

Independent Board Member | Role Profile

We are keen to recruit an independent Board Member for the SeaScapes Partnership. You will join an engaged Programme Board composed of varied partner organisations with responsibility for facilitating the delivery of this unique scheme.



SeaScapes

Sandwiched between the tourist hotspots of Northumberland and North Yorkshire, the coast from the Tyne to the Tees is too often overlooked. The England Coastal Path runs along much of it, offering dramatic cliff-top views and leading through a wonderful mosaic of great natural, historical, and geological interest. The industrial heritage dominates, yet the seascape also has a rich but unsung cultural, maritime, and natural heritage.

SeaScapes – Tyne to Tees, Shores and Seas – is the UK’s first marine Landscape Partnership Scheme. Benefiting communities in South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham and Hartlepool, the scheme will deliver 23 projects – both on-shore and beneath the sea over the next four years. This is thanks to £2.9m funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) matched with £2m of partnership funding.

The programme builds on the successful series of partnerships locally, including Turning the Tide, the Heritage Coast Partnership and Limestone Landscapes. Through a partnership and community approach to protecting and celebrating this fascinating stretch of coastline,

SeaScapes will be the first of its kind in the UK – NLHF’s first Marine Landscape Partnership. So much of our natural, industrial, cultural, and maritime heritage lies out-of-sight beneath the waves and through SeaScapes we’re looking forward to giving it more attention.

Our Vision

‘To reveal and better manage the hidden heritage of our unique seascape and create opportunities for learning, access and enjoyment in order to ignite stewardship of this special place for generations to come’

What we plan to do

SeaScapes will explore the heritage hidden beneath the waves, creating ‘snorkel safaris,’ producing a virtual reality wreck diving experience and offering opportunities for local people and visitors to enjoy being on and in the sea. Plans also include using soundscapes and foodscapes to explore our understanding and relationship with the coastline and sea over time, and a high-profile beach care programme to address our ever-increasing marine litter problem. Interpretation, training, and volunteering opportunities will feature throughout, tying all the projects together under the SeaScapes brand.

Five strategic aims will be used as the framework to provide a cohesive and common approach to delivering the projects and achieving the scheme’s vision.

1. Bring our hidden heritage to life using innovative methods and participative approaches, ensuring that we reach beyond our usual audiences.
2. Work with coastal communities, sea users, landowners, managers, and other partners to ensure our seascape heritage, whether natural, built or cultural, is better recorded, managed and in better condition.
3. Tell the stories of our dynamic seascape, from geological, industrial, wartime and cultural perspectives, revealing how it has shaped our coastal communities and set the scene for the next exciting chapter.
4. Improve access gateways and opportunities, breaking down barriers and allowing local communities to make full use of the seascape’s coastal and marine assets.
5. Provide opportunities for learning, training, and enjoyment, so that the heritage of the area is better appreciated; engendering a stewardship of our unique seascape for generations to come.

Who we are

SeaScapes is only possible because of the open collaboration and support from all the partners involved. Hosted by Durham County Council the partnership includes:

South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham and Hartlepool Councils, East Durham Heritage Group, Living History North East, Heugh Battery Museum, the National Trust, Northumbrian Water, Durham Wildlife Trust, North East Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Natural England, Groundwork, Marine Management Organisation, the Environment Agency, and Durham, Sunderland and Newcastle Universities

What we are looking for

You will be an enthusiastic individual with a passion for the SeaScapes area and the protection of its marine and coastal heritage. You will be able to inform and participate in effective decision-making by the Board, as the partnership delivers projects and seeks to embed a longer-term legacy for our coast and inshore waters.

We are particularly interested to hear from you if you have experience of, and connections to, the communities along the coast between the Tyne and the Tees.

About you

- 1) Longstanding interest in the natural, built, or cultural heritage of the Tyne to Tees coast and marine area, with a desire to see our coastal and marine heritage protected and enhanced.
- 2) Passionate and supportive of what SeaScapes is striving to achieve and can be an ambassador for the project.
- 3) Understanding of the partners and stakeholders in the area and the needs of the community
- 4) The ability to think creatively and be an excellent communicator.
- 5) Can provide an informed opinion about community engagement and development in the area.
- 6) Can devote time and effort to the Partnership and is committed to the principles of partnership working.

In addition to demonstrating the above, you will be expected to adhere to the Nolan Principles - The Seven Principles of Public Life:

Selflessness; Integrity; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Honesty; Leadership.

What commitment we ask for

The Programme Board meets four times a year with additional meetings arranged where necessary. We also ask that you are available to represent the partnership at events (where appropriate) and are free of any conflicts of interest.

This is a voluntary role with a time commitment of 6 – 8 days annually. Out of pocket expenses will be paid in accordance with Local Authority arrangements.

How to apply

Tell us why you would be a great Board member for SeaScapes by sending a letter referring to the attributes listed above.

If shortlisted, you will be invited to meet virtually with representatives of the Programme Board so we can get to know each other better before making a final decision.

As a disability confident employer, we welcome applications from disabled people and as an inclusive employer we recognise the importance and benefits of having an inclusive and diverse workforce. The same principles apply for voluntary roles. We will pro-actively make reasonable adjustments within the recruitment process for disabled people. Please contact Karen Daghish (details below) if you would like to discuss any reasonable adjustments and make sure you include this information on your application so the appropriate support can be provided.

Please send your application letter to the SeaScapes Delivery Manager Karen Daghish at karen.daghish2@durham.gov.uk by **Wednesday 31st March 2021**.

For an informal discussion about the role or SeaScapes in general please call Karen on 07917 814 579.

Find out more: www.exploreseascapes.co.uk