



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

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**to  
COVID-19 INTERIM MEASURES GROUP  
3 APRIL 2020**

**DRAFT SOUTH EAST INSHORE MARINE PLAN CONSULTATION**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Draft South East Inshore Marine Plan has been published for consultation. This Draft Marine Plan is the culmination of a long term consultation exercise that the Council has participated in over the last three years. The purpose of this report is for the Committee to agree the Council's response to the consultation at **APPENDIX 1**. The consultation closes on 6 April 2020.

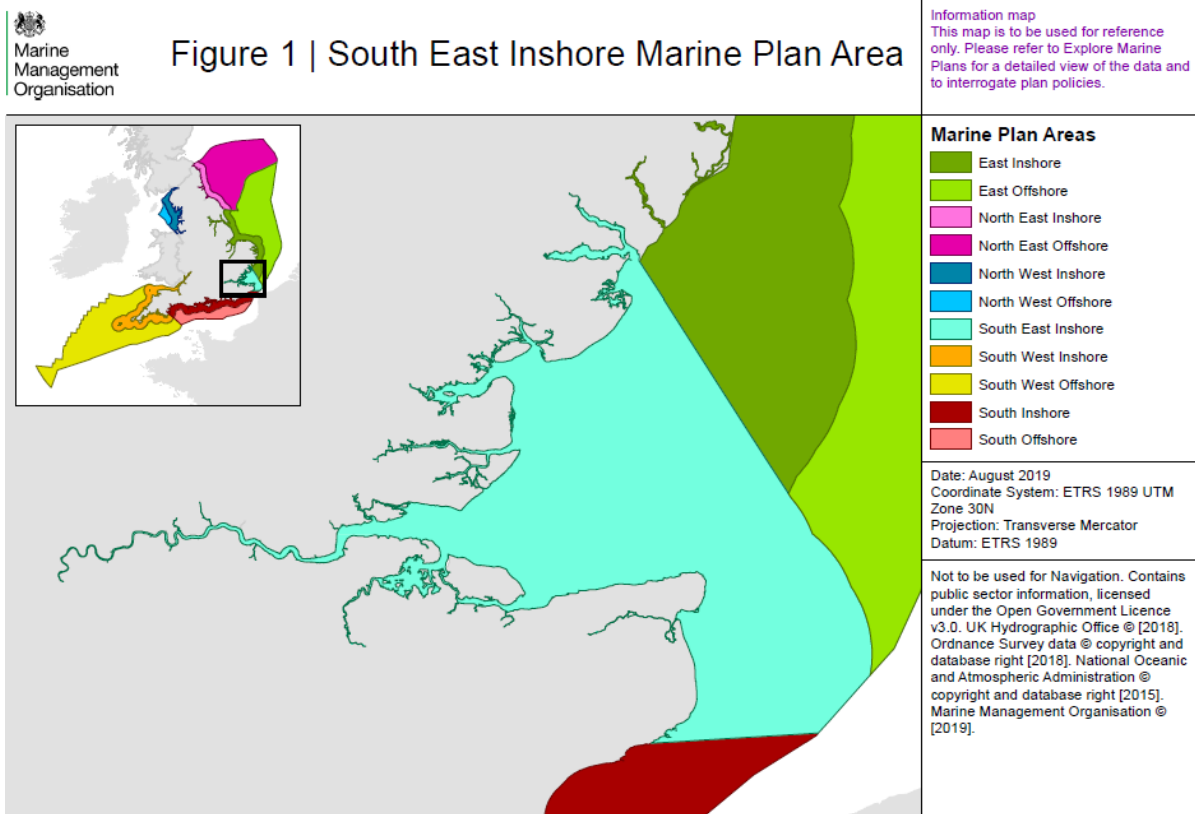
**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the draft consultation response at **APPENDIX 1** of this report be agreed.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The South East Marine Plan introduces a strategic approach to planning within the inshore waters between Felixstowe, in Suffolk and near Dover, in Kent. It provides a clear, evidence-based approach to inform decision-making by marine users and regulators on where activities might take place within the inshore marine plan area.
- 3.2 This Marine Plan has been prepared for the purposes of Section 51 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and will be adopted with the agreement of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. There is no offshore Marine Plan area in the south east (Figure 1). The South East Marine Plan document is supported by a Technical Annex, which includes further detail on policy implementation and must be read alongside the South East Marine Plan to implement the plan policies.
- 3.3 The South East Marine Plan will help to enhance and protect the marine environment and achieve sustainable economic growth, whilst respecting local communities both within and adjacent to the marine plan area. Policies are presented within an economic, social and environmental framework, helping to deliver the high-level marine objectives set out in the Government's Marine Policy Statement (2011).
- 3.4 The Marine Plan area includes:
- the area from mean high water spring tide to 12nm;
  - any area submerged at mean high water spring tide;

- the waters of any estuary, river or channel, so far as the tide flows at mean high water spring tide;
- waters in any area which is closed (permanently or intermittently) by a lock or other artificial means against the regular action of the tide, but into and from which seawater is caused or permitted to flow (continuously or occasionally).



3.5 All public authorities are responsible for applying the South East Marine Plan through the decisions that they make using existing regulatory and decision-making processes. Although the Marine Plan covers the area below the mean high water spring tide level, it does contain policies that apply to land based development, for example policies that:

- support land-based facilities that support marine activity (policy SE-INF-1);
- encourage the provision, maintenance and development of marine and land infrastructure to support sustainable aquaculture and related industries (SE-AQ-2);
- protect seascapes and landscapes (SE-SCP-1); and,
- support marine related employment (SE-EMP-1)

3.6 Whilst marine plans and the UK Marine Policy Statement are material considerations in decision-making, it is important to note that a marine plan is not a development plan under The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Local Plans may be a more relevant consideration than the marine plan in certain decision-making activities. With this in mind, however, due to the plan being a material consideration weight should be given to the plan where appropriate.

- 3.7 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project applications must be determined in accordance with the relevant National Policy Statement, subject to certain exceptions, and have regard to the Marine Policy Statement and the relevant marine plan.

## 4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The South East (SE) Marine Plan is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The Council will need to ensure that the first few cases where terrestrial planning and the SE Marine Plan overlap are suitably scrutinised and worked on cooperatively with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to ensure that the SE Marine Plan policies are suitably applied.

## 5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 The SE Marine Plan supports the Place outcome of partnership working to protect our countryside and coastline; and Prosperity outcomes of supporting rural business, diversification and tourism.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The South East Marine Plan will help to enhance and protect the marine environment and achieve sustainable economic growth, whilst respecting local communities both within and adjacent to the marine plan area.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Unlikely to have an impact on equalities.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Should reduce risk, by providing a policy framework for the marine area.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – The SE Marine Plan is a material consideration in determining relevant planning applications and will need to be taken into account in processing relevant planning applications.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – The South East Marine Plan will help to enhance and protect the marine environment and achieve sustainable economic growth, whilst respecting local communities both within and adjacent to the marine plan area.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** - The South East Marine Plan will help to enhance and protect the marine environment and achieve sustainable economic growth, whilst respecting local communities both within and adjacent to the marine plan area.

Background Papers:

- SE Marine Plan consultation documents:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-south-east-marine-plan-documents>
- UK Marine Policy Statement <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-marine-policy-statement>

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