



South Tyneside Council

South Tyneside Submission Draft Local Plan 2023 - 2040

Statement of Common Ground

Between

**South Tyneside Council and the Marine Management
Organisation**

March 2025

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1. Introduction

Parties to this Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG')

- 1.1 This SoCG is submitted on behalf of:
- South Tyneside Council, and
 - The Marine Management Organisation

Purpose

- 1.2 The 'duty to cooperate' (the duty) was introduced by the Localism Act in November 2011. The Act inserted a new Section 33A into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This placed a legal duty on all local authorities and public bodies (defined in regulations) to 'engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis' to maximise the effectiveness of local and marine plan preparation relating to strategic cross boundary matters.
- 1.3 While the detail in paragraph 26 of the NPPF indicates strategic matters that we would not expect the MMO to engage with (i.e., additional land-based infrastructure and any unmet development needs of the Borough), because of the physical relationship of the two authorities the council considers there are areas of strategic planning that the council will continue to engage the MMO with.
- 1.4 The purpose of this SoCG is to set out the confirmed agreements and any disagreements between South Tyneside Council and the Marine Management Organisation in relation to the emerging South Tyneside Local Plan.
- 1.5 The SoCG has been prepared to set out areas of agreement on key strategic matters. The MMO formally responded to both the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan Consultation and the Regulation 19 Submission Draft Local Plan.

Scope

- 1.6 This SoCG provides the following:
- Issues raised by the Marine Management Organisation in its representations on the Plan.
 - Actions from South Tyneside council in response to the comments made by MMO
 - The matters on which there is agreement between the parties.
 - The matters on which there is disagreement between the parties

2. Roles and responsibilities

- 2.1 Local authorities are required to make a Local Plan, setting out planning policies for making planning decisions in their area. Local plans must be consistent with planning law and national policy and guidance.
- 2.2 The Marine Management Organisation licenses and regulates marine activities in the seas around England and is responsible for the development of Marine Plans. Marine plans address the key issues for the area, setting a vision and objectives. The North East Marine Plan was adopted in June 2021.

- 2.3 Marine Plan boundaries extend up to the level of the mean high water spring tides mark whereas the South Tyneside Draft Local Plan boundary extends to the mean low water spring tides mark meaning there is an overlap between the two Plan areas.

3. Local Plan consultation responses

Response by the Marine Management Organisation to the Regulation 18 consultation

- 3.1 Issues raised by the Marine Management Organisation included the following

Section	Comments Summary	Council Response
Chapter 1: Introduction	<p>The MMO Welcome reference to North East Marine Plan Policy NE-SCP-1 however it is not clear whether other marine plan policies have been considered.</p> <p>We recommend considering reference to other North East Marine Plan policies within supporting policy text. Local Plan Compliance Statement should mention how the North East Marine Plan has been considered</p>	Comments noted. The council has sought to work alongside the MMO to strengthen linkages between the Local Plan and the North East Marine Plan.

- 3.2 Schedule of meetings held with the Marine Management Organisation to prepare the draft local plan include:

Date	Purpose	Action
May 2023	Introductory meeting between South Tyneside Council and MMO's North East Coastal Planner	Aware of MMO's Reg 18 consultation response. Still reviewing and actioning comments.
September 2023	Discussed the drafting of an MMO clause to include in the background section of the local plan.	MMO to review clause.
November 2023	<p>Discussion on Local plan policies between South Tyneside planning officers and MMO.</p> <p>After reviewing Reg 18 comments, we have identified</p>	<p>South Tyneside to forward relevant local plan policies (including those in draft) to MMO for comment.</p> <p>MMO to review policies and recommend ways of inclusion.</p>

	existing policies and draft local plan policies which align with the Marine Plan Policies suggested in the consultation. The MMO have been provided with our policies to comment and make recommendations for how these policies could be integrated within the local plan. See 2.3	
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3.3 Strategic crossover within the draft local plans production include

Marine Plan Policy recommended in the Regulation 18 consultation	South Tyneside Local Plan policy	Plan policy crossover documented within local plan
Heritage NE-HER-1	SP24: Heritage assets	Development proposals effecting heritage assets in close proximity to coastal areas may also be required to consider North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan (2021) Policy NE-HER-1: Heritage Assets
Employment NE-EMP-1	Policy SP19: Provision of Land for Port and River-Related Development	The North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan (2021) policy NE-EMP-1: Employment supports proposals for the increase in marine-related employment opportunities. Where relevant, proposals should consider this policy alongside the plan policies.
Climate Change NE-CC-1	Policy 12: Coastal Change Policy SP22: Green and Blue Infrastructure	7.71 Development proposals for coastal defence schemes should seek to support opportunities for nature-based solutions, and where possible, carbon sequestration and/ or the restoration or enhancement of coastal habitats. 2. Working with natural processes to improve quality river and coastal waters and protecting the borough's vulnerable coastal habitats;
Water Quality NE-WQ-1	Policy SP22: Green and Blue Infrastructure No WQ-1 additions made to Policy 11: Protecting water quality as it may start to blur the line between planning and	2. Working with natural processes to improve quality river and coastal waters and protecting the borough's vulnerable coastal habitats;

	Policy 37: Protecting and enhancing open spaces	<p>open space, sport and recreation, and green-blue infrastructure provision within the borough by: i. providing onsite open space provision that, where possible, links into and contributes towards the enhancement of the green-blue infrastructure network as set out in Policy SP22</p> <p>11.48 A key priority for the Council is to promote healthy lifestyles through access to green and blue infrastructure networks, open space, outdoor sport, and leisure facilities.</p>
Tourism and Recreation NE-TR-1	<p>Policy 25: Leisure and Tourism</p> <p>SP 13: Foreshore Improvement Area</p>	<p>9.27 North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan (2021) policy NE-TR-1: Tourism and Recreation promotes and sustainable tourism and recreation activities in coastal areas. Where relevant, proposals should consider this policy alongside the plan policies.</p> <p>5.57 North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan (2021) policy NE-TR-1: Tourism and Recreation promotes and sustainable tourism and recreation activities in coastal areas. Where relevant, proposals should consider this policy alongside the plan policies</p>
Seascape SCP-1	<p>Policy 12: Coastal Change</p> <p>Policy 25: Leisure and Tourism</p> <p>SP 13: Foreshore Improvement Area</p>	<p>7.72 Development proposals should also consider the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) 'Seascape Character Assessment for the North East Inshore and Offshore marine plan areas' (2018), the North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan (2021) Seascape Policy NE-SCP-1 and any other relevant policies</p> <p>9.28 Leisure and Tourism development within the Foreshore area should consider potential effects upon Seascape. Seascape considers landscape impacts and unique coastal considerations. Development proposals should consider the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Seascape Character Assessment for the North East Inshore and Offshore marine plan areas (2018) and the North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan (2021) Seascape Policy NE-SCP-1.</p> <p>5.59 Development close to the coast should consider the unique character, quality, and distinctiveness of the area, particularly in</p>

		relation to Seascape. Seascape considers more than just views of the sea surface and/or coast: it reflects the community's personal connectivity with coastal and marine areas. Development proposals should consider the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) 'Seascape Character Assessment for the North East Inshore and Offshore marine plan areas' (2018), and the North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan (2021) Seascape Policy NE-SCP-1.
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Response by the Marine Management Organisation to the Regulation 19 consultation

3.4 Issues raised by the Marine Management Organisation include the following:

Section	Comments Summary	Council Response
General	There is a sound understanding of the North East Marine Plan, overlap between the terrestrial and marine environments and how the North East Marine Plan policies align with the new local plan policies. As the local plan development process continues, if other aspects arise which may impact the coastal or marine environment, further alignments could be made with the marine environment by referring to the North East Marine Plan policies or including 'blue' terminology. It is also important to remember to take a whole-plan approach when informing decisions that may affect the marine environment, looking at all our policies together, rather than in isolation.	Comments noted. The council has sought to work alongside the MMO to strengthen linkages between the Local Plan and the North East Marine Plan.

4 Areas of agreement

Duty to Cooperate

- 4.1 Agreed - Effective and ongoing duty to cooperate engagement has taken place between the parties throughout the preparation of the draft South Tyneside Local Plan and will continue during its implementation.
- 4.2 There has been awareness of overlap in local planning remit and the remit of the North East Marine Plan and both parties have identified the following areas of overlap as well as wider contributions of the marine and coastal space to local planning policies:
 - Maintenance of the environment and seascape (NE-SCP-1)
 - Coastal and marine employment opportunities (NE-EMP-1)

- Protection of Heritage (NE-HER01)
- A sustainable tourism industry (NE-TR-1)

5 Area of Disagreement

5.1 There are no known areas of disagreement between South Tyneside Council and Marine Management Organisation.

6 Conclusion

6.1 The parties are committed to working positively together and continuing to engage with one another through the examination process and beyond.

7 Signatories

Signed on behalf of South Tyneside Council
Stuart Wright, Director of Place Strategy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Wright', with a light blue circular stamp partially visible underneath.

Signed on behalf of the Marine Management Organisation
Katharine Ludford, Marine Planning Manager, Marine Planning Team

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