

Shaping D&S IFCA's Future Work

1. Purpose of the Report

The report sets out the Vision for D&S IFCA and the decision timeline required to deliver the initial Five Year Strategy and budget needed to deliver the programme of work.

2. Actions

It is recommended that members:

1. **Agree** to adopt the Vision set out in this report
2. **Agree** to establish a Governance Working Group
3. **Agree** to the decision timeline set out in the report

3. Vision

Officers have worked with the Chair, Vice Chair James Marsden and Councillor Pam Buchan to produce the Vision for D&S IFCA.

We believe in shared responsibility for the health and benefits of the marine environment and uphold our duties, now and in the future. We will be proactive in our management to restore and recover marine ecosystems, habitats and species. We envisage that the waters, under our authority, will support sustainable fishing practices serving local, national and international communities. We will innovate, and champion the use of technology, the delivery of low impact fisheries and the UK Government's 'Net Zero' by 2050 carbon target. We embrace co-management and will drive change in inshore recreational and commercial fisheries, recognising their social and economic benefits, and securing a future for sustainable fishing in the coastal belt.

The Vision is intended to set out how D&S IFCA will support the delivery of the Government's policies and interests in marine fisheries and the marine environment. It will be the reference point for the work of D&S IFCA. The Vision will be as relevant for years to come as it is now. At the heart of the Vision is the marine environment. We must find new ways of protecting and managing the marine environment to continue to benefit from its many riches, ensuring that we achieve the right balance between extraction and protection. Technology will be part of the management solution, but it is crucial that our stakeholders also share in this Vision. We all need to engage and participate in its delivery. This will be achieved by delivering genuine co-management through, among other things, the joint development of Fisheries Management Plans.

Recommendation 1:

Members agree to adopt the Vision for D&S IFCA

4. Governance Working Group

Once the Authority has agreed its Vision, work on the first of a series of Five Year Strategies can begin. The strategies will identify the key areas of work that D&S IFCA would need to undertake to deliver the Vision. The strategies will help to identify the level of resourcing that would be required.

Creating the Authority's initial Five Year Strategy will be a significant task and it is proposed that the Authority uses the combined knowledge and skills of both its Officers and its Members. Similar to the successful Byelaw Technical Working Group, it is proposed to create a Governance Working Group (GWG) to undertake this work. The GWG will also develop the Authority's approach to governance. The draft Terms of Reference below set out what areas of the Authority work the Group will cover, its responsibilities and reporting procedures. Most importantly the GWG is not able to take decisions on behalf of the Authority and must report to the full Authority or one of its sub-committees. In preparation of the first Five Year Strategy, the GWG will need to review the Authority's Reserves Policy to identify how much of the current reserves can be used to support additional staffing resources and asset requirements.

Governance Working Group

Terms of Reference

Name

The group shall be known as the Governance Working Group (GWG).

Membership

Any member of the Authority or its Officer may join the Group. The Group may agree to invite external service providers as and when required.

Business Delivery

If meetings are required, at least three members of the group must be present. It is envisaged that most development work will be achieved through e-mail correspondence.

Functional Delivery

The role of the GWG is to support the work of the Authority by undertaking the following tasks;

- Develop the overarching strategies to deliver the Authority's vision,*
- Review the Authority's governance structure and procedures*
- Produce the Authority's Schemes of Delegation*
- Develop the Authority's draft Annual Plans and Reports*
- Develop policies on advocacy and communications to improve dialogue with stakeholders*

Reporting

All work conducted by the GWG must be reported to the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee and/or the Full Authority for consideration and decision making.

Recommendation 2:

Members agree to the establishment of the Governance Working Group and the Group's Terms of Reference.

5. Timeline

The first Five Year Strategy and Annual Plan will need to be produced by March 2021. In order for this to be achieved the following timeline would need to be followed.

Oct 2020 - AGM

- The Authority agrees the Vision
- The Authority creates the Governance Working Group

Early Dec 2020 – F&GPSC

- Consider draft Five Year Strategy
- Consider funding required to deliver draft Five Year Strategy
- Consider use of General Reserves to fund anticipated shortfall (and revise Reserves Policy, as necessary)
- Determine total level of funding of D&S IFCA that LAs can support

Mid Dec 2020 – Full Authority meeting

- Agree final Five Year Strategy
- Agree 2021/22 budget including use of General Reserves.

March 2021 - Full Authority Meeting

- The Authority agrees the Annual Plan to start to deliver the Five Year Strategy

Recommendation 3

Members agree to the decision timeline set out in the report.