% agreed or strongly agreed with the wording of the vision for Maritime Cornwall set out in the consultation documents, reflecting the broad support.

There were concerns from some respondents that the Vision was not ambitious or strongly worded enough, that it was too biased towards the environment and that sustainability was not defined.

4.2.1 How we changed the Vision in response to the consultation

We added words to encourage research into the marine environment and industries, improve transport and connectivity between communities and highlight the need to prepare for socio-economic or environmental change in the future.

4.3 A Joined up approach....

As shown in Table 1, of the 59 respondents who expressed a view about the wording of this objective and the aims listed, 78% agreed or strongly agreed with what was set out in the consultation document reflecting the broad support for improved integrated, coordinated management and enforcement in the marine and coastal area. Respondents were particularly supportive of the concept of establishing a Maritime Forum for Cornwall so long as it balanced environmental, social and economic interests and was open and transparent.

4.3.1 How we changed this objective in response to the consultation

Many of the aims and objectives were slightly altered in order to improve them, add to them or make them clearer, based on consultees helpful suggestions.

4.4 A sustainable future....

As shown in Table 1, of the 58 respondents who expressed a view, 80% agreed or strongly agreed with the objectives and aims set out in this section, reflecting the broad support for measures to improve sustainability in the marine and coastal area.

Key points from the consultation about sustainability and the natural environment:

- lack of clarity about what this objective was aiming to achieve
- the aims did not clearly set out what was meant by sustainability
- environmental, social and economic considerations were not balanced
- there were a number of suggestions on how the aims to improve the natural environment could be improved and strengthened
- need to recognise the economic value of natural assets
- there should be greater emphasis on research and development to improve the evidence base for sustainable management of the marine area
- need to strengthen landscape and seascape considerations
- economic growth is an out-moded concept - a sustainable economy is preferable
- need more to support renewables industry
- suggestions to widen the aims to include protection of historic assets.

4.4.1 How we changed this objective in response to the consultation

We changed the order of the Objectives to reflect the importance and cross-cutting nature of '*A sustainable approach*'. We made the aims in this section more focussed on balancing sustainable environmental, economic and social considerations using a sound evidence base. We included a definition of 'sustainability' and 'sustainable development' in the glossary.

For clarity, we moved aims relating to marine renewables to the objective about maritime enterprise and innovation.

We moved the aims relating to the natural environment to create a broader Objective G, encompassing natural, cultural and historic assets.

4.5 Encouraging maritime enterprise and innovation...

As shown in Table 1, of the 57 respondents who expressed a view, 85% agreed or strongly agreed with the objectives and aims set out in this section, reflecting the broad support for measures to support maritime enterprise and innovation.

Key points from the consultation about maritime enterprise and innovation:

- the need for the Council to monitor the growth and impact of economic activity
- lack of recognition of the economic importance of natural and historic assets
- the need to encourage, evolve and diversify the skills base, maximising economic opportunity in a range of places (not just Hayle or Falmouth).
- support for aims which set out to improve environmental practises by businesses
- the quality of employment space in seaside towns
- the importance of the development of the marine energy industry and need for balanced research to assess the added value, impacts and opportunities for marine renewables on the environment, economy and communities
- recognition of the world-leading research facilities engaged in research relating to the use of the maritime environment and the development of marine energy ambitions
- need a more balanced perspective covering Cornwall's ability to provide 'extensive' industry and supply chain related to marine energy business, jobs and skills
- aims about tourism should be strengthened
- need to conserve, maintain and improve our maritime and environmental assets to ensure a economic and social benefits for the tourism industry for decades to come, instead of short term exploitation that would deplete or destroy these valuable assets.

4.5.1 How we changed this objective in response to the consultation

For clarity, we moved all aims relating to the development of marine renewables and environmental practises of business into this objective.

4.6 Healthy and resilient coastal communities.....

As shown in Table 1, of the 56 respondents who expressed a view, 87% agreed or strongly agreed with the objective and aims set out in this section reflecting the broad support for measures to increase the health and resilience of coastal communities.

Key points from the consultation about coastal communities:

- the strategy should seek to foster a stronger relationship between Cornish communities and their marine environment. The strategy should seek to nurture people's interest in and education about the sea and all things maritime, including the maritime and shipping world and marine wildlife.
- the strategy should stress the importance of making the sea accessible for all, including the less well-off / people of disadvantaged socio economic backgrounds.
- the need to conserve, maintain and improve our maritime and environmental assets to ensure economic and social benefits of the

marine leisure industry for decades to come, instead of short term exploitation that would deplete or destroy these valuable assets.

- regeneration in the coastal towns should focus on recreating vibrant communities with jobs and housing for a wide range of people, whilst respecting the natural environment. Responsible use of our maritime environment should be emphasised. Sustainable levels of water based activities should be better defined.
- the Shoreline Management Plan highlights significant pressures which require increasing resilience and adaptation of the coastal communities. The strategy should map out clearly the future for each of these communities.

4.6.1 How we changed this objective in response to the consultation

Many of the aims and objectives were slightly altered in order to improve them, add to them or make them clearer, based on consultees helpful suggestions.

4.7 A working peninsula...

As shown in Table 1, of the 59 respondents who expressed a view, 79% agreed or strongly agreed with the objective and aims set out in this section, reflecting the broad support for measures to support ports and harbours.

Key points from the consultation about a working peninsula:

- there were a number of concerns either that there was too much emphasis on the environment and not enough on development or too much development and not enough on the environment.
- it was felt that rather than use the term 'economic development' we should instead consider using the term 'encourage economic sustainability'
- many comments were Falmouth centric owing to topical issues that are taking place there at this time.
- the Maritime Strategy is for all of Cornwall and it was considered that the 'triple bottom line' of socio, economic and environment factors have to be taken into account – without any automatic power of veto from either of them.
- the issues surrounding zoning of activities was brought up a number of times with most considering that this was not necessary.

4.7.1 How we changed this objective in response to the consultation

Many of the aims and objectives were slightly altered in order to improve them, add to them or make them clearer, based on consultees helpful suggestions.

4.8 Connecting land and sea...

As shown in Table 1, of the 57 respondents who expressed a view, 87% agreed or strongly agreed with the objective and aims set out in this section reflecting the broad support for measures to improve the connection between land and sea.

Key points from the consultation in relation to connecting land and sea:

- stronger references to low carbon transport i.e. public transport (including rail), walking and cycling should be made.
- the role of ferries and providing access to services should be emphasized, including the lifeline ferry service linking the Isles of Scilly with Cornwall.
- transportation infrastructure should be designed in a sustainable manner that is in keeping with the character of the maritime environment.
- waterfront access should be protected from new development and conflicting issues of access should be addressed.
- the South West Coast Path is an important asset to Cornwall and must be promoted, supported and protected.

4.8.1 How we changed this objective in response to the consultation

Many of the aims and objectives were slightly altered in order to improve them, add to them or make them clearer, based on consultees helpful suggestions.

4.9 Pride, recognition and responsibility for cultural, natural and heritage assets....

As shown in Table 1, of the 60 respondents who expressed a view, 88% agreed or strongly agreed with the objective and aims set out in this section, reflecting the broad support for measures to increase understanding of our cultural, historic and natural assets.

Key points from the consultation about heritage and culture:

- Cornwall has a very rich maritime heritage with high numbers of nationally recognised and protected sites (including wrecks, historic buildings, archaeology and landscapes)
- maritime heritage contributes significantly to Cornwall's culture and present character.
- the need to better understand Cornwall's historic environment, through research and monitoring as well engagement with local communities and education providers.
- the need for a sound evidence base to ensure that the maritime environment and heritage are protected and enhanced.
- the historic environment can be a proactive driver in achieving the Strategy's economic aims and so enhance the sustainability of the outcomes – contributing real value to health and wellbeing, tourism, recreation and regeneration.

4.9.1 How we changed this objective as a result of the consultation:

We moved the aims relating to the natural environment to create a broader Objective G, encompassing natural, cultural and historic assets.

Many of the aims and objectives were slightly altered in order to improve them, add to them or make them clearer, based on consultees helpful suggestions.

4.10 Background Information

The Annex: Background Information, originally compiled in 2010, was updated to make it current at the time of publication using the helpful information provided by consultees, along with other new supporting evidence.

5. Development of a Cornwall Maritime Forum

We included a discussion paper and questionnaire about the idea of establishing a Cornwall Maritime Forum, what its role might be and how it might be structured and funded.

Of the 51 respondents who expressed a view, 82% supported the establishment of a Maritime Forum for Cornwall.

5.1 The role of the Maritime Forum

Consultees were asked about their level of agreement for various services which a Cornwall Maritime Forum could deliver, results of which are shown in Table 2:

Potential role of Forum	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Neither Agree not Disagree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %	Total number of responses
Regular newsletters, disseminating information	0	5	14	56	25	43
Bi- annual Forum conferences	0	5	16	57	22	37
Forum website	0	0	9	42	49	45
Provides a formal conduit for information	0	9	5	44	42	43
Provides representation for maritime Cornwall on networks and platforms.	2	7	7	45	39	42
Coordinates Forum responses to consultations	2	5	13	48	32	44
Identifies and develops projects, strategies and policies	2	2	14	42	40	43

Table 2: Quantitative results about the role of a possible Cornwall Maritime Forum

5.2 Membership fees

14 respondents supported the idea of a membership fee.

22 did not support the concept of a membership fee.

5.3 Financial and in kind contributions

Of the respondents 25 were unable to offer any financial contribution
7 respondents pledged a financial contribution of £1-£500 each towards funding of the establishment and running of a Cornwall Maritime Forum, totalling a maximum of £3500.

No larger single sums of money were offered.

11 respondents were unable to offer any in kind support to the development of a Forum.

No respondents offered in kind administrative or IT support to a Forum.
7 respondents were able to offer an in kind contribution of conference or meeting room facilities.

20 respondents would like a seat on the Steering Group of the Forum, if it were to be established.

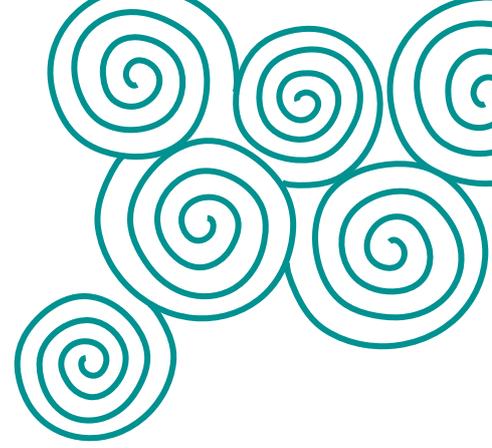
5.4 General comments about a potential Maritime Forum

Key points from the consultation about the idea to create a Maritime Forum for Cornwall:

- Need for transparency and a balanced membership reflecting the diversity of interests in maritime Cornwall.
- The need for funding and/or membership fees should not discriminate against individuals, small businesses or organisations who are unable to contribute. It should be accessible to all with an interest.
- A Forum is seen by some as essential to the delivery of the Strategy
- Some felt that a Forum is not necessary and instead the best of existing structures and organisations should be better harnessed
- Need to develop clear terms of reference to clarify its role and status

5.5 What will Cornwall Council do with the results of the Forum Questionnaire?

There are no immediate plans to establish a Cornwall Maritime Forum due to funding and resource constraints. However, the idea will be considered further as part of the development and implementation of Action Plans to deliver the Maritime Strategy, at which time, the results of this consultation will provide a useful guide to help shape any Forum proposals.





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