

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: WALES CLEAN SEAS PARTNERSHIP

Background

In 2017, the Welsh Government brought together a diverse range of stakeholders to develop the first Marine Litter Action Plan (MLAP) for Wales.

Marine litter poses a growing threat to the aquatic and coastal environment. Up to 12.7m tonnes of plastic enters the world's oceans every year, equivalent to dumping one rubbish truck of plastic per minute into the world's oceans.ⁱ This causes significant problems for wildlife and aquatic ecosystems but it also has a detrimental effect on our health as millions of tiny plastics end up in the fish we eat and even the salt we consume. There is also increasing direct cost to local authorities and our shipping industry. Indirectly, it is thought that litter suppresses tourism by between 1-5%.ⁱⁱ It has been estimated that around 80% of marine debris is from land-based sources and the remaining 20% is from ocean based sources.ⁱⁱⁱ

Organisations and stakeholders involved in the MLAP have come together in 2018 to officially form a 'Clean Seas Wales Partnership' with the aim of encouraging all sectors in Wales to take action on marine litter issues. The name and identity will be aligned with the global UN Clean Seas campaign where Wales can join the efforts of the many other countries who are taking action under the same banner.

The Clean Seas Wales partnership will be the platform for engagement, education and cross-promotion of campaigns and initiatives to address marine litter and to ultimately take forward the actions contained in the Marine Litter Action Plan. It is proposed that the actions will be delivered over a period of 3 years and will be reviewed over that time in order to assess progress. The development of a 'Clean Seas Wales' website will also allow us to capture all of the activity across Wales which contribute to marine litter reduction or prevention. This is significant given the problems of accurately measuring marine litter itself.

2018 is Visit Wales' Year of the Sea, the 30th anniversary of the Blue Flag Award in Wales, the 25th Anniversary of the Marine Conservation Society Beach Clean-up and will also see Cardiff host the Volvo Ocean Race in May/ June. This momentum, driven also by heightened media attention on plastics in recent months, means that the focus of this year will be on awareness raising and engagement across Wales.

Current members of the Clean Seas Wales group include national and local government, Visit Wales, Harbour and port authorities, private businesses, Fishing Associations and representatives of the third sector across the country.

Supported by existing Welsh Government legislation such as the Wellbeing of

Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 the plan has been designed with prevention, collaboration and long-term solutions as its core principles.

The aim is to build a collaborative approach to delivering the marine litter action plan, using the opportunity of the Year of the Sea and Volvo Ocean Race to establish a Clean Seas Partnership – of organisations, businesses and communities committed to taking action to address the root causes of marine litter.

The objective is to ensure that Wales can make a leading contribution to the UN Clean Seas campaign <http://www.cleanseas.org/about> which can be communicated at the Volvo Ocean Race, Ocean Summit in June. This will be achieved through partners working to secure Wales Clean Seas pledges by businesses, communities and individuals which can be collected, monitored, reported and celebrated.

A number of local initiatives are already being developed such as Plastic Free Groups in communities such as Newport and Tenby

Proposal

To support the work it is proposed that the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority signs the Clean Seas pledge with a focus on:

- Choosing products with no or less plastic packaging
- Avoid products with microbeads

In addition, the Authority will join the Clean Seas Partnership and seek to provide support, where appropriate and possible, to groups seeking to minimise the negative impact of plastic on our coastline.

Risk considerations

The interplay of priorities within the Well-being Plan and other strategic drivers, including The Environment Act 1995, National Park Management Plan, Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Planning (Wales) Act 2015, Equality Act 2010, Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

Financial considerations

Currently there are no financial considerations for the Authority.

Equality considerations

There are no specific Equality considerations relating to signing the Clean Seas Pledge.

Welsh Language considerations

PCNPA would seek to ensure that the Clean Seas Partnership works bilingually and will communicate our involvement in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Authority signs the Clean Seas Pledge and joins the Clean Seas Partnership.

Background papers:

Respective fliers for the events concerned

(For further information, please contact Tegryn Jones, Chief Executive on extension 4803, or by e-mailing tegrynj@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

ⁱ UNEP (2017) <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/un-declares-war-ocean-plastic>

ⁱⁱ Piper, T, [PPX] 'The social and economic effects of marine litter'

https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/media/pdf/q/i/The_Social_Economic_Effect_of_Marine_Litter_-_Kimo_UK_-Tom_Piper.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ UNEP | Greenpeace. (2005). *Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans.*

(6.8.15) [\(14.7.15\)](http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/plastic_ocean_report.pdf)