



By email: policy@maldon.gov.uk

Our reference: 322

09 October 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Maldon Draft Local Development Plan consultation

Thank you for inviting the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to comment on the above consultation. The MMO are pleased that Maldon has included reference to the MMO including within policy D5 regarding flooding and coastal management, and the supporting text to this (para 3.54). However, we would like to clarify that the 'marine management plans' are actually called Marine Plans. With regard to MMO strategies, we would suggest it would be beneficial to reference both Marine Plans and Marine Licences as both could be influential in work relating to coastal management.

As the marine planning authority for England the MMO is responsible for preparing marine plans for English inshore and offshore waters. At its landward extent, a marine plan will apply up to the mean high water springs mark, which includes the tidal extent of any rivers. As marine plan boundaries extend up to the level of the mean high water spring mark there will be an overlap with terrestrial plans which generally extend to the mean low water springs mark. In our duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure compatibility with existing development plans, which apply down to the low water mark, we are seeking to identify the 'marine relevance' of applicable plan policies. The MMO began planning for the East area, which stretches from Flamborough Head to Felixstowe, in April 2011 and the draft plans are currently out for formal consultation. The next round of planning began in 2013 in the South plan area. Until such time as a marine plan is in place for the South East plan area we advise relevant local authorities to refer to the Marine Policy Statement for guidance on any planning activity that includes a section of coastline or tidal river. All public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area must do so in accordance with the UK Marine Policy Statement unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. The Marine Policy Statement will also guide the development of Marine Plans across the UK. More information can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/03/18/marine-policy-statement/>

The MMO is also responsible for issuing marine licences under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. A marine licence may be needed for activities involving a deposit or removal of a substance or object below the mean high water springs mark or in any tidal river to the extent of the tidal influence. Any works may also require consideration under



The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended) and early consultation with the MMO is advised. We would suggest that reference to this be made within planning documents to ensure that necessary regulatory requirements are covered. We would encourage applicants to engage early with the MMO alongside any application for planning consent to ensure that the consenting process is as efficient as possible.

If you have any questions or need any further information please just let me know. More information on the role of the MMO can be found on our website www.marinemanagement.org.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Atkinson', is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

Angela Atkinson
Stakeholder and Networks Officer

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