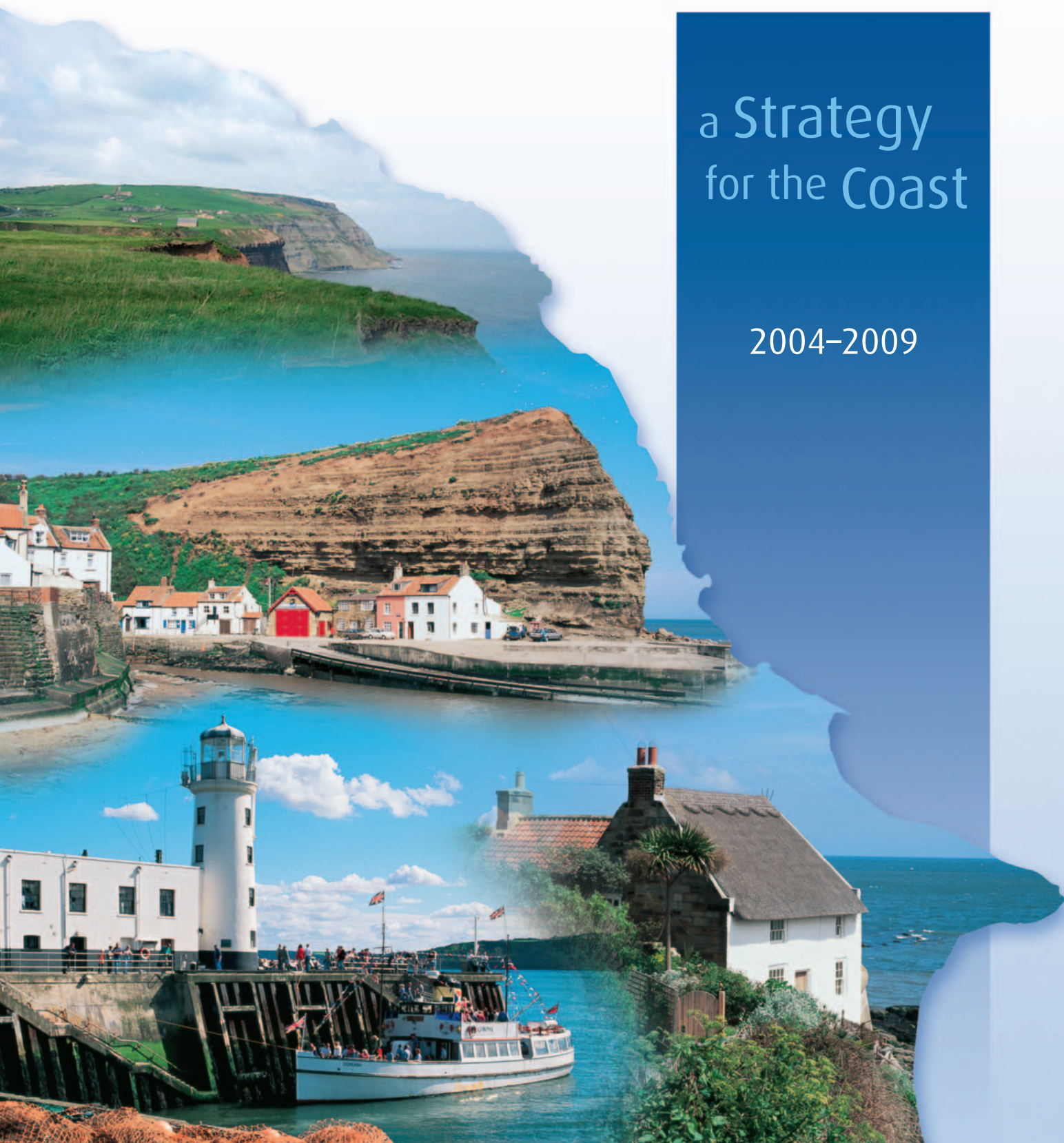


North Yorkshire and Cleveland

Coastal Forum

a Strategy
for the Coast

2004-2009



North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum

Integrated Forum for the Co-ordination of Coastal Management on the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coast.

Focusing on Conservation, Recreation, Coastal and Flood Defence, Natural Processes, Water Quality, Marine Issues, and the Economic and Social needs of coastal communities.

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Introduction and Background

The North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum was formed in July 2002 to give everyone with an interest in the management of the coast the opportunity to discuss key issues, and to guide and shape future policies and actions. The full Forum meets once a year. The Forum covers the coast from Saltburn in the north to Flamborough Head in the south.

The Forum recognises that increasingly, the strategies and agendas of the different groups that have an interest in the coast, are interrelated. These issues include climate change, coastal defence works, sustainable fisheries, tourism and recreation, bathing water quality, pollution, transport and links, heritage protection (both natural and built), habitat management, landscape issues, development pressure, and renewable energies all of which are discussed and presented at the full Forum meetings.

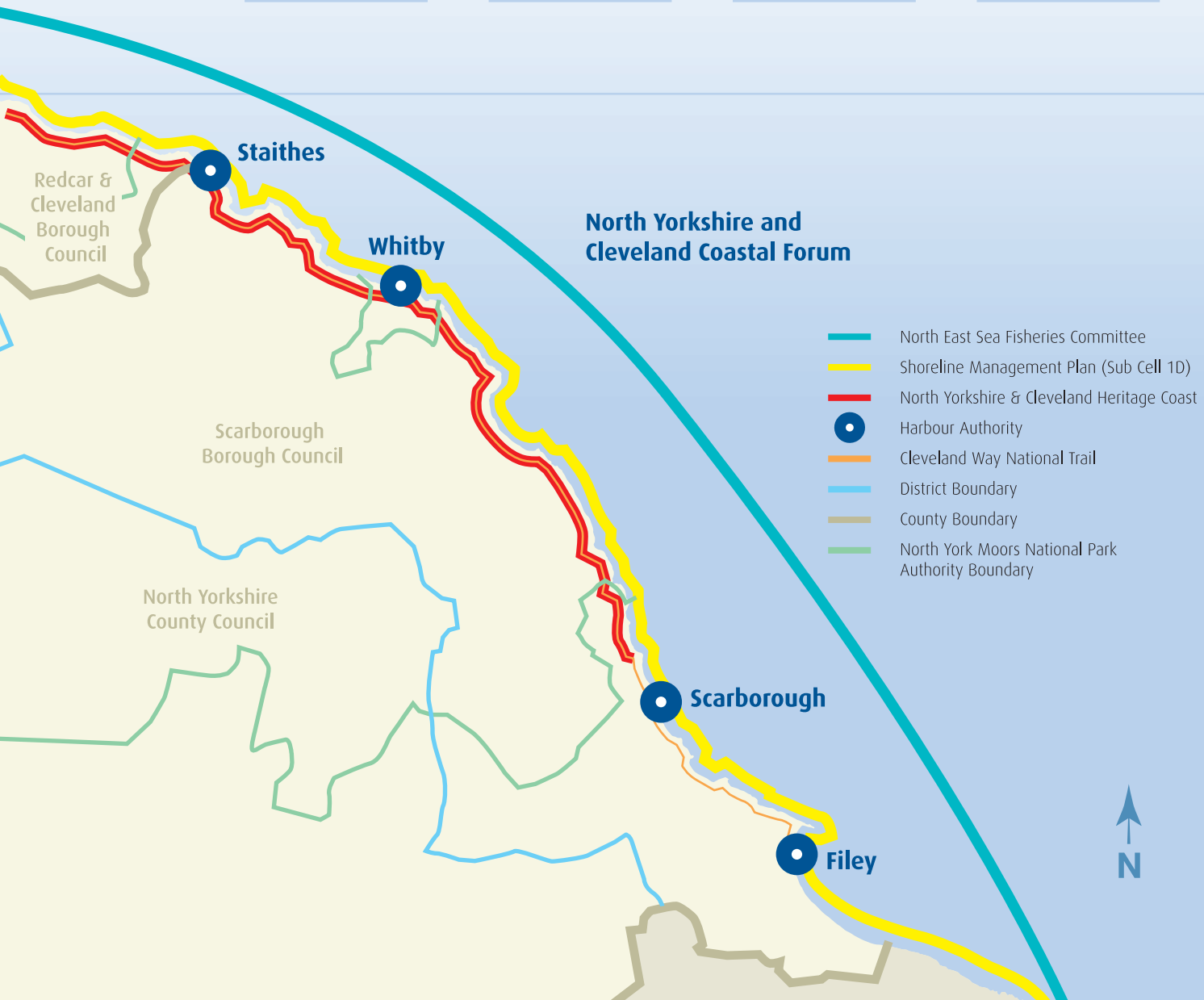
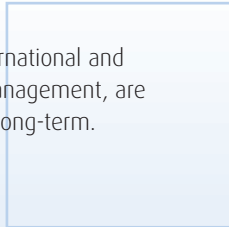
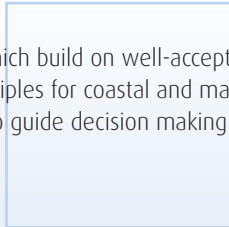
There are many published documents on the various approaches to managing the complex issues facing the coast. Until now, no formal mechanism has been available to draw together and integrate all of the various agencies, authorities, residents, communities, holiday providers etc. to develop a consensus of opinion on coastal management and its' outcomes.

The North Yorkshire & Cleveland Coastal strategy guides this process forward and the Forum will be the 'springboard' to ensure that it is achieved.



Foreword

- This strategy focuses on the special nature of our coast and marine environment. The coast is an area of immense environmental, social and economic significance. There is great biological diversity both on land and in the sea. It is a dynamic, changing environment where natural forces and human demands shape its character.
- The Coastal Forum brings together many stakeholders and agencies with responsibility for managing different parts of our coast to facilitate co-ordination and ensure an integrated approach is taken in the management of our coast.
- This strategy establishes the framework for the sustainable management of the coast.
- This strategy aims to provide a vision for the Forum and the actions the Forum and stakeholders need to adopt to achieve that vision.
- Principles, which build on well-accepted international and national principles for coastal and marine management, are established to guide decision making in the long-term.
- Actions to achieve the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum Strategy are based around 9 priorities of equal importance. The priorities draw together issues, which are aspirations of a wide range of stakeholders. This allows an integrated approach to be put forward.
- The implementation of this strategy and associated action plan will ensure that the people of North Yorkshire and Cleveland can have confidence in the knowledge that their use and continued enjoyment of their coastal environment will not be compromised.
- The legacy will be an enhanced and sustainable coastal and marine environment.



What will the strategy do?

- This strategy will help conserve and manage the North Yorkshire & Cleveland coast for present and future generations. It takes a strategic view of the coast, and deals with issues in a long term, ecologically sustainable context.
- The North Yorkshire & Cleveland Forum Strategy is the key overarching document, which provides a shared vision to guide all decision making that affects the coast.
- The strategy establishes principles to underpin decision making and to protect the broad public interest in the long term.
- The strategy will evolve over time and should be reviewed regularly to maintain its relevance, but it will always have the conservation of the natural and built coastal environment as its central theme.
- The strategy enables the Forum to debate all activities that impact on coastal and marine areas, thus encouraging the implementation of integrated coastal zone management.
- It encourages co-ordination of relevant agency programmes and responsibilities and the co-ordinated approach to strategy implementation.



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Vision for the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coast

The Forum recognises that many different organisations can collectively make a significant difference to the long-term management of the coast and aims to gain commitment from these towards a common vision. This strategy is based around the achievement of this vision by 2050.

We look for:

- The coast to be a richer and more diverse natural, historic, cultural and economic environment for its communities and visitors, today and in the future.
- The coastal landscapes to remain as inspiring, and at least as beautiful and diverse as they are now. Natural processes continue to drive the evolution of the coast.
- Vibrant coastal towns of a high quality appearance with enhanced local culture and heritage.
- A high quality coastline as a leading feature of coastal tourism and with an unspoiled environment and excellent services to visitors.
- An integrated working partnership between local people, businesses and coastal managers.
- Prudent intervention based upon cost effective, environmentally acceptable, technically sound and sustainable development, in the interests of all stakeholders.

Principles

The following principles are to guide decision making to achieve a proper balance between securing future economic prosperity and maintaining environmental quality.

- 1. Principle of Sustainable Development**
Seeks effective integration and reconciliation of the needs of the economy, society, and the environment. This requires a long term perspective.
- 2. “Polluter pays” Principle**
The environmental costs of economic activities are internalised rather than imposed on society as a whole, that the polluter in principle bears the cost of pollution.
- 3. Transparency Principle.**
Decisions are made in an open, transparent manner, with full public involvement.
- 4. Taking account of costs and benefits.**
Impact costs and benefits can be difficult to calculate, particularly if they cannot readily be quantified. This methodology has a role to play but must be employed with due care and consideration.
- 5. Biodiversity Principle**
Future generations are entitled to an environment no poorer in its variety of living species than at present.
- 6. Precautionary Principle**
The lack of scientific certainty is no reason to postpone action to avoid potentially serious or irreversible harm to the environment.
- 7. Create an open and supportive economic system,** and to combat poverty and social exclusion.
- 8. Use scientific knowledge** and show best practice.
- 9. Interrelationships and Integration Principle**
We must address the interrelationships, or interdependence, among issues and sectors and between environment and development. Environmental protection and development cannot be considered as separate activities; each one must incorporate the other.
- 10. Intergenerational Equity Principle**
As members of the present generation, we hold the Earth in trust for future generations.
- 11. Principle of the right to develop**
Every human being has the basic right to develop his or her potential so as to live in dignity.
- 12. The coastal area is unique and requires special management and planning approaches**
Since landforms fronting the waters edge play a key role in combating coastal erosion and contribute to long-term sustainability, they should be managed in an appropriate way.
- 13. Design with nature;** ensure new development enhances natural and man-made features.
- 14. Communicate and Educate**
Develop a **better understanding of the coastal environment** through Schools, Colleges and Clubs and other available areas.

Core strategy issues are as follows:

- **Built Environment and Heritage** encompassing the protection of cultural and archaeological issues as well as maritime heritage.
- **Coastal Defence** including the need to take account of areas of flood risk and changing approaches to coastal defence which reflect current ideas about best practice and the challenges of climate change.
- **Coastal Dynamics** covering processes of natural change in the coastline and associated issues of coastal erosion and land instability.
- **Coastal Pollution** ranging from water, sediment and air quality to issues of light and noise pollution and concern about public health.
- **Fisheries** including the protection of coastal fisheries and potential aquaculture developments.
- **Biodiversity and Nature Conservation** encompassing the protection of designated sites (including those of geological, geomorphological and palaeontological interest) and species and the protection and appropriate enhancement of biodiversity.
- **Landscape** covering issues of landscape and cultural heritage, countryside character and landscape and seascape quality.
- **Coast-related Development** highlighting the particular needs of development requiring a coastal location such as ports and maritime industry, energy generation including renewable energy, etc.
- **Mineral Extraction** both offshore and onshore.
- **Tourism and Recreation** encompassing established and new tourism dimensions and formal and informal recreation.
- **Regeneration** of declining coastal communities including the physical regeneration of derelict areas.
- **Transport and Accessibility** recognising the critical role of ports and the need for associated transport links as well as issues of public access to the coast.

Priorities

Action to achieve the aims of North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum Strategy is organised around 9 priorities of equal importance. The priorities draw together issues, which are common concerns of different users, and from across a range of stakeholders.

1. Protect and improve the coastal environment by:

- Management of coastal lands subject to natural processes such as flood and coastal erosion.
- Allowing natural processes to continue as far as possible.
- Taking account of sea level rise, climate change and its impacts.
- Considering pressures of tourism and recreation.
- Obtaining a balance between conservation and economic issues.
- Achieving a balance between improving access and the need to keep some areas remote and peaceful.
- Protecting threatened and endangered species and biological diversity in general.
- Recreating important habitats in the coastal zone wherever possible.
- Considering and minimising the impact of coastal squeeze, and the evolution of habitats primarily due to sea level rise.
- Taking account of water pollution, point and non point source pollution, such as sewerage discharge and agricultural and urban runoff.
- Taking account of water quality, to ensure that bathing water meets the highest standards possible.
- Seeking to prevent litter, and to reduce the impact of beach and marine litter.
- Protection of geological assets including those of geomorphological and palaeontological interests.

2. Deliver sustainable shoreline management through:

- Understanding the structure and dynamics of coastal settlements and of the user groups that depend on the coast and sea.
- Integration between the Forum and other coastal groups.
- Linking the overall strategy for flood and coastal defence, and the implementation of coastal defence schemes.

- The provision of appropriate standards of defence for people and property against loss of life, erosion and flooding where technically, environmentally and economically justifiable and sustainable.
- Ensuring that selected options are compatible with adjacent areas and with coastal processes.
- Monitoring the impacts of coastal defences on natural processes.
- Measuring the long term response of the coastline through strategic monitoring.
- Being aware of the potential impacts of sea level rise and increased storminess.
- Encouraging new and sustainable coastal tourism, within an overall strategy for coastal tourism.

3. Regulating use of coastal and marine resources by:

- Management of marine resources on a sustainable basis.
- Minimising the potential adverse impacts on non-renewable resources e.g. ancient monuments, conservation areas and listed buildings, structures of interest and non-listed buildings.
- Ensuring that development is of an appropriate nature, complies with planning policies and protects the environment.
- Promoting environmentally friendly agricultural practices where appropriate.

4. Active attention to coast dependent industries by:

- Conserving and enhancing where appropriate, tourism, recreational and amenity assets and facilities.
- Sustainable economic development of the coast.
- Addressing social and economic problems and their link to the environment.
- Supporting and developing the local fishing industry (inshore and offshore).



5. Supporting new and sustainable coastal tourism by:

- Encouraging tourist related development that enhances the special identity of the area, and contributes to the quality of the environment.
- Addressing overcrowding of popular areas.
- A balanced approach between improving access and the need to keep some areas remote and peaceful.
- Diversifying and increasing the length of the visitor seasons.
- Improving where appropriate beach access, cliff paths, and sustainable access routes.
- Improving beach facilities, first aid, emergency phones, public rights of way and associated litter collection.
- Encouraging the provision of visitor facilities in the coastal area, which are appropriate to their settings.
- Maintaining a proper balance between conservation and economic issues.
- Supporting tourism that meets the socio-economic needs of the coast and the principles of sustainability.
- Ensuring that any new tourism development is consistent with the landscape and environment of the coastal zone.
- Ensuring that the principles of sustainability are taken into account in all aspects of tourism provision.
- Interpreting aspects of the coastal environment.

6. Managing and promoting coastal recreation through:

- Prudent public access to the coast.
- Addressing any pressures of tourism and recreation causing damage and disturbance to coastal habitats and increased localised erosion and wear and tear.
- Public safety campaign.
- Adequate and well-located public rights of way .
- Assisting in the development of coastal bylaws (linked to public safety).
- Ensuring a strategy for coastal recreation.
- Resolving potential conflicts between recreation and nature/historic environment conservation.
- Examining opportunities for the provision of recreational activities in a way that protects the environmental characteristics of the coast.

7. Support and strengthen management arrangements for the coast through:

- A consistent policy at and between all levels of administration.
- Funding of the Forum and its activities including dedicated officer support.
- Integrating other agencies and stakeholders' plans, into the Action Plan of the Forum.
- Ensuring consistency and integration of the Strategy with those of adjacent areas.
- Developing and delivering an approach that integrates environmental, economic and social interests on the North Yorkshire and Cleveland coast.
- Adopting clear aims and objectives, and enacting responsibilities through a logical, coordinated process.

8. Celebrate the coast by:

- Developing partnerships with Schools and Colleges to encourage interest in our coast.
- Providing on site interpretive, educational information to inform visitors and residents.
- Increasing the public profile of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coast.
- Promoting care and understanding of our coast through science, research, and education.
- The establishing of a centre on the coast to provide a focus for the Forum's growing activities on a local, regional, national and transnational scale in relation to coastal issues.

9. Being proactive in seeking agency and public involvement in coastal issues to:

- Facilitate consultation and minimise duplication between those bodies with an interest in the coast.
- Establish arrangements for continued consultation.
- Establish links with possible Regional Government.
- Build the Forum's influence in local and national decision making.
- Increase cohesion between dispersed user groups.
- Tackle housing issues, especially the lack of affordable housing and the threat of retirement homes.

The Forum will seek to translate these principles and priorities into an action plan for the lifetime of the strategy.

North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum

The Coastal Strategy will be delivered by the North Yorkshire & Cleveland Coastal Forum. The Forum is the integrated body for the co-ordination of coastal management along the North Yorkshire & Cleveland coast.

The Forum consists of many of the interested groups and individuals that live and work on the coast. Membership is open to anybody with an active interest in local coastal issues.

MEMBERS OF THE FORUM 2004

Yorkshire Tourist Board
Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum
Filey Against Dredging
North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee
Coastal Projects Unit – North Yorkshire & Cleveland
Loftus Town Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Coastal Parish Forum
Women's Institute, North Yorkshire, East Federation
North York Moors National Park Authority
Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council
Staithes & Cowbar Residents Association
Scarborough Harbour User's Association
Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Assembly
Council for the Protection of Rural England
(Scarborough & District Branch)
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
English Nature
Environment Agency
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Cleveland Potash Ltd.
North Yorkshire County Council
HM Coastguards
Hinderwell Parish Council
English Heritage
Lythe Parish Council
National Farmers Union

Filey Town Council
University of Durham
Yorkshire Naturalists Union
Skelton & Brotton Parish Council
Whitby Naturalists Club
Teesmouth European Marine Site
North Yorkshire Moors Association
British Canoeing Union – Yorkshire & Humberside
Hawsker cum Stainsacre Parish Council
Newby & Scalby Parish Council
Hamlet of Flat Cliffs Preservation Society
Cleveland Local Councils Association
North Yorkshire County Council Traffic
Management – Whitby
Dinosaur Coast Project
National Trust
Countryside Agency
Yorkshire Forward
Cleveland Way and Wolds Way Project
Local Government Association
The Tees Forest
Fylingdales Parish Council
Staintondale Parish Council
University of Hull
Whitby Town Council
Yorkshire Archaeological Society

North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum

If you require further information, please contact:

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