

Debate Pack

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The future of coastal communities

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Summary

There will be a Westminster Hall debate on 'The Future of coastal communities' on Thursday 8th September at 3:10pm. This debate will be led by Sally-Ann Hart MP.

1 Background – issues facing coastal communities and regeneration initiatives

How many people live in coastal communities?

Identifying the number of people living in coastal communities depends on how coastal communities are defined.

The Chief Medical Officer's [2021 annual report on health in coastal communities](#) (see pages 10-12) includes an analysis which seeks to capture the population living in and around all settlements by the coast in England. Depending on how the analysis is carried out, the report found that between around **10.3 and 10.4 million people in England** live in coastal communities, representing approximately **18.5%** of the population.¹

The report found that approximately 21% of people in coastal communities are aged 65 or over, compared with around 18% in non-coastal communities.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a report in 2020 on [coastal towns in England and Wales](#) (discussed further on pg. 5). The report focuses exclusively on coastal towns, defined as those which had a population of 225,000 or under in 2011 (and therefore excluding large coastal settlements like Brighton and Southampton).

The report found that in 2018, around 5.3 million people lived in these small coastal towns in England and Wales – around 3.5 million in seaside towns with a tourist beach, and 1.9 million in other coastal towns.²

In **Scotland**, around **41%** of the population lives in coastal communities (up to 5km from the coast), according to [research from the James Hutton Institute](#).³

Note that the above figures can't be directly compared with one another, as they use different methods.

2007 report

A [2007 Department for Communities and Local Government Select Committee report](#) on coastal towns recognised many coastal communities shared common characteristics, including:

¹ Department of Health and Social Care, [Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2021: health in coastal communities](#), 21 July 2021, pages 248-249

² Office for National Statistics, [Coastal towns in England and Wales: October 2020](#), 6 October 2020

³ James Hutton Institute, [Scotland's Coastal Assets \[PDF\]](#)

- physical isolation;
- deprivation levels;
- inward migration of older people;
- high levels of transience;
- outward migration of young people;
- poor quality housing; and
- the nature of the coastal economy.

This report concluded that while “none of these characteristics are unique to coastal towns” the combination of these characteristics, “with the environmental challenges that coastal towns face” leads to a conclusion that “they are in need of focused, specific Government attention.”⁴ This led to the creation of the Coastal Communities Fund.

Most sources identify the historic fall in demand for domestic seaside holidays and increased affordability of foreign holidays, as well as the decline of industries such as fishing and shipbuilding as the main contributory factors to the various socio-economic problems facing British coastal communities.

A 2009 article⁵ on regenerating coastal towns identified this decline as contributing to a “loss of economic purpose” in towns that had grown around these industries, which led to “economic stagnation, physical disinvestment and social problems” all of which “feed into and reinforce each other in complex ways.”⁶

This article goes on to identify a number of other factors involved in the long-term decline of coastal towns, including:

- Coastal towns have often been on the margin of central government regeneration policy;
- Regeneration policy and practice have tended to focus on inner city deprivation;
- The location of many coastal towns makes it difficult for them to tap into the drivers of growth; and
- As a result of all of these factors, there have been fewer incentives for developers to invest in coastal communities.⁷

⁴ Communities and Local Government Committee, [Coastal Towns: Second Report of Session 2006–07](#) HC 351 March 2007 p 3.

⁵ Benedict Rickey and John Houghton, [Solving the riddle of the sands: Regenerating England’s seaside towns](#), Journal of Urban Regeneration and Renewal, 2009

⁶ Benedict Rickey and John Houghton, [ibid](#), pg. 46

⁷ Benedict Rickey and John Houghton, [ibid](#), pgs. 46-55

2020 analysis

The most recent large study of coastal communities was published in [October 2020 by the Office for National Statistics](#).

This analysis was based on data from 169 coastal towns in England and Wales, with selected towns split those by size and by seaside towns and other coastal towns - seaside towns are those with a tourist beach and visitor attractions; other coastal towns are those focused on non-tourist activities, such ports and industrial towns. Of the towns studied, seaside towns were more likely to be in the south and east of England, while other coastal towns more likely to be in the north of England.

The study does not include large coastal cities, focusing on towns with a population below 225,000 at the time of 2011 census.

Some notable statistics include:

- Coastal towns are more likely to have higher levels of deprivation than non-coastal towns.
- 71% of coastal towns had both slower population and employment growth than the England and Wales average over the 2009 to 2018 period, compared to 47% of non-coastal towns.
- Between 2009 and 2018, 50% of coastal towns had a decline in employment compared with 37% of non-coastal towns.
- Population declined in 32% of smaller seaside towns between 2009 and 2018 compared with only 16% of small non-coastal towns.
- 30% of the resident population in small seaside towns were aged over 65 years old in 2018 compared with 22% in small non-coastal towns.
- Coastal towns experienced lower rates of coronavirus related deaths during 2020 than non-coastal towns.

The [spreadsheet](#) accompanying this ONS release includes a tool which allows you to compare coastal communities on a range of indicators.

The Future of Seaside Towns

In July 2019, the House of Lords Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities published the report [The future of seaside towns](#).

This examined problems faced by coastal communities, identifying and made a number of recommendations regarding on how regeneration could be supported in coastal towns.

Common problems faced by coastal towns identified in the report included:

- Coastal towns are often adversely affected by inadequate transport connectivity, hindering the realisation of their economic potential.
- Limited access to education, in particular to FE and HE institutions, curtails opportunities for young people in some coastal areas.
- Many seaside towns are suffering from skills shortages.
- High levels of population transience.
- Disproportionately high levels of people claiming sickness and disability benefits.

Recommendations made in the report included:

- Additional government support to recognise, promote and support diversification in coastal areas where a sole reliance on tourism is no longer a viable option.
- A dedicated source of funding specifically for coastal communities, beyond the completion of the Coastal Communities Fund.
- A sustained, long-term effort to address the impact of transience on coastal areas.
- Amending planning restrictions which limit the potential for changes of use on port sites.
- Improvements to the coastal transport network.
- A targeted investment and improvement programme for schools in coastal communities

The government published a [response in June 2019](#) and an [updated response in June 2021](#).

Regeneration schemes for coastal communities

Coastal Communities Fund

The conclusion of the [2007 Department for Communities and Local Government Select Committee report](#) on coastal towns led to the creation of the Coastal Communities Fund. This was announced by the Treasury in July 2011, in doing so, coastal communities were defined as:

Any coastal settlement within a local authority whose boundaries include UK foreshore, including local authorities whose boundaries only include estuarine foreshore.⁸

⁸ HM Treasury, [Coastal communities to receive a multi-million pound boost](#), 22 July 2011

The fund was made up of 50% of the gross revenue from the Crown Estate's marine activities, with the amount of funding available in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland linked to the revenue raised in each country.

[The fund prospectus](#), setting the criteria for assessing bids, was published in February 2012. It outlined key outcomes and criteria for assessing bids, stating all projects applying for funding must meet the first outcome:

- Coastal communities are better able to use their assets (physical, natural, social, economic and cultural) to promote sustainable economic growth and jobs.

And at least one of the following outcomes:

- Coastal Communities have a greater capacity to create a sustainable economic future and are better equipped to adapt to change.
- Partnerships are developed to support economic innovation, enterprise and investment either within a community and/ or across a number of coastal communities.
- People have more opportunities for training and skills development, including volunteering.
- Coastal Communities have a greater capacity to create a sustainable economic future and are better equipped to adapt to change.

Five funding rounds were held - funding awarded by UK country and region are shown in the table below.

The government has stated it has no plans for any future funding rounds.⁹

⁹ MHLG, [Future of seaside towns: updated government response to the select committee report](#), 16 June 2021, pg. 3

Coastal Communities Fund, rounds 1-5 awards

	£ millions	No. of awards
South West	62.0	56
North West	28.8	27
Yorkshire and Humber	28.4	20
South East	27.8	29
North East	22.5	21
East of England	16.2	24
Total, England	185.7	177
Highlands and Islands	14.2	47
Rest of Scotland	11.6	42
Total, Scotland	25.7	89
Wales*	18.1	57
Northern Ireland	3.3	19
UK	232.9	342

Source: [BIG Lottery Fund, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#).

* The Welsh Government funded a sixth funding round in Wales; this is not included in this total

An evaluation of the Coastal Communities Fund was [published by the Department for Housing, Levelling Up and Communities](#) in June 2022 - this evaluation studied the operation of the Coastal Communities Fund in England only.

In the report, it is stated that the rationale for the programme was “found to be sound”, as prior to the creation of this fund, coastal areas, “despite suffering similar economic shocks as former industrial cities, had not previously seen the level of focus on regeneration experienced by those cities.”¹⁰

Specific findings in the report included:

- The Fund (over its first four rounds) was reported to have created 2,680 jobs directly, and 4,485 indirectly, as well as safeguarding a further 1,835.
- 83% of funded projects attracted at least some match funding

¹⁰ Department for Housing, Levelling Up and Communities, [Evaluation of the Coastal Communities Fund](#), 28 June 2022, pg. 16

- Generally, the fund was targeted at areas with less favourable economic conditions

Coastal Revival Fund

The Coastal Revival Fund was launched in 2015 with the aim of “helping coastal areas bring at risk heritage and community assets back into economic use and “unlock the economic potential of hard-to-tackle buildings, facilities and amusements such as piers, lidos and promenades”.

Between 2015 and 2019, £7.5 million in funding has been awarded to 184 projects.¹¹

The scheme covered England only and was limited to bids of up to £50,000 per project.

Coastal Community Teams

In March 2015, the then Department for Communities and Local Government invited local authorities and stakeholders in coastal communities to establish Coastal Community Teams, with the aim of “[driving] forward sustainable economic development and regeneration in coastal towns.”¹²

Each team is awarded £10,000 and is required to publish an economic plan, setting out the needs of the area and challenges it faces. Details of teams and their economic plans are published on [the Coastal Communities Alliance website](#); a map of all Coastal Community Teams is available on [Coastal Communities Alliance website](#).

146 teams have been established overall; the scheme covers England only.

¹¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, [Coastal Communities](#)

¹² Department for Communities and Local Government, [Coastal Areas: Regeneration: Written question – 56482](#), 16 December 2016

2

Health in coastal communities

Public Health England Report 2019

In November 2019 Public Health England published a [Review of health inequalities among older people in coastal and rural areas](#). This provided an evidence review and a summary of key considerations to reduce inequalities and promote healthy ageing in these areas, including:

- Interventions for those at risk of social isolation or exclusion.
- Interventions encouraging mobility.
- Ensuring accessibility in design and delivery of health and care services.
- Implementing community asset-based approaches.¹³

Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2021

In 2021, the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) annual report presented an [analysis of health and wellbeing in English coastal communities](#).

Health inequalities

The report showed that coastal communities have a higher disease burden across physical and mental health conditions, as well as lower health outcomes including life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and disability free life expectancy.¹⁴

A key theme in the report is the link between the high levels of deprivation in coastal communities and poor health outcomes. Coastal communities have higher rates of risk factors for poor health that are strongly correlated with deprivation, such as obesity, smoking and excess alcohol use.¹⁵ Evidence shows that poverty and deprivation also increase rates of depression, serious mental illness and suicide.¹⁶

Another factor contributing to disease burden is the higher proportion of elderly residents living in coastal towns, compared to the general population.¹⁷

¹³ Public Health England, [Health inequalities in ageing in rural and coastal areas](#), August 2019, pp67-69

¹⁴ Department of Health and Social Care, [Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2021: health in coastal communities](#), 21 July 2021, p7

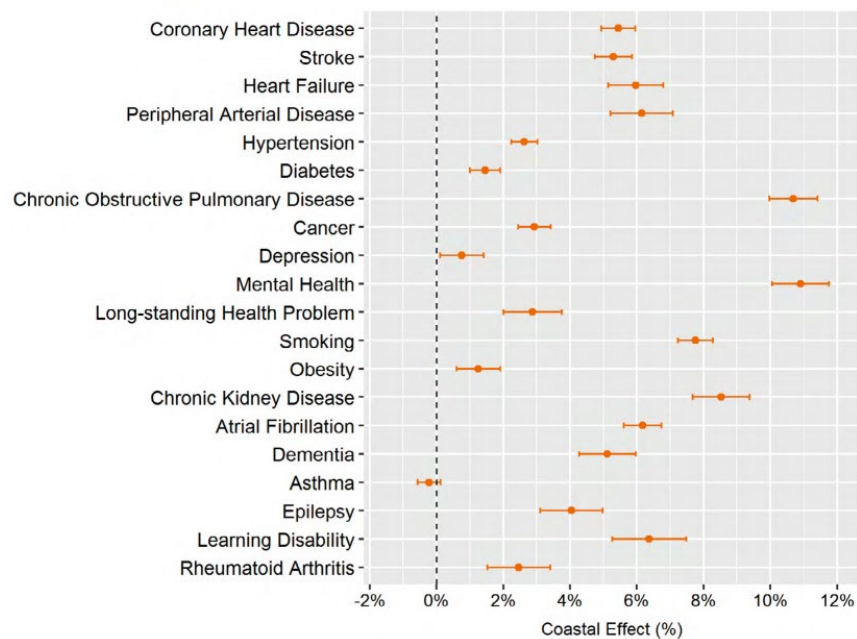
¹⁵ As above, pp10-11

¹⁶ See Ed Davie, [Briefing 58: Poverty, economic inequality and mental health | Centre for Mental Health](#), 26 July 2022

¹⁷ As above, p12

The CMO’s report also notes that even after adjusting for age and deprivation, some conditions have a higher recorded prevalence in coastal areas than inland. The chart below, extracted from the CMO report, shows this. A marker further to the right (higher “coastal effect” %) indicates that after adjusting for age and deprivation, this condition is more prevalent in coastal areas. The chart indicates that the highest coastal effect among these conditions is for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and mental health (which refers to schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other psychoses).

Figure 2: Estimates of the ‘coastal effect’ on the number of patients on selected GP disease registers: 2014/15 – 2018/19



Potential explanations for the “coastal effect” – that is, the higher burden of disease after accounting for deprivation and demography – are the socio-psychological effects of income insecurity brought about by low-pay and seasonal work, health-risking behaviour, and lower educational capital.¹⁸

Medical workforce

The report also describes challenges in recruiting and retaining the health and social care workforce in coastal areas. Analysis by Health Education England (HEE) produced for the report found that coastal communities have 14.6% fewer postgraduate medical trainees, 15% fewer consultants and 7.4% fewer nurses per patient.¹⁹

¹⁸ Department of Health and Social Care, [Chief Medical Officer’s annual report 2021: health in coastal communities](#), 21 July 2021, p198-199

¹⁹ As above, p15

Recommendations

The report gave the following key recommendations:

1. Given the health and wellbeing challenges of coastal communities have more in common with one another than inland neighbours, there should be a national strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of coastal communities. This must be cross-government as many of the key drivers and levers such as housing, environment, education, employment, economic drivers and transport are wider than health.
2. The current mismatch between health and social care worker deployment and disease prevalence in coastal areas needs to be addressed. This requires action by HEE and NHSE/I.
3. The paucity of granular data and actionable research into the health needs of coastal communities is striking. Improving this will assist the formulation of policies to improve the health of coastal communities. Local authorities, ONS and NHSE/I need to make access to more granular data available. Research funders, including NIHR and UKRI, need to provide incentives for research aimed specifically at improving coastal community health.²⁰

APPG for Rural Health and Care Inquiry 2022

On 1 February 2022 a [report on rural health and care](#) was published, which noted a number of issues with access to healthcare in coastal towns and communities. This report was the result of a three-year inquiry undertaken by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Rural Health and Care and the National Centre for Rural Health and Care.²¹

The inquiry echoed similar conclusions to the CMO's report and published 12 recommendations under four headings:

1. Build understanding of the distinctive health and care needs of rural areas.
2. Deliver services that are suited to the specific needs of rural places.
3. Develop a structural and regulatory framework that fosters adaption and innovation.
4. Develop integrated services that provide holistic, person-centred care.²²

²⁰ Department of Health and Social Care, [Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2021: health in coastal communities](#), 21 July 2021, p22

²¹ National Centre for Rural Health and Care, [APPG Rural Health and Care Parliamentary Inquiry](#), February 2022

²² As above, pp8-9

Health Education England

On 3 February 2022 Health Education England (HEE) announced plans for a new [programme to help tackle health inequalities in rural and coastal areas](#). HEE's plans focus on three key pieces of work:

- Widening participation and access to medical schools, with ambition to increase applications from rural communities.
- Innovative rural and coastal healthcare apprenticeship programmes.
- Health literacy programmes, such as Digital Ambassadors, to increase digital and health literacy among members of the public.

HEE is working collaboratively with NHS England to review the geographical distribution of medical speciality training posts. The programme will take place over the next 10-15 years, with post movement commencing from Autumn 2022.²³

²³ Health Education England, [Addressing Health Inequalities: Distribution of Medical Specialty Training Programme](#) (Accessed 12 August 2022)

3

Housing in coastal communities

Coastal communities face the same housing challenges as many other areas of the UK. In some coastal areas these can be exacerbated by high concentrations of second home ownership and Houses in Multiple Occupation.

3.1

Second homes and short-term/holiday lettings

High concentrations of second homes and short-term/holiday lettings are a concern in some coastal communities.

Where the number of second homes comprises a significant proportion of the housing market, it can reduce housing supply and push up house prices to unaffordable levels for local people. A high number of second homes which remain empty for long periods may also impact on local services and community cohesion. High levels of short-term lettings can also have a negative impact on neighbours and local communities, for example from noise disturbance and anti-social behaviour. On the other hand, if second homes are used regularly as holiday lets, they may boost local economies and the tourism trade, or a second home may enable someone to work in and contribute to the local economy of an area, while being able to return to a family home in another part of the country on a regular basis.

Policies to address high rates of second home ownership may be implemented by local government (through planning powers and council tax) and central government (e.g. through the planning policy framework and land taxes).

Measures to regulate short-term/holiday lettings are focused on usage of a property rather than ownership, but can have an indirect impact, for example, by discouraging people from buying additional properties to use for holiday lettings. The Government has [launched](#) a call for evidence on the benefits and challenges presented by the rise in short-term lettings in England. This will inform the development of appropriate policy options, which might include a new tourist accommodation registration scheme. Policy options will be subject to consultation later in 2022. The [call for evidence](#) closes on 21 September 2022.²⁴

The following Commons Library publications provide further information on this issue:

²⁴ Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, [Developing a tourist accommodation registration scheme in England: call for evidence](#), 29 June 2022

- [Can access to housing be restricted to local people?](#) (March 2022)
- [The growth in short-term lettings \(England\)](#) (January 2022) (nb the paper also outlines policies in other areas of the UK)
- [Debate pack on Second homes and holiday-lets in rural communities](#) (January 2022)

3.2

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

High concentrations of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are also a concern in some coastal communities, due to issues around poor quality housing and management, increased anti-social behaviour, poor social cohesion and increased pressure on local services.

HMO Licensing

All local authorities are required to license HMOs in which five or more people from two or more households share facilities. Through ‘additional licensing’, local authorities also have the power to require HMOs to be licensed where there are three or more unrelated people sharing facilities.

The Commons Library briefing paper on [Houses in multiple occupation \(HMOs\) England and Wales](#) (September 2019) explains the legal framework for controlling standards in HMOs.

Controlling the number of HMOs in a local area

Under a national Permitted Development Right (PDR), a dwelling house in England is able to change use to a HMO for up to six people sharing facilities without the need for an application for planning permission. Change of use to a larger HMO, housing more than six people, requires a planning application.

Where there is sufficient evidence of the need to protect local amenities or the well-being of the area, a local planning authority may withdraw a PDR in a specific area using an Article 4 direction under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. The authority must first consult with the local community. The withdrawal of a PDR does not necessarily mean that planning consent will not be granted. It simply means that a planning application for change of use to a HMO has to be submitted, so that the local planning authority can examine the plans in detail.

The Commons Library briefing paper: [Houses in multiple occupation and planning restrictions](#) (July 2017) provides further information on local authority powers to limit the development of new HMOs.

3.3

House of Lords Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities

The House of Lords Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities published its report on [The future of seaside towns](#) (PDF) on 4 April 2019. The report concluded that “Issues relating to housing are strongly linked to considerable and persistent disadvantages for coastal communities.”²⁵

The Committee made a number of housing-related recommendations, including that the Government should:

- determine whether local authorities require additional powers to address the problems arising in areas with especially large numbers of HMOs.
- consider how existing funding for housing, such as the Homes England fund, might be used to support placemaking as well as the creation of new homes.
- introduce stronger incentives for private landlords to improve the quality and design of their properties. This might include tax relief for making improvements to properties.
- pilot the introduction of Housing Action Zones, which might be delivered as a comprehensive package of measures to support housing regeneration in coastal areas.²⁶

The Government published its [response to the Committee](#) on 4 June 2019.²⁷ An updated response was published on 16 June 2021.²⁸

²⁵ House of Lords Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns, [The future of seaside towns](#) (PDF), HL Paper 320 Report of Session 2017–19, 4 April 2019, Summary, p3

²⁶ As above, paras 28-40

²⁷ MHCLG, [Government response to the report of session 2017-19 of House of Lords’ regenerating seaside towns and communities Select Committee, on the future of seaside towns](#), CP 102, 4 June 2019

²⁸ MHCLG, [Future of seaside towns: updated government response to the select committee report](#), 16 June 2021

4

Press articles

[Number of holiday-let homes in England up 40% in three years](#)

Helen Catt

BBC, 29 June 2022

[Holiday homes are 'hollowing out' coastal areas says MP](#)

Josh Halliday and Steven Morris

The Guardian, 18 June 2022

[Coastal towns 'need funds as much as in the North'](#)

BBC, 18 May 2022

[Holiday lets and soaring house prices: why second homes are a hot election issue: From Falmouth to Filey, and Torquay to Tenby, priced-out residents are making their voices heard](#)

Helen Davies and Carol Lewis

Sunday Times, 17 April 2022

[Prof Chris Whitty: Deprived coastal towns need redesign](#)

BBC, 27 September 2021

['Brexit or Covid – what's worse?': UK coastal towns in perfect employment storm: There are plenty of tourists, but UK hospitality firms are plagued by labour shortages this summer](#)

Vincent Ni

The Guardian, 21 August 2021

[Second thoughts on the second-home sales boom: Some owners are reaping the benefits of this pandemic-led growth but its social impact on local communities worldwide is prompting a rethink](#)

Hugo Cox

Financial Times, 13 August 2021

[There is a way to save our coastal resorts... welcome to Zoomtown-on-Sea](#)

Will Hutton

The Observer, 25 July 2021

[The health of coastal communities: a national problem](#)

Chris Whitty

BMJ, 21 July 2021

[Chris Whitty sent in to save Britain's sick seaside towns](#)

Ben Spencer

Sunday Times, 27 June 2021

[Covid: Plan unveiled to 'spruce up' coastal areas and high streets](#)

BBC, 20 March 2021

[Britain's fragile seaside towns lay bare a dysfunctional economy: We export problems to the places least able to cope, then expect them to be resilient](#)

Sarah Connor

Financial Times, 9 April 2019

5 Parliamentary material

5.1 Written questions

[Coastal Areas: Investment: Question for Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: UIN HL1868](#)

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

Asked on 18 July 2022

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to unlock private investment in coastal communities not covered by a freeport.

Answered by Lord Harrington of Watford

Answered on 27 July 2022

My Government places great emphasis on ensuring Coastal Communities are at the forefront of the Levelling Up agenda. Our £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund will invest in every part of the UK, including coastal areas and I am keen to see bids come forward from coastal communities in the second round of the Fund. Regeneration and Infrastructure projects - which have the potential to boost private investment - will be a key focus of this work

Furthermore, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will provide £2.6 billion of investment across the whole of the United Kingdom by 2025, with building pride in place, including in coastal communities, a key theme of the Fund's work. Every coastal community in the UK will receive an allocation and places will be empowered to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level

Levelling Up funding will unlock the potential of coastal communities by regenerating town centres and getting infrastructure match fit, making coastal communities a more attractive place to do business and boosting private investment.

[Regional Planning and Development: Coastal Areas: Question for Department for Transport: UIN HL1385](#)

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

Asked on 30 June 2022

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the recommendations contained within the Maritime UK and Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group Maritime UK: Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto, published in September 2021.

Answered by Baroness Vere of Norbiton

Answered on 8 July 2022

The Government is determined to deliver for the maritime sector and our coastal communities. We are working hand in hand with industry to achieve this by delivering on the recommendations of Maritime 2050. We have recently published the Maritime Recovery Route Map, setting out actions that Government and industry will take to enhance skills, achieve Net Zero, harness technology to innovate, strengthen infrastructure, and boost our competitive advantage. This, coupled with the steps set out in the recently published Future of Freight Plan, will help us and industry drive levelling up across the country, meeting the aspirations of the Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto.

[Vocational Education: Coastal Areas: Question for Department for Education: UIN 105763](#)

Asked by Sally-Ann Hart

Asked on 17 January 2022

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on improving the provision of technical education in coastal towns; and if he will make a statement.

Answered by Alex Burghart

Answered on 25 January 2022

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, and officials within his department meet with counterparts in other government departments regularly to discuss education and skills matters.

In 2021 the department worked with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and other government departments, by contributing to its work on the Future of Seaside Towns and setting out the department's proposals to boost skills and technical education around the country, including in coastal towns.

We are investing £3.8 billion more in further education and skills over the Parliament as a whole, to ensure people can access high-quality training and

education that leads to good jobs, addresses skills gaps, boosts productivity and supports levelling up. This includes more investment for apprenticeships and employers in coastal communities can access funding for apprenticeships to meet their skills needs.

We have also launched T Levels, which are world-class programmes developed with over 250 leading employers to the same quality standards as apprenticeships and will ensure more young people gain the skills and knowledge demanded by employers. T Levels are already being delivered across the country, including in coastal areas such as Scarborough and Blackpool.

The government is rolling out Local Skills Improvement Plans, which will set out the key changes needed to make technical education and training more responsive to local labour market skills needs. They will be developed by local employer representative bodies working closely with further education colleges, other providers and key local stakeholders, and will be tailored to the challenges and opportunities most relevant to local areas. We have started by trailblazing these Plans in eight local areas across England in 2021-22, including in Cumbria, Kent, Sussex and Tees Valley, which have coastal towns.

[Coastal Areas: Government Assistance: Question for Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: UIN 105773](#)

Asked by Dr Kieran Mullan

Asked on 17 January 2022

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to support coastal communities.

Answered by Neil O'Brien

Answered on 25 January 2022

We have continued to make significant progress in supporting coastal communities in a number of areas, demonstrated by the Coastal Communities Fund now having supported 359 projects, totalling over £229 million since 2012, spreading jobs, investment and opportunity to towns and cities across the country including in coastal areas.

Further to this, our coastal areas have already benefited from over £600 million through successful bids into Town Deals and the Future High Streets Fund. Of the 101 towns receiving a Town Deal, 22 of them are coastal towns.

[Tourism: Coastal Areas: Question for Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: UIN 98413](#)

Asked by Bob Seely

Asked on 5 January 2022

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to further support the tourism industry (a) on the Isle of Wight and (b) in other coastal communities.

Answered by Nigel Huddleston

Answered on 11 January 2022

As set out in the government's Tourism Recovery Plan, we are committed to supporting the tourism industry's return to pre-pandemic levels across England including the Isle of Wight and other coastal communities.

So far, the government has provided over £35 billion in support to the tourism, leisure and hospitality sectors over the course of the pandemic in the form of grants, loans and tax breaks.

The latest budget announcement also included a new temporary business rates relief for over 90% of eligible retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England which will cut at least 50% off their business rates bills during the 2022-23 period which is worth almost £1.7 billion.

On 21 December 2021, HMT announced additional support for businesses who have been impacted by the Omicron variant across the UK, including one-off grants of up to £6,000 for hospitality and leisure premises, plus more than £100 million discretionary funding will be made available for local authorities to support other businesses.

VisitBritain (VB) promotes Isle of Wight and other coastal destinations on their websites, social media and through PR activity to ensure that when international travel resumes, visitors are inspired and informed on visiting our coastal towns and cities.

Coastal destinations were also supported via the Discover England Fund as part of the England's Coast project. This was up to 2021 however VisitBritain continues to support their initiatives, through marketing, PR and business support.

[Regional Planning and Development: Coastal Areas: Question for Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: UIN 76009](#)

Asked by Luke Pollard

Asked on 16 November 2021

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment his Department has made of the implications for its policies of the joint Maritime UK and Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group's Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto, published in September 2021.

Answered by Neil O'Brien

Answered on 25 November 2021

We appreciate Maritime UK and the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group's detailed and insightful Coastal Powerhouse manifesto and we recognise the value of the recommendations made. We welcome the continuous engagement of the sector as we are progressing with our levelling up agenda. In this respect, we share the view expressed on the need to continue the strong partnership that exists between Government and key stakeholder groups.

Britain's maritime sector is inextricably linked to our island's rich history - to the exploration, free trade and global exchange which laid the foundations for modern Britain. Our maritime sector, our ports, harbours and coastal towns are extremely important to recovery from the pandemic.

As the Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto has highlighted, there are a number of areas where action must be taken to catalyse investment, level-up coastal communities and capitalise on the potential of the UK's coastal regions. That is why we are working with local leaders to ensure every region including coastal areas, cities and towns will recover from COVID-19 and ultimately level-up. The Levelling Up White Paper will set out ambitious policies to improve living standards, increase opportunity, and grow the private sector in every part of the United Kingdom, from Aberdeen to Aylesbury, Belfast to Brecon.

[Health Services: Coastal Areas: Question for Department of Health and Social Care: UIN 38148](#)

Asked by Sir Greg Knight

Asked on 22 July 2021

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2021, health in coastal communities, published on 21 July 2021, what steps he plans to take to improve (a) health outcomes and (b) recruitment and retention of NHS staff in coastal areas; and if he will make a statement.

Answered by Jo Churchill

Answered on 6 September 2021

The Government is committed to levelling up health outcomes across the country, including in coastal communities. Reducing health inequalities will be a core aim of the new Office for Health Promotion (OHP). Under the professional leadership of the Chief Medical Officer, the OHP will bring together evidence, data and intelligence on what drives better and more equal health outcomes and develop strong relationships across government and the National Health Service (NHS) to drive change.

The Government is committed to ensuring that all parts of the country, including coastal areas, have the NHS workforce that they need. Health Education England (HEE) is undertaking a range of work with partners to ensure that there are enough NHS staff training and working in all areas of the country, including coastal areas. This includes reviewing the distribution of medical specialty training places to help ensure that trainee doctors are in the right parts of the country. HEE has also commissioned 11 universities to deliver nursing or midwifery degrees with blended learning elements, which will broaden their reach to under-served populations such as coastal areas.

5.2

Oral questions

[Coastal Communities](#)

HC Deb 10 March 2022, c 454-55

[Coastal Communities](#)

HC Deb 27 January 2022, c 1085-86

[Fishing Sector and Coastal Communities](#)

HL Deb 25 February 2021, c 897-99

[Geographic Inequality of Opportunity](#)

HC Deb 10 February 2021, c 313

5.3 Debates

[Sharing Economy: Short-term Letting](#)

HC Deb 16 June 2022, c 504-23

[Future of Seaside Towns](#)

HL Deb 1 July 2019, c 1279-1330

5.4 Committee reports

The House of Lords Built Environment Select Committee is currently conducting an [inquiry into the impact of short-term lettings](#).

[The future of seaside towns](#)

House of Lords Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities, April 2019

The original government response was [published in June 2019](#); an updated response was [published in June 2021](#).

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