

13 January 2025

Councillor Jackie Hook

Organisation: LGA Coastal Special Interest Group

The Council's representatives are invited to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation, the role the organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, their impact and results, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain. Feedback is scheduled across a full year cycle once per annum for most organisations and twice where meetings are more frequent (greater than 5).

Purpose of the Organisation:	<p>The LGA Coastal SIG exists to champion and represent the collective interests of coastal, estuarine, and maritime communities by increasing awareness and debate on environmental, economic and social issues at all levels in relation to the coast. It works in collaboration with other organisations with complementary aims to raise the profile of these communities direct to the government to ensure decisions support their unique needs to ensure that they become resilient and thriving.</p> <p>The Objectives of the Group are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To increase awareness and debate at a national level of the environmental, economic and social issues that directly or indirectly impact coastal, estuarine and maritime communities;To act as a focus for liaison between member local authorities and other bodies representing coastal, estuarine and maritime interests;To secure improved cross-departmental co-ordination with Government on coastal, estuarine and maritime issues with a view to ensuring consistency in policy and the provision of resource;To work in partnership with other organisations with complementary aims to support coastal, estuarine and maritime communities; <p>The Groups' annual Strategic Priorities to deliver these objectives are to be reviewed each March meeting for agreement as deliverables within the Group's Forward Workplan at the September Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>https://lgacoastalsig.com/</p>
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Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:	<p>The Group meets quarterly throughout the year, with two meetings being held by video conference, one via hybrid facilities (where possible) and one as in-person only with the September meeting acting as the Groups' Annual General Meeting (AGM). A 'Field Meeting' of the Group is held in an agreed coastal location, usually hosted by a local authority member.</p> <p>Executive Member attended the Coastal Water Quality Conference in June.</p>
Feedback:	<p>Provides an important link between MP's and Council's . Many relevant and important topics for us in Teignbridge. Quality information and discussions and much to learn, in the meetings, summits and conferences.</p> <p>A chance also for us to input to national policy and actions.</p> <p>To take full advantage of all opportunities on offer would require a considerable time commitment.</p>
Examples of where the brief above has been followed:	<p>Here's a concise roundup of LGA Coastal Special Interest Group 2025 successes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Championing coastal voices in Parliament: We supported the APPG for Coastal Communities, including a session on coastal health with the CMO, a joint Marine & Coastal Careers event with the APPG for the Ocean and a session including our member voices on Healthy eating initiatives for coastal communities. • Coastal Water Quality—evidence into action: Our June Summit brought together MPs, the Defra family, utilities, NGOs and researchers; the summit report is available on our website here. • Keeping people safe on the water: We launched the Coastal Water Safety & Drowning Prevention Survey and presented local authority insights at RoSPA's National Water Safety Conference; we also supported RoSPA's Water Safety Partnership Guidance and will launch our Report on Coastal and Estuarine Water Safety in early 2026.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 years of the Coastal SIG: We marked our 25th anniversary with the North Norfolk field trip and AGM—looking ahead, we're collecting members' reflections for a year-long celebration and looking to host a Parliamentary event in early 2026.• Financing coastal places: We ran a Blue Finance workshop with OCF and Simmons & Simmons on developing a funding facility for coastal communities.• Clean power & planning literacy: We engaged with NESO through its Societal Forum, Regional Forum, and Clean Power 2030 workshops along with National Grid's Coastal Group.• Growing ocean leadership: 37 councils (and the LGA) have now declared for Ocean Recovery, strengthening the case for The Motion for the Ocean.• Stronger governance & member offer: We established a Funding Panel (Chair: Cllr Tom Ashton) and approved updated Terms of Reference to underpin our work.• Showcasing practice: We exhibited at the Coastal Practitioners Conference and CIWEM Flood & Coast, and co-hosted a Coast-R webinar on resilience and sustainability.• Policy influence: We coordinated responses on Bathing Water Regulation reforms and submitted consultation responses on Floods Funding, Marine Licensing and Fairer Funding—with follow-up letters to ministers.• Community health & skills: We supported the launch of the Coastal Navigators Network, and continued working with partners to spotlight obesity and coastal wellbeing at Westminster.
Additional information relevant to Overview &	See information above.

Scrutiny including the value that TDC brings to this organisation and/or why this organisation needs TDC:	<p>LGA Coastal SIG - annual report to LGA Board 2025</p> <p>https://www.local.gov.uk/about/our-meetings-and-leadership/special-interest-groups/lga-coastal-sig-annual-report-lga-board-0</p>
Does the Council incur an annual fee to enable the Council to have a representative on this organisation. How much is the fee and does it represent value for money for the Council.	<p>£500 per annum. Benefits -</p> <p>The fee enables discounted attendance at relevant conferences</p> <p>The Group allows sharing of information and best practice across Councils and an information resource for this Council on current local topics of interest</p> <p>Membership allows us to input to national policy and priorities and actions of relevance to our coast.</p> <p>Regular newsletters</p> <p>Information on funding opportunities</p> <p>Lunch and Learn Sessions</p>