

Solway Firth Partnership

Business Plan 2015 – 2018



Working Together towards a sustainable Solway Firth

Solway Firth Partnership

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1 Executive Summary

This Business Plan sets out a framework for the activities of the Solway Firth Partnership over the period 2015 – 2018. The Plan details the activities of the Partnership by identifying key actions and outlining the current management framework and delivery model by which aims will be achieved. A breakdown of funding requirements is given together with an indication of where funds are to be sought.

Our annual report is published in conjunction with our accounts. All our governing and strategic documents are available on our website:

www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk



2 Organisation Details

Company Name: Solway Firth Partnership

Address: Campbell House, The Crichton, Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4UQ

Telephone number: 01387 702161

E-mail: info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

Website: www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

Legal Status: The Solway Firth Partnership is a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee and without share capital under Company Number SC250012 and a Scottish Charity under Scottish Charity Number SCO34376.

The Registered office: Campbell House, The Crichton, Dumfries DG1 4UQ

Objects: To provide a framework for marine planning and management that enables engagement by everyone with an interest in our marine and coastal area.



3 Background

The Solway Firth Partnership is an independent Company Limited by Guarantee and acts as a voluntary coastal management mechanism. The Partnership was launched in 1994 as a response to formal support for integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) from the European Union, UK Government and agencies.

Our Mission Statement

To support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of our marine and coastal area.

Our Vision

- To make a significant contribution to sustainable development and environmental protection through supporting integrated marine and coastal planning and management.
- To provide a transparent, balanced and respected mechanism that supports objective, impartial and evidence based decision making for the local marine and coastal area.
- To provide distinctive input to development of a cooperative network of relationships between everyone with an interest in the local marine and coastal area.
- To provide assistance to coastal communities and businesses resulting in tangible local benefits.
- To promote greater recognition and understanding of the high quality environment, culture and heritage of the local marine and coastal area.



4 Future Focus

Marine Planning

In recent years, marine legislation has been enacted throughout the UK introducing a new system of marine planning. The UK Marine and Coastal Access Act came into effect in 2009¹ and the Marine (Scotland) Act was introduced in 2010². These two pieces of legislation govern marine planning for the Solway Firth given its administrative boundary between England and Scotland. The Solway lies in close proximity to the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland, which have separate systems of marine legislation and management. Wales and Ireland bring further administrative jurisdictions to the Irish Sea making this a particularly complex area.

Marine planning is a central means of achieving shared objectives, in conjunction with other key measures including creation of a marine protected areas network and the development of improved fisheries management. There are significant commitments to mitigate the effects of climate change and a need to find ways in which our local marine environment can contribute to these.

With regard to all these endeavours, the Solway must be considered holistically in line with the joint ministerial commitment to cross border planning.

Scotland's National Marine Plan was laid before the Scottish Parliament in December 2014³. This National Marine Plan sets out strategic policies for the sustainable development of Scotland's marine resources out to 200 nautical miles. It is required to be compatible with the UK Marine Policy Statement and existing marine plans across the UK, particularly where there is interaction between England inshore and offshore marine plans and Northern Ireland Marine Plans.

The development of National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi), a web based Geographical Information System (GIS), provides the general public with a wide range of spatial data including all the data from Scotland's Marine Atlas⁴. Solway Firth Partnership will continue to gather data and make this available to the NMPi.

In England, preparation of marine plans is being led by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). In Scotland, plan making will be delegated to Marine Planning Partnerships, a system which is in the process of being rolled out over a number of years. Mechanisms for joint planning in the Solway Firth that meet the needs of both systems must be developed. Solway Firth Partnership has an integral role to play in taking this forward in a way that supports environmental protection, economic development and community wellbeing across the local marine and coastal area as a whole.

The Solway Area

The area covered by Solway Firth Partnership includes the marine and coastal zone of the Solway within the line from St Bees Head in Cumbria across to and including the Mull of Galloway and the Rhins up to the administrative boundary for Dumfries and Galloway. This includes Loch Ryan, see Figure 1.

The Partnership's landward boundary has never been geographically defined and involvement is dependent upon features and activities which have an integral relationship with the marine environment.



Figure 1: Area covered by Solway Firth Partnership

The Environment

Areas of the inner Solway Firth are designated both as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive⁵ and a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive⁶ – collectively known as the Solway Firth European Marine Site (EMS). The Solway Firth SAC designation reflects the importance of the site's marine and coastal habitats including merse (saltmarsh), mudflats and reefs. The Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA designation recognises the large bird populations that these habitats support, particularly in winter⁷. Important bird species include Svalbard barnacle goose, pink-footed goose, whooper swan and pintail as well as waders such as bar-tailed godwit, golden plover, oystercatcher, dunlin, knot, curlew and redshank.

There is currently a proposal under consideration to extend the boundary of the SPA designation⁸. The qualifying bird species in the Solway Firth marine draft SPA include Annex 1 species: Red-throated diver; Migratory species: common scoter and goosander; Migratory species from the 2001 SPA Review: ringed plover, lapwing, cormorant, herring gull, common gull and black-headed gull. It is anticipated that the ministerial approval to formally consult on the draft SPA will be given in 2015.

The estuary is also a Ramsar site, as it is an important wetland for overwintering birds and the rare natterjack toad, which is found here at the most northerly point in its range⁹.

The Solway Firth is important for the passage of migratory fish such as sea and river lamprey, as well as salmon and sea trout which the local angling economy depends upon¹⁰. The Solway also provides an important nursery area for species including skates and rays.

Luce Bay and Sands SAC in the outer Solway Firth has been designated principally for its seabed and dune habitats and the species which depend on these places¹¹. The site was one of nine SAC's in inshore waters which was the subject of public consultation by the Scottish Government in late 2014/early 2015¹² regarding new fishery management proposals. The Scottish Government aims to issue a report on the consultation process before laying new legislation in the Scottish Parliament in May 2015.

The Solway coastal lands are heavily influenced by maritime conditions, creating unique and nationally important landscapes. On the south side of the Solway an area is designated as the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)¹³ and on the north side there are three National Scenic Areas (NSAs)¹⁴ – the Nith Estuary, the East Stewarty Coast and the Fleet Valley.



In English waters, the first tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) were designated in November 2013 under the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act. This was a significant step towards creating a network of marine protected areas and an achievement for the conservation of important marine species and habitats.

The only site designated in the Solway was the Cumbria Coast MCZ¹⁵, an inshore site that stretches for approximately 27 km along the coast of Cumbria, extending from south of Whitehaven, around the cliffs at St Bees Head, to the mouth of the Ravenglass Estuary. A second tranche of MCZs is planned for designation in 2015 with a third tranche to follow. Allonby Bay, including Dubmill Scar and the offshore area of Maryport Roads, is a candidate for designation in the second tranche. The Bay contains some of the best examples of honeycomb worm reef in the UK.

In Scottish inshore waters, work is being undertaken to identify potential Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which can be designated for nature conservation, demonstration and research or historical reasons¹⁶. European Marine Sites (SPAs and SACs), MCZs and MPAs collectively are intended to form an ecologically coherent network of protected areas across all UK seas.

A government commitment has been made to ensure that these projects and their outcomes align with one another, but it is unclear how this will be achieved in the Solway estuary. Solway Firth Partnership will support work to ensure that MCZ and MPA projects are coordinated across the national boundary. Ways of doing this include provision of information to local stakeholders and cross border consultation on any proposed new sites or changes to the designations of existing sites.

The Solway Firth is part of the Solway Tweed River Basin Management Planning unit for the purposes of implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD)¹⁷. This placed a duty on the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment Agency to jointly prepare the first River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Solway in 2009. The process was supported by a Solway Area Advisory Group comprising partners from Scotland and England including Solway Firth Partnership. RBMPs are reviewed and updated every six years and the second plan will be published towards the end of 2015¹⁸. Solway Firth Partnership continues to provide input on marine and coastal issues to ensure integration between structures for delivering work on WFD and marine planning.

Invasive non-native species, known as INNS, have increasingly become an issue both nationally and locally¹⁹. These are species which have been intentionally or accidentally released into an environment outside their native geographic range. Marine INNS can be transported in several ways but the most significant method is through shipping by attachment to hulls and in ballast water. The results can be significant, not only in terms of ecological impact but also economically as aquaculture and fisheries can be adversely affected. It can be very expensive to control and eradicate INNS once they have become established. Therefore, it is more cost effective to concentrate efforts to prevent their arrival where possible²⁰.

The presence of INNS can also impact on the status of the water environment and the condition of European Marine Sites, increasing the risk that these sites do not meet their favourable conservation target or the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

Solway Firth Partnership produced a biosecurity plan for the Solway in 2013 which highlighted the issues and sets out actions²¹. The plan will be reviewed and updated and actions will continue to be delivered insofar as resources allow.

Fisheries

The Solway supports a diverse mixed fishery, resulting in local fishermen targeting a wide range of fish and shellfish species. There are currently around 90 commercial fishing boats based in Cumbria and smaller numbers working out of Kirkcudbright, Annan and Isle of Whithorn on the Scottish Solway coast²². The Solway is also fished by boats from further afield including the Isle of Man, Ireland and larger ports to the north and south such as Girvan and Fleetwood. Additionally, cockles, mussels and winkles are collected from the Solway shores.

Fish processing is estimated to employ in the region of 1,500 people around the Solway²³. This includes large processing businesses at Annan and Kirkcudbright, as well as smaller smokehouses on the Galloway coast. The fisheries sector is an important part of the rural economy for the communities of Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria but is also a primary pressure on the marine environment.



The Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) operate under the Marine and Coastal Access Act²⁴. The North Western (NW) IFCA jurisdiction extends north to the national boundary in the Solway; its responsibilities include making and enforcing byelaws for the management and conservation of fish and shellfish stocks and conserving the wider marine environment²⁵. The North West IFCA has a governing Board and on which Solway Firth Partnership is represented and fishery officers, scientific staff and administrators work from coastal offices in Whitehaven and Carnforth. The MMO also has a local office in Whitehaven where three members of staff are based.

Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFGs) are non-statutory bodies that aim to improve the management of Scotland's inshore fisheries out to six nautical miles, and to give commercial inshore fishermen a strong voice in wider marine management developments²⁶. In 2009, six pilot IFGs were set up covering the Clyde, Moray Firth, North West, Outer Hebrides, Small Isles & Mull, and South East, each of which developed an inshore fisheries management plan for their area. Following on from this pilot, six new IFGs were established in the East Coast, Moray Firth & North Coast, North West, Orkney, Outer Hebrides, and South West. The IFGs are now taking forward and developing their respective management plans. Solway Firth Partnership currently provides advisory and project management support to the South West IFG.

There is an opportunity to build on the fishing industry led Code of Conduct in the Solway. Active engagement with the fisheries projects together with positive industry contributions to consultations on management schemes and marine legislation will help ensure local delivery of fisheries policy in the north Solway is directly linked to marine planning.

The European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 programme²⁷ provided financial support for a range of environmental, social and economic projects in the Solway. The Cumbrian and Dumfries and Galloway schemes are each based on sustainable management principles and geared towards providing benefits to the fishing industry as an integral part of good marine stewardship and viable coastal communities.

The Solway Firth Partnership Out of the Blue project was enabled by support from the European Fisheries Fund and Dumfries and Galloway Council and aims include improving understanding of local sea fisheries. To this end, work is underway to develop interpretation at Kirkcudbright and Isle of Whithorn harbours which provides information about the species landed, the seasonality of local fisheries and the working practices of the industry. This project will finish in July 2015 but it is hoped that future funds might be accessed from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, likely to be available from 2015, to continue work on local sea fisheries.

Energy

The UK Climate Change Act (2008) set legally binding targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions: 26% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels²⁸. The Scottish Government has set a more challenging target of 42% by 2020 through its Climate Change (Scotland) Act²⁹.

The Scottish Government also has a target of generate electricity equivalent to 100% of Scotland's gross annual electricity consumption from renewables by 2020, whilst the UK Government has a target of 15% by 2020.

Robin Rigg offshore wind farm which has been operated by E-On Climate and Renewables in the Solway Firth since 2010 is the largest offshore wind farm in Scottish waters³⁰. Solway Firth Partnership continues to provide a means of engagement between E-On and local communities through distribution of the E-On Robin Rigg newsletter as an insert in Tidelines magazine. The Partnership also provides administration for the Robin Rigg Community Fund on the Scottish coast.

Solway Energy Gateway Ltd continues to assess the potential for tidal energy generation in the Solway Firth³¹. To date, an innovative technology - VETT (Venturi-Enhanced Turbine Technology) has been tested on a Cumbrian watercourse and initial research has taken place on the effect of the turbines on fish. The next phase of the work is to carry out a scoping study to look at the planning and feasibility of a new crossing.

Solway Firth Partnership continues to contribute to the cross border Solway Energy Gateway liaison group and ensures the flow of information between sustainable energy regulators/ developers and local communities.

The Partnership works to support a coherent approach across the national border and holistic assessment of Solway wide opportunities as well as potential cumulative impacts of renewable energy developments. The Partnership will also contribute to the development of other renewable energy projects in the Solway e.g. tidal lagoon power.



Awareness

Facilitating community engagement, increasing understanding of our natural and cultural heritage, celebrating and promoting the Solway Firth have always formed a core part of the Partnership's activities. The Partnership also encourages engagement in recreational activities such as sailing, kayaking, diving, wildlife watching and coastal walking in and around the Solway.

Good practice is supported by a range of means including promotion of activities and events in E-newsletters and Tidelines.

Tidelines magazine is produced biannually and distributed widely around the Solway and beyond. The Partnership provides advice and equipment to support community beach cleans and promotes the Marine Conservation Society Beachwatch and Adopt-a-beach schemes.

The highly successful Making the Most of the Coast project ran from 2012 to 2014. The project engaged with 28 education providers and over 2,500 individuals. Over £10,000 in volunteer time was generated whilst 39 beach clean events were organised. There were 31 groups, organisations or businesses that worked in partnership and 33 features published in coast promotions³².

The Partnership aims to build on the Making the Most of the Coast Project by investigating future project opportunities. Initial ideas include a study to enhance and extend the Solway Coast Heritage Trail from Dumfries & Galloway through to Cumbria. The study will include a review of existing natural, cultural and historic facilities, and identify opportunities for development/enhancement along the route as well as possible linkages between the two coasts. It is hoped that the European funding programme, LEADER, when it comes online, will be a source of support for an initial feasibility study and any community projects which are identified in the study.

Using the Dumfries and Galloway Good Beach Guide³³, produced through Making the Most of the Coast, as a template, an aim is to produce a similar guide for the Cumbrian Coast, resources permitting.

Solway Firth Partnership hopes to be a partner in a Dumfries and Galloway Council led Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme focussed on the River Dee catchment including the coast at Kirkcudbright. The project would include working with volunteers and interpreting the natural, cultural and historic heritage of the coast.

5 Action

The Partnership's core activities can be categorised in terms of the following areas:

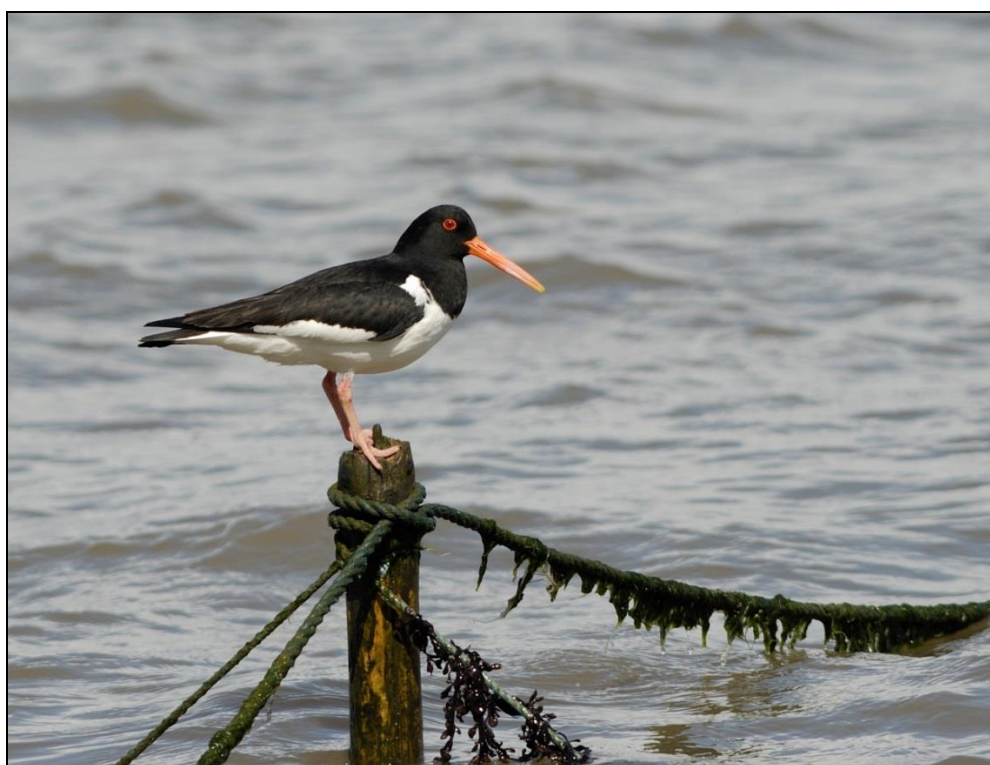
- **Partnership**
- **Planning**
- **Environment**
- **Fisheries**
- **Energy**
- **Awareness**

The Partnership will pursue its strategic aims and outcomes by taking the actions presented in the table below. Quarterly meetings of the Solway Firth Partnership Advisory Group and regular meetings of the Board of Trustees will review and assess achievements, priorities, developments and potential changes. Actions which are a condition of existing grants, funding applications or a constitutional requirement are shaded green in the table below.

Activity	Action
Partnership	Maintain regular contact with all stakeholders to support networking especially cross-border
	Facilitate consultation on issues affecting the marine and coastal area and act as an intermediary in conflict resolution
	Hold a conference every two years
	Hold regular management group meetings in compliance with the Partnership's Memorandum and Articles of Association
	Maintain and update the Partnership database and website
	Provide partners with regular updates on key issues through website and E-newsletters
	Attract additional funding to develop the Partnership's capacity
	Manage the Partnership's income and expenditure
Planning	Contribute to development of a Scottish Marine Planning Partnership for the Solway as required
	Work with partners to develop mechanisms to deliver joint planning across national boundaries
	Continue to input to the NMPi with relevant data from the Solway
	Continue to input to the sectoral interactions matrix for the local marine and coastal area as required

Activity	Action
	Maintain working relationships with marine planning bodies in the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland as well as England and Scotland
	Contribute to the Irish Sea Maritime Forum initiative
	Contribute to the Celtic Seas Partnership Project including input to the Solway Case Study on Trans-boundary Governance and marine INNS
Environment	Contribute to ensuring that conservation objectives for European Marine Sites are recognised and addressed by relevant competent authorities
	Contribute to the conservation of features monitoring within the European Marine Site where resources allow
	Contribute to a review of the European Marine Site Management Scheme if resources allow
	Support integration of the MCZ and MPA programmes and promote understanding and stakeholder engagement with both
	Maintain and develop engagement with all marine recording schemes and centres including the Marine Conservation Society, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre and D&G Environmental Resources Centre
	Continue the analysis of coastal and marine biodiversity data availability, accessibility and identify knowledge gaps
	Work with the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere to advise on the potential inclusion of the Solway marine environment
	Raise awareness of marine non-native species and complete actions from the Solway Strategy where resources allow
	Maintain input to Solway Area Advisory Group of the Solway Tweed River Basin District and ensure integration with delivery structures for implementation of the Marine Acts
	Facilitate further stakeholder consultation regarding Luce Bay and Sands SAC if required
Fisheries	Support consultation on options for sustainable future management of the Solway cockle fishery
	Support cohesion between English, Scottish, Manx and Northern Irish fisheries management regimes
	Support continued development of the good practice sectoral Code of Conduct
	Contribute to the D&G FLAG to ensure local opportunities arising from EMFF Axis 4 are maximised
	Contribute to the Fishing for Litter initiative as appropriate
Energy	Provide information on climate change and the need for sustainable energy through events and publications

Activity	Action
	Provide a means of engagement between existing and prospective offshore renewable energy developers and the local community
	Distribute the E-On Robin Rigg newsletter
	Contribute to the Solway Energy Gateway liaison group
Awareness	Produce and distribute two issues of Tidelines annually
	Update the website regularly
	Produce and distribute regular E-newsletters
	Support the development of a Rhins of Galloway Coastal Trail, promoting the regions rich fisheries heritage and marine biodiversity
	Promote good practice and publicise opportunities for marine and coastal recreation
	Investigate coastal projects including an extension to the Solway Heritage Trail along the Cumbrian coast and a Good Beach Guide for Cumbria
	Identify a coastal project to contribute to the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme bid to HLF
	Issue regular press articles
	Support local beach cleans where possible by lending equipment
	Support opportunities that arise from relevant new initiatives



6 Delivery

Management Framework

The Partnership is constituted as an independent Scottish Charity Limited by Guarantee and operates to a Memorandum and Articles of Association in compliance with the Companies Acts. The Partnership has an open membership policy, including corporate and individual members, and all are eligible for appointment to the Board of Trustees (Appendix 1 – Board of Trustees). The Board normally meets at least four times per year and directs the work of the Partnership with particular responsibility for financial matters.

The Partnership and Board are guided by an Advisory Group comprising representatives of Corporate Members of the Partnership (Appendix 2 – Corporate Members). The Advisory Group meets normally meets four times per year and focusses on key issues and developments.

Solway Firth Partnership currently employs a Partnership Manager, Project Coordinator and Administrator who work closely with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (Appendix 3 – Meet the team).

7 Promotion and Advertising

Solway Firth Partnership communicates and engages with the wider community by regular e-newsletters and website updates, Tidelines, meetings, consultation events and the bi-annual conference. The Partnership manages a database of around 1,500 individuals and organisations around the Solway.

8 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of progress on actions identified in this plan are carried out through the Partnership management structure. Minutes of all meetings are recorded. A comprehensive review of progress on this Business Plan is carried out annually.



9 Funding

Resources to date

Solway Firth Partnership relies on core funding support by Corporate Members who are local authorities or government agencies. The Partnership also benefits from private sector funding from E-On, specifically for publication and the distribution of Tidelines. The Partnership is very grateful to all those who have provided funding support to date and without whose input the successes described herein would not have materialised.

Future funding sources

The Partnership will seek and welcome continued financial support for delivery of all actions from its Corporate Members. Marine Scotland continues to make a funding commitment, effectively replacing funding previously received from SNH. The Partnership will continue to seek more active engagement with the MMO.

Continued support for delivery of projects will be sought from sources including The Crown Estate, Scottish Natural Heritage, the National Lottery and the European Marine Fisheries Fund Axis 4 programme.

Core funding

Figures below are based on financial support to date and the best information currently available.

The Partnership carried forward £44,634 of core (unrestricted) funds at the end of financial year to 31 March 2014 (Figures for the year ending March 2015 are not yet available). The Solway Firth Partnership's reserves policy is to maintain a sufficient level of resources to enable operating activities to be maintained, taking account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time such as:

- Shortfalls in income: when income does not reach expected levels as a result of reduced or withdrawn grant support;
- Unexpected expenditure: for example when projects overrun or unplanned events occur.

The general reserve should represent approximately six months' core expenditure, approximately £40,000, as agreed at the Board of Trustees meeting in September 2014. The Trustees review the policy and progress towards maintaining the target level of reserve annually.

10 Income and Expenditure

CORE FUNDING			
INCOME	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Marine Scotland, Planning Division	38,000	38,000	38,000
Natural England / MMO	-----	-----	-----
EON Climate & Renewables	8,000	8,000	8,000
Dumfries & Galloway Council	6,000	6,000	6,000
Cumbria County Council	4,000	4,000	4,000
Allerdale Borough Council	1,000	1,000	1,000
Carlisle City Council	750	750	750
Project Fees	3,650	5,650	3,700
TOTAL INCOME	£61,400	£63,400	£61,450

CORE FUNDING			
EXPENDITURE	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Staff Costs			
Salaries and employment costs - Partnership Manager 4 days/wk & Admin 2 days/wk	36,500	36,500	36,500
Training	500	500	500
Travel & Subsistence	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Staff Costs	£40,000	£40,000	£40,000
Operating Costs			
Rent, heating, lighting	9,000	9,000	9,000
Contents and employers insurance	1,000	1,000	1,000
Electricity	450	450	500
Telephone/internet	700	700	700
Postage	250	250	250
Stationery & Equipment	500	500	500
IT costs	3,000	3,000	3,000
Meetings & seminars	500	500	500
Conference	-----	2,000	-----
Legal & accountancy support	500	500	500
Tidelines	5,000	5,000	5,000
Website	500	500	500
Total Operating Costs	£21,400	£23,400	£21,450
TOTAL CORE EXPENDITURE	£61,400	£63,400	£61,450

Project funding

A range of other outputs and activities are enabled by additional grant support for individual projects.

Solway Firth Partnership has a proven track record of maximising the value of core funds by drawing in additional project (restricted funding).

11 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Board of Trustees at March 2015

Name	Organisation	Member type
Cllr Anthony Markley	Cumbria County Council	Corporate
Cllr Michael Heaslip	Allerdale Borough Council	Corporate
Cllr Jim McClung	Dumfries & Galloway Council	Corporate
Cllr Les Tickner	Carlisle City Council	Corporate
Mr Andrew Shankland	Independent	Ordinary
Mr Charles Edwards	Dumfries Cruising Club	Ordinary
Mr Steve Hardy	South Rhins Community Development Trust	Ordinary
Mrs June Lochhead	Independent	Co-opted
Mr Alastair McNeill	Independent	Co-opted
Mr James Mitchell	Independent	Co-opted

Appendix 2 Corporate Members

Allerdale Borough Council

Annan District Salmon Fishery Board

Associated British Ports

Carlisle City Council

Copeland Borough Council

The Crown Estate

Cumbria County Council

North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (formerly Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee)

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Environment Agency

Marine Management Organisation (formerly Marine and Fisheries Agency)

Natural England (formerly Countryside Agency)

Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Water

Appendix 3 Meet the team

Alastair McNeill

Chair, Solway Firth Partnership;
Chair, South West Inshore Fisheries Group;
Director, Solway Heritage

Alastair McNeill became Chair of Solway Firth Partnership in 2014. He has been involved with the Partnership since its inception in 1994 and chaired the advisory group from 2003 before becoming a Board Director in 2010.

He had a 40 year career in environmental management, protection and regulation most recently with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency as the Manager for South West Scotland. He has published papers and articles on topics concerning environmental and sustainability issues.

Other current interests include Chair of South West Inshore Fisheries Group since 2013 and a Director of Solway Heritage since 2010.

Clair McFarlan

Partnership Manager, Solway Firth Partnership

As Partnership Manager with Solway Firth Partnership for the past year and previously as Project Officer for 3 years, Clair has been involved with a wide range of projects and is leading work on marine invasive non-native species monitoring in the Solway Firth.

Clair represents Solway Firth Partnership on fora including the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Steering Group, the D&G Local Biodiversity Partnership and the Solway Tweed River Basin Area Advisory Group.

In Clair's former position as Ecologist with Solway Heritage, she was responsible for managing projects including Eco-Schools Dumfries and Galloway, The Sulwath Connections Wood Pasture Project and The Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Resources Centre.

Clair has worked in project management, conservation, countryside access, community engagement, environmental education and interpretation for over 25 years including positions with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Pam Taylor

Project Coordinator, Solway Firth Partnership

Pam worked as Project Manager of Solway Firth Partnership for 6 years developing the organisation's capacity and project portfolio before taking on the role of Project Coordinator.

Pam currently works on a number of project funded schemes including 'Out of the Blue', a project supporting a sustainable seafood industry in the Solway and two trials; creel escape panels and lobster v-notching, both aimed at conserving stocks and helping to ensure the long term sustainability of the local crab and lobster fisheries.

Pam has supported development and promotion of the European Fisheries Fund on both sides of the Solway Firth and is a member of the Dumfries and Galloway Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG). Pam represents Solway Firth Partnership on the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

Pam has worked in project management, conservation, countryside access, community engagement, environmental education and interpretation for 26 years including positions with the National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Nic Coombey

Design and Communications Officer, Out of the Blue Project

Over the next four months Nic will be working on the Out of the Blue Project to increase understanding of the part that sea fisheries play in the culture and heritage of the region and raise awareness of modern day fisheries and the seafood that is landed locally.

Nic, a Landscape Architect for over 25 years, has increasingly specialised in the management of heritage projects and spent 13 years as an employee of Solway Heritage nurturing and delivering community aspirations to enhance and conserve the built, natural and cultural landscapes of Dumfries and Galloway.

Alison Robertson

Administrator

Alison was recruited as Administrator for the Making the Most of the Coast project and has since taken on the administration for the rest of the organisation as well. Her previous post was with RSPB where she acquired a taste for complex funding systems. Her interest in the natural world forms the ideal antidote to the Excel spread-sheets that dominate her working day.

12 REFERENCES

- ¹ **The Scottish Government** (2014). *UK Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009*. Online at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/seamanagement/marineact/ukbill> [accessed 04/02/15].
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