

Severn Estuary Strategy

Joint Estuary Day

Workshop Report & Feedback

28th May 2015

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 2015 Review & Update

The Partnership is currently in the process of reviewing and updating the 2001 Strategy (Appendix 5.1), in the context of new and emerging policies and developments. The revised 2015 Strategy will provide a framework for more integrated policy development, informing Severn Estuary-wide management practices and strategies, including marine planning. As marine planning develops in both England and Wales, the coming year will be key for influencing this process to ensure an integrated approach is carried out for the Severn Estuary Region. It will also provide a policy context to inform and support decision making relating to a wide range of proposed estuary developments, including those related to maritime uses, minerals and marine renewable energy.

1.2 2015 Strategy Aims

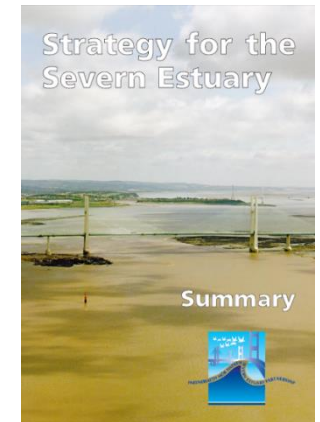
The revised 2015 Severn Estuary Strategy aims:

- **To update & streamline** the 2001 Severn Estuary Strategy
- To provide a **strategic policy framework** for the Estuary
- **To facilitate** the Marine & Coastal Act (2009) obligations related to:
 - Cross-border integration
 - Land-sea integration
 - Ecosystem-based approach to management

1.3 2015 Strategy Contents

The revised 2015 Strategy will have the following structure:

- **Vision**
- **High level principles**
 - Drafts are currently being derived from
 - UK [High Level Marine Objectives \(HLMO\) Themes](#), set out in the [Marine Policy Statement](#) (MPS)



- The [EU ICZM Principles](#) (2002)
- Other coastal partnerships and marine plans (including the Welsh National Marine Plan; East Inshore Marine Plan etc.)
- **Aims & policies for key themes**
 - e.g. for 'Tourism & Recreation'
 - Aim (2001 – to be revised):
 - *To maintain and improve the accessibility and availability of sustainable tourist and recreational facilities that enhance the economy, whilst considering the local environment*
 - Example policy (2001 – to be revised):
 - *T2: Support the regeneration and enhancement of existing resorts and dockland areas, in order to minimise adverse impact on the environment of new sites and improve the quality of life for the host communities.*

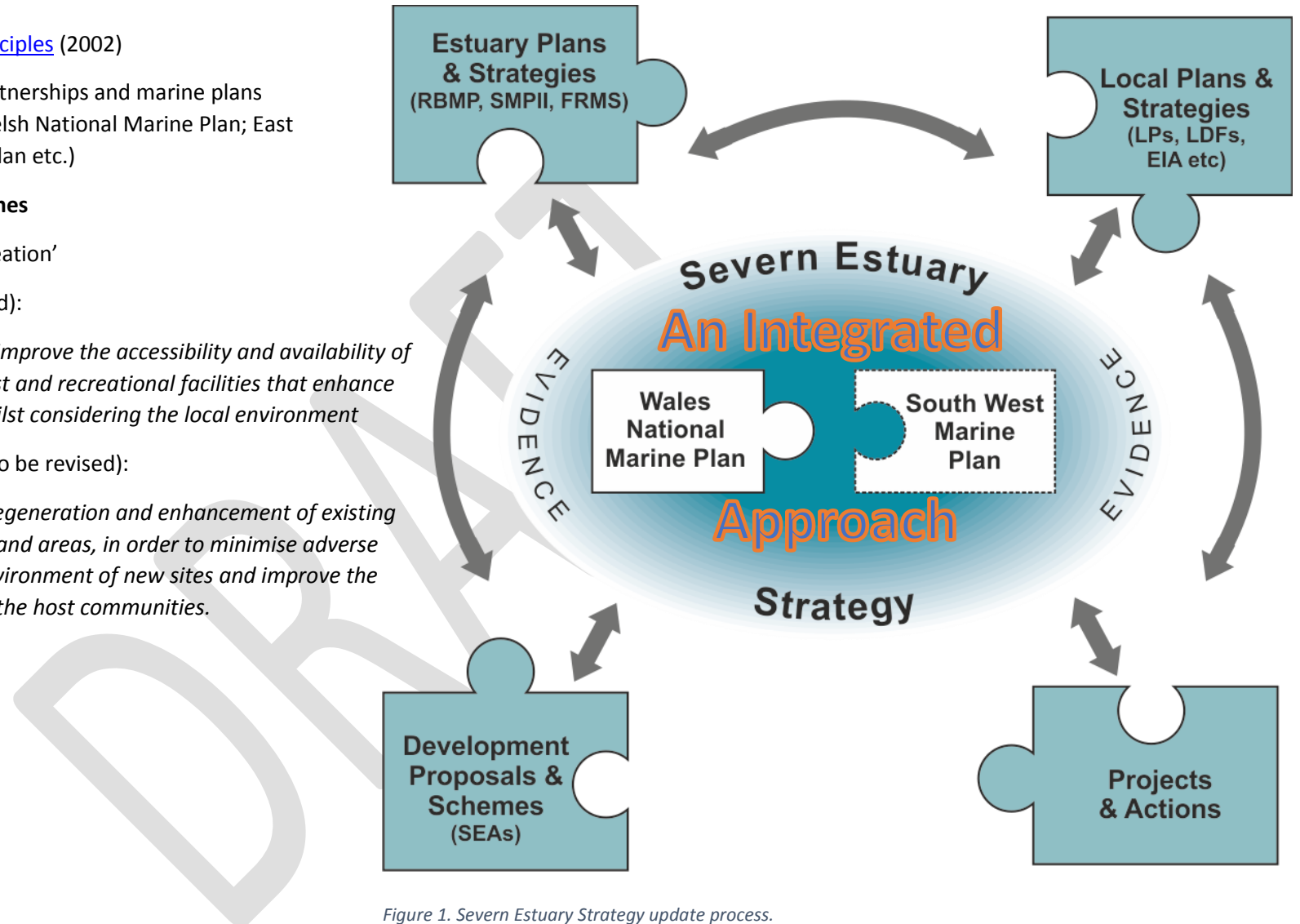


Figure 1. Severn Estuary Strategy update process.

2.0 Workshop

SEP ran a workshop during the Joint Estuary Day meeting on 28th May 2015. The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Obtain input into the revised Severn Estuary Strategy vision
- Gain stakeholder support and interest in the Strategy revision process

A list of workshop participants is provided in Appendix 5.2.

After a brief introduction to the Severn Estuary Strategy revision process by Rhoda Ballinger (*see presentation below or Appendix 5.3*), the workshop attendees were split into three groups. These groups were facilitated by:

- **Group 1:** Rhys Morgan, Natural Resources Wales (RM)
- **Group 2:** Lindsay Christian, Newport City Council (LC)
- **Group 3:** John Buttivant, Environment Agency (JB)

The groups were asked a series of common questions to structure discussion and to provide input into a revised Strategy vision.



Rhoda Ballinger -
Strategy Update

The following sections 2.1 to 2.3 summarise the key points made in the workshop.

2.1 What is the value and importance of the Severn Estuary?

Using post-it notes, delegates noted the aspects of the estuary that were valued or most important to either themselves individually or their organisation.

Severn Estuary Strategy: 2015 Vision

- What is important about the Severn Estuary to either yourself as an individual or to your organisation?
- What do you or your organisation value about the Severn Estuary?

The post-it notes were then classified by the group, with the aid of the facilitator, under the following headings (Figure 2):

- *Environmental (natural; built; heritage; processes as well as features)*
- *Social (people; places - towns, cities etc.; society)*
- *Economic (sectors; activities etc.)*
- *Governance (how the estuary is managed/planned etc.; role of science)*
- *Aesthetics*



Figure 2. Post-it notes split into the various themes within the workshop.

A summary table of the groups' responses to the importance and value of the estuary can be found in Appendix 5.4.

2.2 Severn Estuary Strategy Vision Discussion

2001 Strategy Vision:

"A vibrant and prosperous community, working in partnership for a clean and pleasant Estuary environment, valued and protected for generations to come."

2015 Working Vision:

"To create an environment which respects and values the wealth of environmental, economic and social strengths for all those with an interest in the Estuary by providing information and advice to encourage integration of competing demands, to ensure the Estuary is protected and valued for generations to come".

The facilitators introduced the 2001 Severn Estuary Strategy vision and a working draft of the 2015 vision for discussion.

The groups then colour-coded the aspects of the 2015 vision that corresponded with the estuary values the group had identified (Figure 3). Discussion revolved around the comparison between the 2001 and 2015 visions and suggestions were put forward on how the 2015 vision could be modified. It was agreed by all of the groups that a shorter, clearer and more succinct vision would be key going forward.

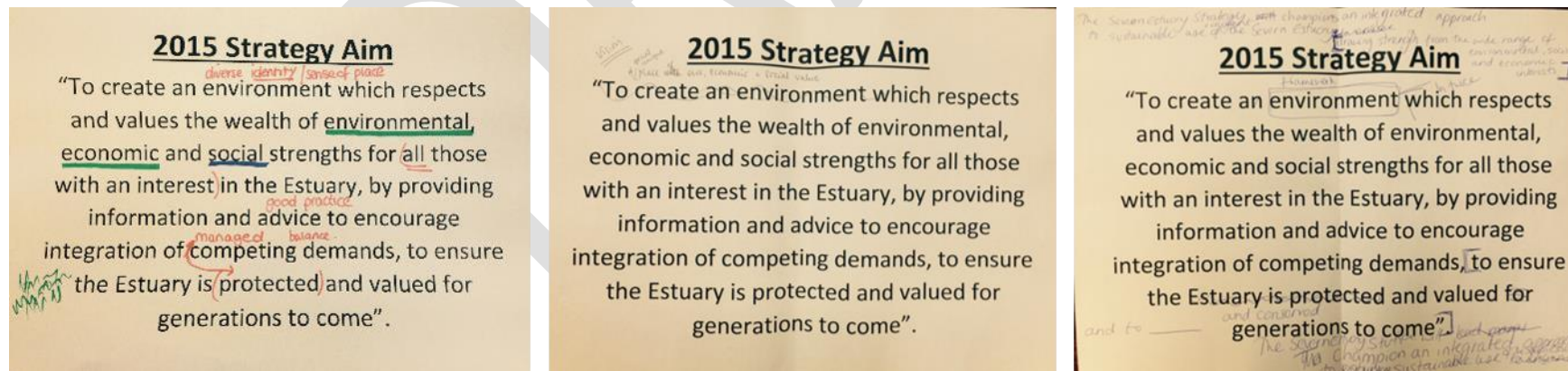


Figure 3. Annotated versions of the working draft of the revised 2015 Strategy vision.

2.3 Workshop Facilitator Summaries

Group 1 - RM Report

RM reported that there was a good range of ideas raised within the group. He stated that few economic values were noted and the importance of renewable energy was not discussed (Appendix 5.4); the focus of the group was on the estuary's environmental and social values. RM explained that the landscape and seascape and the importance of a sense of place were highlighted as the key social aspects. The group preferred a shorter vision, suggesting the removal of unnecessary clauses/phrases, keeping it at a more strategic level. The group also produced a revised draft of the 2015 vision:

***"The Severn Estuary Strategy champions an integrated approach to the sustainable use
and enjoyment of the Severn Estuary"***

Group 2 - LC Report

LC reported that very similar statements were made regarding the length of the vision. She noted that tourism was the key value under the economy heading (Appendix 5.4). LC explained that public engagement and accessibility were the key social aspects raised within the group. She also agreed that sense of place was identified as significantly important.

Group 3 - JB Report

JB reported that there was a number of good ideas suggested, with lots of useful discussion surrounding the draft vision. The conclusion of group's discussion was that the 2001 Strategy vision was preferable over the 2015 vision as it was simpler, shorter and just as clear. He noted that the 2015 version could act as a delivery plan of the vision.

He reported that they had grouped things in a different way. These have since been reclassified using the same classifications as Group 1 and Group 2, to achieve a common approach. He explained that many key estuary values and interests were raised, including water quality, air quality, sustainable development and fishing (Appendix 5.4). The economy was identified as significantly important in terms of energy and tourism, but these activities should not be carried out at the expense of the environment. He noted that recreation and access, as well as the heritage of the Severn Estuary, are also of significant importance. The requirement to strengthen the link between

2015 Strategy Aim

diverse identity / sense of place
"To create an environment which respects
and values the wealth of environmental,
economic and social strengths for all those
with an interest in the Estuary, by providing
information and advice *good practice* to encourage
integration of *managed* *balance* competing demands, to ensure
the Estuary is protected and valued for
generations to come".

Figure 4. The annotations Group 2 made to the draft Severn Estuary Strategy vision.

communities and industry was raised in the group. Discussion also focussed on how the Strategy will unite the ties and linkages between the English and Welsh coast.

The group highlighted that, whilst it was excellent to have so many types of organisations represented at the workshop, the key task moving forward is to ensure that a wider-representation of networks and organisations are captured in the near future.

3.0 Questionnaire Results

Delegates were issued with a questionnaire (Appendix 5.5) to obtain information on several key areas:

- How the revised Strategy will be used by individuals and organisations
- What are the key issues and policy areas to cover in the revised Strategy
- To register interest in having a role in the Strategy revision
- To identify particular individuals/organisations that would have an interest in assisting with drafting the Strategy.

15 Strategy questionnaire responses were collated. However, not all of the questionnaires were fully completed.

How might you/your organisation use the revised Strategy?

A wide range of suggestions were made regarding this, including:

- As a reference to more local policy and plans/projects
- Planning for coastal development and economic growth
- To inform and complement the development of coastal projects and particularly to enhance coastal tourism and other economic initiatives, flood management strategies and energy delivery and community safety via the safe delivery and operation of Hinkley C
- To inform planning and environmental policies
- Refer to it regarding many issues, contacts etc. First place to go for information regarding the estuary
- In developing its Local Plan, access and environmental strategies
- To inform research and provide background to highlighting future research needs
- Could refer to via planning policy and to link to corporate objectives
- In development of planning policy and strategic planning guidance. Back ground support for funding applications
- Would look for strategy to encompass some of our more specific strategies e.g. FCERM strategy and for us to look to partner with organisations to deliver multi-benefit schemes and initiatives where appropriate
- Planning and environmental guidance

What key issues/policy areas would be essential to cover in the revised Strategy?

The top 5 key issues/policy areas are highlighted in green and those highlighted in orange were not included in the top 5 for any respondents. Five respondents selected the key issues that would be essential to cover in the Strategy but did not rank these areas.

Table 1. Key issues and policy areas identified within the workshop questionnaire.

Key Issue/Policy Area	Ranked in Top 5
Manufacturing and commercial activity	1
Ports, shipping & navigation (inc. maintenance dredging)	3
Marine aggregates extraction	0
Energy resources & generation	4
Tourism, recreation & access	6
Urban & residential development	0
Transport infrastructure	0
Fisheries	2
Agriculture	0
Biodiversity & geodiversity	6
Nature conservation designations	7
Landscape and seascape	5
Archaeology & cultural heritage	3
Air quality	0
Water quality (including bathing waters)	2
Water resource management	1
Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management	8
Waste management	0

Terrestrial planning	0
Marine planning	2
Other (please list):	History & Heritage

Would you be interested in assisting with the Strategy development?

For those who responded yes, the following were identified as preferred methods of involvement:

- Email
- JAC, SEP, ASERA and SECG meetings
- Workshops
- Personal emails

Are there any particular organisations/individuals you think would be essential to involve in the drafting of the Strategy?

Workshop participants suggested the following organisations/individuals:

- Utility Companies
- Port Authorities
- Somerset County Council's Major Energy Team
- EDF Energy (Hinkley C)
- Somerset County Council's Flood Management Team
- Cadw
- GGAT
- As wide a range as possible - particularly hard to reach groups
- Tourists/visitors
- Land owners/farmers
- Local communities
- Local Planning Authorities
- Economic partnerships
- Community view representation
- BCYA
- Angling clubs

4.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, there were a wide range of key estuary values and interests raised within the workshop. The economy was identified as significantly important in terms of energy and tourism, but these activities should not be carried out at the expense of the environment. The key social aspects raised included sense of place, accessibility, seascape and landscape and public engagement. Discussion also focussed around the requirement to strengthen the link between communities and industry and how the Strategy will unite the linkages between the English and Welsh coast.

All participants agreed that the revised vision should be short, sharp and clear. A revised version of the vision was suggested:

“The Severn Estuary Strategy champions an integrated approach to the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Severn Estuary”

This version of the vision will be taken forward to consultation.

It was positive to note the considerable interest participants showed in being involved in the Strategy revision process, with many suggesting further organisations or contacts to include in the next phase. It will be key to ensure that the wider networks are engaged with at the next consultation stage.

4.1 Next Steps

The Partnership are now in the process of reviewing the outputs of the workshop and will be aiming to engage with the wider Severn Estuary networks at the next stage. This will involve a workshop in early September with representatives from these identified networks to obtain input into the high level principles and key themes included in the Strategy. If you are interested in assisting with the Strategy development process or wish to suggest any other particular organisations/individuals, please get in contact at Severn@Cardiff.ac.uk.

The aim is to launch a consultation draft of the vision, high level principles and aims and policies by the [Severn Estuary Forum](#) on 29th September. Adoption of the Severn Estuary Strategy should subsequently take place in Spring 2016.

5.0 Appendix

5.1 Severn Estuary Strategy (2001)

The Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) is an independent, estuary-wide initiative, involving all those interested in the management of the estuary, from planners to port authorities. The Severn Estuary Strategy was published by the Partnership in 2001. The key aim of the project was to develop a strategic management framework to guide and support the sustainable development and wise use of the estuary. The 2001 Strategy was used to inform local plans and policy by local planning authorities and nature conservation agencies around the Severn Estuary.

The 2001 Strategy covered the area shown in Figure 1. The area extends between Gloucester and Hurlstone Point near Minehead on the English coast and Nash Point, Vale of Glamorgan, on the Welsh coast.

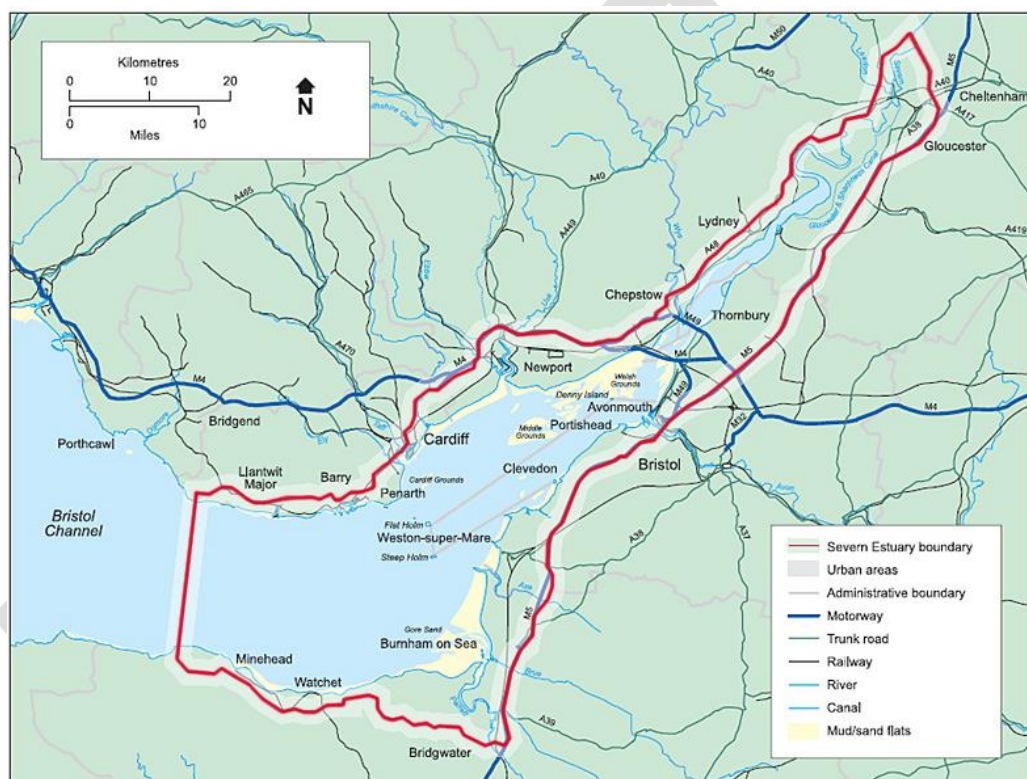


Figure 5. Severn Estuary Strategy (2001) Region.

2001 Aim

“To bring together all those involved in the development, management and use of the Estuary within a framework which encourages the integration of their interests and responsibilities to achieve common objectives.”

2001 Vision

“A vibrant and prosperous community, working in partnership for a clean and pleasant Estuary environment, valued and protected for generations to come.”

Strategy Document

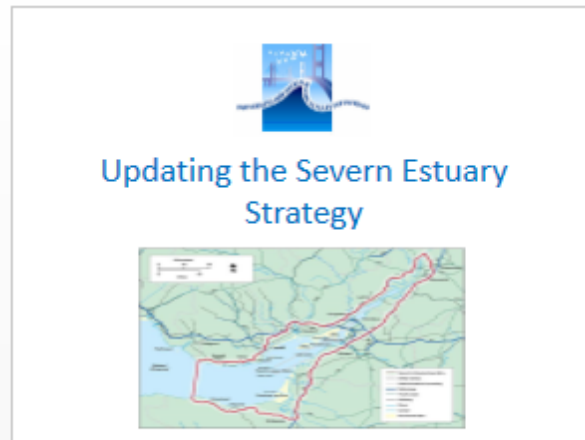
There were 13 key topics presented in the 2001 Strategy. For each topic, the following were included:

- Aims
- Policies
- Proposals for action

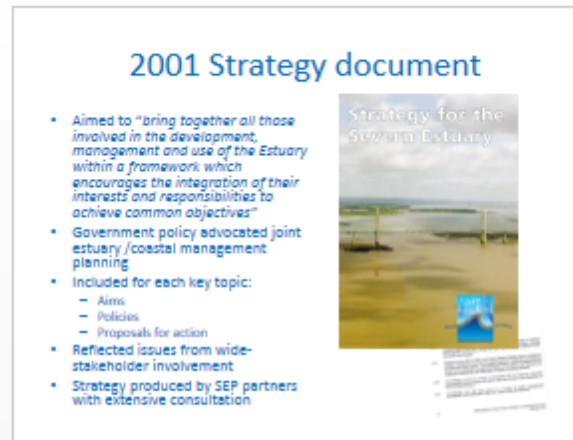
5.2 Strategy Workshop Attendees

Name	Organisation
John Harrison	Chair: Severn Estuary Partnership
Rhoda Ballinger	Cardiff University
John Buttivant	Environment Agency
Rhys Morgan	Natural Resources Wales
Lucy Taylor	Severn Estuary Partnership/ASERA
Phil Higginbottom	Somerset County Council
Dave Harris	Monmouthshire County Council, SECG Chair
Libby Ross	Devon & Severn IFCA, ASERA Chair
Chris Johns	Forest of Dean District Council
Susan Munns	North Somerset Council
Dan Trewin	Environment Agency
Clive Moon	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Mike Johnson	Gloucester Harbour Trustees
Ross Price	Monmouthshire County Council
Sue Hill	Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
Joanne Gossage	Newport City Council
Sarah Revill	Natural Resources Wales
Gary Kennison	Gloucestershire County Council
David Westbrook	Natural England
Gwilym Owen	Severn Estuary Partnership
Emma Waddington	Cardiff University
Alex Blake	Tidal Lagoon Cardiff
Jeanette Reis	Tidal Lagoon Cardiff
Don Sutherland	RYA & BCYA
Lindsay Christian	Newport City Council

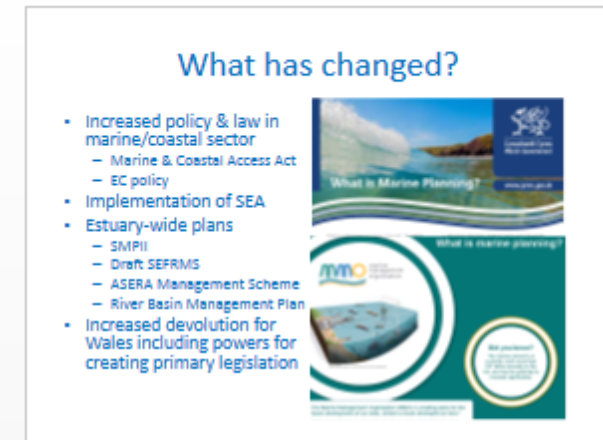
5.3 Severn Estuary Strategy Update Presentation – Dr. Rhoda Ballinger



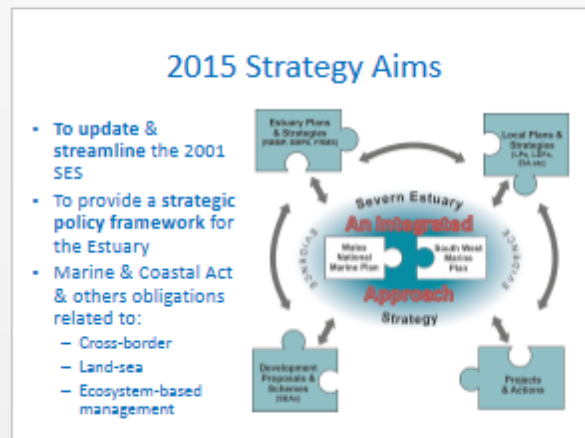
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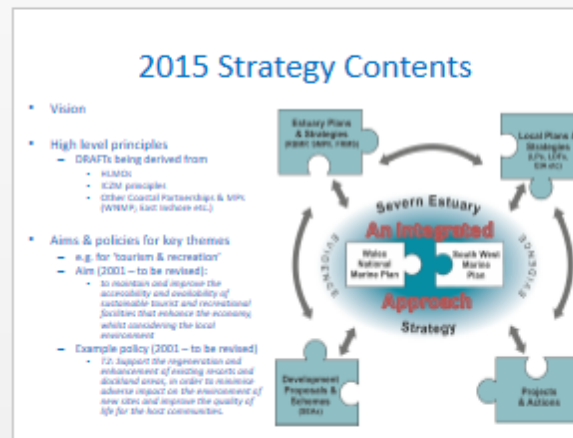
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5



6

Role of workshop

- To get your **input**
– **Draft Vision**
- To get your **support & interest**
in the process



7

Key questions for consideration

- What is important about the Estuary to you/your organisation?
- What do you most value about the Estuary?
- *Using the post-it notes, write down ONE key feature of importance/value on EACH post-it*
– Try to think of between 3 – 5 aspects!

8

Workshop

9

Prompts

- Environmental
– natural; built; heritage; (processes as well as features)
- Social
– people, places (towns, cities etc), society, social well-being aspects etc.
- Economic
– sectors; activities etc.
- Governance
– how the estuary is managed; the role of science etc.
- Aesthetics
– what do you want to hand on to future generations?

10

Draft 2015 Vision

“To create an environment which respects and values the wealth of environmental, economic and social strengths for all those with an interest in the Estuary, by providing information and advice to encourage integration of competing demands, to ensure the Estuary is protected and valued for generations to come”.

Work in progress!

11

Next stages

- Input from JAC into revised VISION & approach
- Draft strategy preparation
– Drafting of principles & policies (choice of themes)
– Workshop
– SEP Forum 29th September – present draft policies
- Wide consultation
– Autumn 2015
- Adoption of Strategy
– Spring 2016

12

5.4 Workshop outputs

Table 2. Group 1 & 2 responses to the importance and value of the estuary to themselves or their organisation.

Group	Environmental	Social	Economic	Governance	Aesthetics
1	Wildlife species and habitats	Opportunities for recreational fishing: angling, potting, nets	Successful port industries	Science - policy integration	Sense of place: unique environment, unique livelihoods e.g. elvering, glatting
1	Nature/wildlife, especially birds	The coastal path	Tourism	Science communication	Landscape/ seascape
1	The European Marine Site	Historic values	Fish nursery function: species of commercial importance in the Bristol Channel and Celtic Sea, species of recreational importance	Clear governance	Sense of place 'Severn'
1	Nature conservation	Heritage values of the Severn fisheries	Transport integration: road, rail, water, air	Public engagement	Unique landscapes - educational challenges
1	Natural processes	Recreation			Landscape (seascape)
1	Huge tide (height & flow), Severn Bore	Sustainable access			Sense of place
1	Unique habitats resulting from tidal range	Heritage - historic: culture of past/location			Transition between landscapes
1	Ecosystem services	Current activities e.g. eels			Seascape
1	Environmental cline; freshwater to marine - as a natural laboratory				
1	Water management (ecosystem processes)				
1	Saltmarsh - existing and opportunities for habitat creation -future resilience to climate change				
2	Overwintering feeding and roosting sites	Public education facilities e.g. Newport wetlands etc, promoting greater awareness	Sustainable coastal tourism and business	Public engagement maintained (understanding and experience)	
2	Migratory fish routes	Public engagement	Tourism and economy	Strategic overview of potential within	

				estuary	
2	Protected species	Recreational engagement	Tourism/access along the coast	Best practice examples locally and globally - e.g. Barry Dock & Cardiff Bay	
2	Habitat opportunities and enhancement	The Strategy to be accessible to all (i.e. local consultation regularly undertaken)	Water sports	Sustaining ecosystem services	
2	Continued protection of environmental diversity	Communities that adjoin the estuary understand its value	Walking and cycling along the coast paths	Governments (local & central) have a shared vision for this shared ecosystem	
2	Ecological protection (particularly migratory birds)	Connectivity with coastal communities	Coastal tourism	Continued evolution (regular review)	
2	Coastal habitats maintained (saltmarsh/mudflat)		Operational nature of estuary and its benefit to local economy	Scientific knowledge opportunities	
2	Environmental quality is enhanced or at least protected			Improved accessibility for a range of people	
2	Flood management			Improved marketing	
2	Water quality - CSO, utility companies			Integrated transport strategy e.g. alternative to M4 relief - cross-water ferries etc	
2	Water quality/quantity safeguarding for potential Hinkley Point				
2	Flood risk management - managed retreat and community engagement				
3	Fishing (commercial & recreational)	Appreciate and celebrate heritage	Sustaining coastal defences, both economically and environmentally	Evidence based knowledge to support decisions	Attractive, interesting environment for tourism and leisure
3	Maintain and improve air quality	Wentlooge/Caldicot - historic landscapes - Cadw/ICOMOS etc	Sustainable tourism/development around coastline	Monitoring access for recreation purposes	Maintaining natural status of coastline /estuary

3	Conservation of habitats, birds, invertebrates and fish	Intertidal archaeology and changes to sediment movement	Sediment transport and deposition and impact on Channel foreshore and flood/coastal defences	Historic environment audit and monitoring change	
3	Maintain and improve water quality	Freedom of navigation	Navigation/transport media	Link between communities	
3	Environmental protection - water quality, air quality, siltation, habitats, ecosystems	Sustainable flood and coastal defences in key communities and areas	Flood resilience-negative and positive impacts of future developments i.e. lagoons		
3	Sustainable environmental practices	Sustainable flood defences provided for protecting communities	What's important: access, environment, habitat of the levels and intertidal areas to be sustained as present. This has economic benefits.		
3	Siltation modification accumulation removal	Marine archaeology			
3	Environmental sustainability	Freedom of access - moorings, harbours, marinas, anchorages			
3		SAR Issues			

5.5 Questionnaire

SEVERN ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) Meeting

Thursday 28th May 2015

Newport City Council



Severn Estuary Strategy Questionnaire

1. Name:

2. Organisation:

3. Email Address:

4. How might you/your organisation use the revised Strategy?

5. What key issues/policy areas would be essential to cover in the revised Strategy?

(Please tick up to 5 and rank in priority order– 1 being your top priority)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing and commercial activity | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature conservation designations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ports, shipping & navigation (inc. maintenance dredging) | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape and seascape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marine aggregates extraction | <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology & cultural heritage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy resources & generation | <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism, recreation & access | <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality (including bathing waters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban & residential development | <input type="checkbox"/> Water resource management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transport infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity & geodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine planning |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): |

6. Would you be interested in assisting with the Strategy development?

a. What type of role?

b. How would you like to be involved? E.g. via email, workshop etc.

7. Are there any particular organisations/individuals you think would be essential to involve in the drafting of the Strategy? Please list below.