

Coastal Land and the Seabed

There is a Climate Emergency and a Biodiversity crisis affecting the world. Wholesale change in behaviour is required and how we manage our land and seabed will have a huge impact on this. Scotland is rich in the natural resources required to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and carbon emissions.

“Coastal land and the seabed can provide a range of potentially transformative opportunities for local communities, and it should be the norm to access and utilise these resources at a community level.” – Morven Gibson, South West Mull & Iona Development

What is needed to create an enabling environment for a sustainable, community led coastal and seabed use?



Increased support and investment

- Seed funding (similar to CARES) for communities
- Targeted investment to develop positive job opportunities and career pathways within island and rural Scotland
- Support for businesses and entrepreneurship

Strengthen the statutory planning processes to include and focus on community needs

- A clearer, more transparent community consultation process
- Evidence of meaningful engagement to be a mandatory requirement for any application

Alignment of policies, partnerships and planning

- Streamline existing policies such as Regional Marine Plans and the Regional Land Use Partnerships to align with each other and other wider spatial planning such as the National Planning Framework 4

A strengthened commitment and co-ordinated approach to tackling marine litter

- Urgent and long-term investment in the capacity and resources to empower communities concerned to deal with issues on the ground

A Crown Estate Scotland community interface

- A dedicated community interface to reduce barriers to access and strengthen the relationship between CES and rural and island communities
- Regular reviews of the community asset transfer and leasing, and how CES revenue is being used

Skills Audit

- An audit of what skills communities have to identify and target areas with more focussed support and training

Research and evaluation of existing policies

- Gathering and sharing data from the Marine Partnerships, Regional Land Use Partnerships, community-led management and ownership of assets and the devolution of Crown Estate Asset Management to local community groups and/or local authorities