

# Press release: Great British Coast benefits from record government investment

- Over £250 million expected to be invested into the British coastline by 2020
- To date, grants worth £173 million have been allocated to hundreds of coastal sites
- 16 new winning bids for the Coastal Communities Fund to be announced later this summer

Research reveals multi-million pound government funding for coastal communities has created over 7,000 jobs and boosted visitor numbers to the coastline by thousands.

Through the [Coastal Communities Fund](#), almost 300 coastal sites across the UK have been saved, created or improved for future generations. It is expected that every £1 spent from the Fund will generate £8 for local communities.

Sites like Perch Rock Lighthouse in Merseyside, an art deco lido in Penzance and a new Heritage Quarter in Bognor Regis have been allocated grants worth over £173 million since 2012. Around £48 million has also been directly invested in the regeneration of 45 “at risk” coastal heritage sites.

With record levels of investment in coastal communities, coastal tourism has regained its position as England’s largest holiday sector – employing more people than the motor, aerospace, pharmaceutical or steel industries.

Latest research also shows that the summer heatwave is providing a major boost for the country’s seaside towns and villages – 55% of people in the UK are flocking to Britain’s beaches at least once this year. Last year, nearly 17 million trips were taken by British residents to the English seaside – comfortably making it the most popular UK destination.

Secretary of State for Communities, the Rt. Hon James Brokenshire MP, said:

From Penzance to Whitley Bay, we’re investing £264 million into our coastal communities by the end of the decade. By 2020 we’ll have invested more funds directly into coastal regeneration than any other government in history.

We’re delivering on our pledge to not only protect our coastal heritage sites for the future generations, but also help to create jobs, promote tourism and deliver a bright future for our coastal regions.

The Northern Powerhouse has benefitted the most to date from the fund. Collectively, the region has seen investment of over £57 million (or 43% of the total) in 51 projects.

The news comes ahead of the announcement of the government's Coastal Communities Fund 'fast track' winners later this summer. These include 16 'shovel ready' projects set to receive grants from a further £40 million tranche of government funding to get underway this financial year.

Deborah Lamb, Deputy Chief Executive of Historic England, said:

We welcome news of funding to help save at-risk historic buildings and places in our seaside towns and villages, so that they can be brought back into use for the benefit of local communities.

Restoring local gems can attract investment and help to tackle the deprivation that is a problem in a number of our coastal areas.

There are great examples of restoration projects in our seaside towns, often bringing together the private, public, voluntary and social enterprise sectors. This funding will inspire more.

Some of the heritage projects changing the face of coastal communities in the UK have included:

### **'Jubilee Pool' Penzance – the largest surviving tidal saltwater lido in the UK**

Almost £2 million (£1.95 million) Coastal Communities Funding was used to repair and re-open the Grade II listed art deco 'Jubilee Pool' in Penzance to create an all year round visitor attraction sustaining existing jobs and creating new ones too.

The saltwater pool, renovated to its former art deco splendour, has increased visitor numbers by more than 25,000 per year, created 167 new jobs and new apprenticeships in an area where there was historically low unemployment and acted as a catalyst for wider regeneration in Penzance. Penzance and the Jubilee Pool were later listed as number 14 in a list of 52 places to go in 2017 by the New York Times.

### **Perch Rock Lighthouse, New Brighton, Merseyside**

Perch Rock Lighthouse in New Brighton Merseyside was re-illuminated for the first time in over 40 years in 2016 after £6,000 of Coastal Revival funding was used to revive the decommissioned Grade II listed lighthouse. The local landmark, situated where the river Mersey merges into Liverpool Bay, was restored using solar panels to bring the lights at the top of the lighthouse back to their original form bringing back a key part of New Brighton's heritage.

## **Bognor Regis Heritage Quarter**

A total of £50,000 of Coastal Communities Funding has facilitated the creation of a new Heritage Quarter showcasing the town's key heritage assets. This included breathing new life into the historic pier and revival of the old town as a stylish restaurant quarter. Work is underway to commission public art gateways and the area is more economically prosperous with fewer vacant units and strong plans to redevelop others.

## **The Maltings, Wells-next-the-Sea, North Norfolk**

The Wells Maltings Trust in North Norfolk received a £610,000 grant to transform a dilapidated 19th century maltings building in Wells-next-the-Sea into an arts, heritage and learning space with auditorium, café and tourist information provision.

The project, nearing completion and set to open in September 2018, will have created 95 jobs, opportunities for 100 new vocational trainees and 6 apprenticeships while supporting 245 businesses. It's expected to increase visitor numbers by more than 42,000 and generate £2.3 million in new visitor expenditure.

## **The Spanish City Dome, Whitley Bay, North Tyneside**

Once an architectural icon and a major tourist attraction for North Tyneside in the 1930s, the Spanish City Dome had fallen into a state of repair in recent years.

Awarded a £2 million grant in 2013 towards the cost of its restoration, the striking Grade II listed building has been subject to a transformative restoration project creating 69 jobs and supporting 8 private sector businesses. Reinstated to its former glory, the Spanish City Dome is set to increase visitor numbers by 140,000 and visitor spend by £3 million annually. It was reopened in July 2018.

## **Scarborough Market Hall, East Yorkshire**

Scarborough received a £2.78 million grant in 2015 to boost the town's economic performance. Through the re-development and modernisation of its historic market hall to provide a vibrant 21st century workspace for Scarborough's artisan movement and local producers, the project created 30 new business spaces and 60 new jobs.

A 'virtual market' concept is being used to promote local producers to a wider regional and national market through an online market intelligence system to ensure the sustainability of local businesses and enhance their contribution to sustainable economic growth. Dubbed the 'Covent Garden of the North' the modernised Scarborough Market Hall is also hosting regular cultural and music events as an important all year, all weather visitor attraction. The renovated building and vaults won a prestigious RIBA award for architectural excellence in May 2018.

Figures show that Scarborough and Blackpool were the top 2 most visited English cities outside of London by British residents over 2014 to 2016.

## **‘LightPool’ Project and Blackpool Winter Gardens**

Blackpool City Council received a £2 million grant in January 2015 towards the ‘LightPool’ project to deliver a radical transformation of the iconic annual Blackpool Illuminations, creating a compelling new visitor experience and a major boost to the local economy. The project is forecast to have increased visitor numbers by 2.6 million.

Blackpool Winter Gardens – a £50,000 grant was match funded towards a £230,000 scheme to carry out emergency stabilisation and repair works to the walls of the Pavilion Theatre within the Grade II\* Winter Gardens building. The external fabric is now weather tight and it is the first step in a home for the new “Blackpool Museum of Popular Culture”.

Over £1 million of Coastal Communities Funding has been used to establish 146 Coastal Community Teams around the English coast. These Coastal Community Teams have developed economic plans setting out both the short and longer term priorities to enable their area to promote economic growth.

Now in its fifth round, the Coastal Communities Fund supports the development of UK coastal communities by giving funding towards projects intended to create sustainable economic growth and jobs.

By 2020 the £264 million awarded by the Coastal Communities Fund is expected to have attracted around £369 million in additional funding for coastal projects giving a total investment of around £633 million.

Follow the latest tweets from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on coastal communities by visiting [@MHCLG](#) or searching [#GreatBritishCoast](#) on twitter.

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## **[Press release: Potential phishing scam impersonating Ministry of Defence](#)**

The MOD has been made aware of a possible phishing fraud. Targets of the fraud have received emails purporting to originate within the MOD attempting to make contact or seeking money.

Anyone who receives suspicious emails that might match this profile should take the following action:

- Not to respond to the suspicious communication, or cease all further correspondence if they have already responded

- Report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre which can be contacted at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or on 0300 123 2040.
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## **Transparency data: Broads Authority (Transfer of Mutford Lock) Harbour Revision Order**

On 3 August 2018, the Broads Authority made a formal application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) under section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964 for a Harbour Revision Order (HRO).

The proposed order is consequent upon the proposed Port of Lowestoft (Transfer of Mutford Lock) Harbour Revision Order 2018, which is applied for at the same time as this Order and would provide for the transfer of Mutford Lock and adjoining land held with Mutford Lock from Associated British Ports to the Broads Authority.

This Order would provide for Mutford Lock to become part of the navigation area within the jurisdiction of the Broads Authority and therefore for the Broads Authority to become the harbour authority for Mutford Lock. The application is undergoing a 42 day public consultation, starting on 3 August 2018. The deadline for submitting comments is 14 September 2018. For further information on the consultation process, please review the advertisement notice.

If you would like to make a representation please do so in writing via the [harbourorders@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:harbourorders@marinemanagement.org.uk) inbox. Representations should quote reference DC10143.

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## **Transparency data: ABP Transfer of Mutford Lock Harbour Revision Order**

On 3 August 2018, Associated British Ports (ABP) made a formal application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) under section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964 for a Harbour Revision Order (HRO).

The proposed HRO relates to concurrent applications by Associated British Ports and the Broads Authority for Harbour Revision Orders in order to effect

in law the transfer of jurisdiction for, and ownership of, a lock at Lowestoft from Associated British Ports to the Broads Authority. The lock to be transferred is Mutford Lock.

This Order is required to remove ownership of Mutford Lock and adjoining land, together with associated rights and liabilities and statutory responsibilities under local legislation from ABP and to remove Mutford Lock from the jurisdiction of ABP.

The application is undergoing a 42 day public consultation, starting on 3 August 2018. The deadline for submitting comments is 14 September 2018. For further information on the consultation process, please review the advertisement notice.

If you would like to make a representation please do so in writing via the [harbourorders@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:harbourorders@marinemanagement.org.uk) inbox. Representations should quote reference DC10069.

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## [Speech: Lord Ahmad's Human Rights speech](#)

### **Introduction**

Your Excellencies, Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, colleagues from across government. Welcome to the launch of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Report for 2017.

As the FC0 Minister with responsibility for Human Rights and Modern Slavery, as well as the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, and also recently I was delighted and greatly honoured and humbled to be appointed as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief, it has been a great honour to lead the FC0's human rights diplomacy during the course of the last year.

Ladies and gentlemen, our human rights are inseparable from our condition as human beings.

Promoting and protecting those rights, and standing up for the inherent dignity of individuals around the world, is a fundamental part of the British foreign policy. Indeed, a foreign policy that does not have human rights at its core is unimaginable.

Our annual Human Rights Report is a snap shot of that work and indeed the human rights situation around the world in 2017. This report documents just some of the many human rights violations and abuses that took place in many countries during the course of 2017. The report also details many examples of

the incredible and tireless work which the Government, together with many in this room and beyond, are doing on a daily basis across the world to advance the cause of universal human rights.

## **International efforts**

Standing up for human rights be it at home or around the world is not only the right thing to do, it is also part of our strategy for creating a more secure and prosperous world. We do this in a variety of ways. At times, it's quiet diplomacy and discussions, at other times, rightly so, it's leading campaigns on the international stage.

The report, which you have in front of you, contains examples of our diplomatic achievements over the past year. Of course, there is much still to be done, and it will take a sustained and collaborative effort to overcome the many challenges that lie ahead. You only have to cast your eye around the world to realise that.

And that is why our work with international partners to co-ordinate our efforts and maximise our impact is very important. I assure you, as Minister of State for both the United Nations and the Commonwealth, I am acutely aware of the need to promote and protect human rights on the international stage.

If I may, turning firstly, as members of the UN Security Council and indeed one of the permanent five members of the Security Council, the United Kingdom continues to speak out against human rights violations and has taken the lead on resolutions, such as many have seen with the abuses against and the tragic plight of Rohingya Muslims in Burma.

We also work very closely with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and indeed the Council of Europe. These organisations also play an important role in upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms, and promoting universal values such as tolerance and respect.

Human Rights also played a very large part in discussions at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held here in London in April. During the summit the UK announced over £20 million of funding for a range of projects aimed at promoting human rights and democracy around the world. From tackling important issues such as child labour and online sexual exploitation, to protecting the rights of women and LGBT community, and a programme to drive more inclusive and accountable democracy.

Many of you know that the government has also committed £212 million through DFID's Girls' Education Challenge, to help over 1 million girls receive at least 12 years of quality education in developing countries across the Commonwealth. And when we talk about Girls' Education, it's important that we use the word quality education, because it's quality education that really empowers those girls. We also fund human rights projects in countries around the world through the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy. And this year the £11.1 million fund allowed us to support over 100 human rights projects, many of them implemented by many in this room, by human rights defenders and civil society organisations. An overview of the way the fund,

the Magna Carta Fund, was used in 2017 is also contained within the report.

## **Human rights priorities**

Amongst other priority areas, the report updates on our work to tackle modern slavery. Many of you will know that this is a priority for Mrs May, our Prime Minister. Following the Prime Minister's lead, and working across government, we have been raising the profile of this heinous crime around the world. Galvanising greater political will, and prompting stronger action by many states and institutions.

Thanks largely to our diplomatic efforts at the FC0, working together with colleagues at the Home Office and DFID staff, 63 countries have now endorsed the Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, an initiative that was launched less than a year ago by our Prime Minister at the UN General Assembly.

The Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative also remains a key priority for our Government, and as the Prime Minister's Special Representative on this issue, I have made it a priority for myself. I have visited various parts of the world including Iraq. And only last week I visited Kosovo and nothing can move you more than sitting down and hearing directly the testimonies of those incredible, courageous survivors who themselves have become the most powerful advocates in tackling sexual violence.

The United Kingdom is determined to end the stigma suffered by survivors. How can it be right that those that have suffered such crimes against themselves are rejected often by families, communities and by their own faith groups? At a time when they need compassion and support, they face rejection. Therefore the UK is determined to prioritise the tackling of stigma. I commend and indeed I am greatly heartened by the support I have received from many faith leaders in support of this noble objective. We will continue to call on the international community to join our campaign, and sign up to the UK's Principles for Global Action.

Four years on from the Global Summit where PSVI was launched by the then Foreign Secretary William Hague, , it is important that we must redouble our efforts to reduce stigma; improve justice for survivors, a key priority as I said for myself on my visit to Iraq; and work to prevent sexual violence in conflict once and for all. We have seen it unravelling in Burma: women, children, young girls and yes young boys as well, falling victim. It is that kind of violence we must call for an end for. In doing so, we must ensure justice and accountability: Accountability for the perpetrators, justice for the survivors.

So I am therefore delighted that next year the UK will be hosting an international meeting in 2019 to take stock of the progress that has been made, mark the successes, identify new areas of focus, and to stimulate the international community into further action on this important priority.



## **Freedom of Religion or Belief**

I mentioned a few moments ago about my deployment as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

The freedom to practice a faith, the freedom to change one's faith, the freedom to hold a faith or no faith at all is a universal human right of itself. It is associated closely with other human rights, such as the rights to freedom of expression and association. In addition, where freedom of religion or belief is violated, it is quite often the case, indeed evidence suggests, other human rights are often curtailed too. It's how that first discrimination then turns to persecution, that persecution turns to violence and worst still.

It is clearly unacceptable that an estimated 75% of the world's population live in countries whose administrations and governments severely restrict freedom of religion or belief. It is also equally unacceptable that millions of people around the world suffer persecution and direct discrimination and worse, often at the hands of fellow citizens, whilst state authorities stand idly by – failing to honour the very obligations they have committed to, to protect the human rights of all people within their jurisdiction.

Over the last year in my role as Minister for Human Rights, I have visited many countries to promote freedom of religion or belief. I have again, as with the victims and survivors of sexual violence, heard some incredible and courageous stories, moving stories, from the victims of religious persecution and those working to protect them. As I said already, I visited Iraq a few months ago. There, ladies and gentlemen, I met directly with survivors and representatives of the Yezidi communities. The atrocities that I heard about, the way mothers had to face up to not just sexual violence, but the dehumanisation of themselves and their children in front of their eyes, by that atrocious terrorist organisation Daesh, were beyond moving. They shook me to my core. They made me not just think but resolve in myself and together with my team, to reflect the priority the Prime Minister has given to this issue, to do even more.

I heard of a woman who saw her own child being murdered in front of her eyes, and then worse still, then, and I'm sorry to be so blunt but it conveys the message of religious persecution, she was offered that child as meat on a plate. This reflects the challenge that we face around the world. The dehumanisation of a whole community. Why? Because of their religion, because of their belief. We must not just consolidate and collaborate, we must strengthen in our resolve to meet a challenge head on.

In other places in the world, I have also heard the stories of children denied an education due to their religion; of attacks against those who declare they have no faith: and in other parts of the world of places of worship raised to the ground.

Like the story of Father Daniel from the Nineveh Plain in Iraq, who when he met our Prime Minister Theresa May, what did he do, he handed her a Bible, retrieved from a church burnt to the ground by Daesh. That survival of the

holy Bible symbolised the hope that Christians in Iraq continue to hold in their hearts, that once again they will be allowed to freely practice their faith in safety in their homeland, in their country.

And I assure you ladies and gentlemen, that the Prime Minister remains committed to not only promoting tolerance, but also the understanding and protecting freedoms to practice faith and belief at home and indeed overseas. So the letter she received from six-year old Zeal Saunders from Devon, must have particularly resonated with her. For he wrote, and I quote: Dear Prime Minister, I have just learnt about people in prison in other countries simply because they are Christians. They should be as safe as us. Please do everything you can to help them. Thank you.

And I assure you ladies and gentlemen, the Prime Minister is doing just that, everything she can. And I join with her and I know many in this room to share that determination that we must take action to confront the worrying levels of religious persecution around the globe.

As I said earlier, it is an incredible honour, it is humbling for me that the Prime Minister has asked me to act as her Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief. And in this role, I assure you I give the commitment that I will not only lead but I will strengthen targeted international efforts to raise awareness of intolerance and persecution of people of all faiths and none.

### **Priorities as PM Special Envoy on FoRB**

As Special Envoy, one of my main priorities will be to promote a change in our efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief. I will work with our overseas network to ensure that discussion on freedom of religion or belief is included in the discussions we have at the highest level, in our dialogue with host governments.

Recently, I visited Algeria and Tunisia. When I was in Tunisia I chose to visit the central synagogue in Tunis, a small Jewish community in the heart of an Arabic, Muslim country, visited by a British Minister, who some would argue represents a traditional Christian country but Muslim of faith himself. My presence raised a few eyebrows and interest by those surrounding me. It was simple but incredible. That action and the ability to bring communities together, is I feel a great responsibility on all of us, not least on a Minister within the Government.

Those kind of acts bring communities together: the sharing of ideas, the sharing of a common cause, and yes, whilst there are challenges that remain, the importance of the shared humanity with people of all faiths.

And therefore I will continue to work with our Ambassadors in countries where we judge that the UK has most influence and can contribute to long-term change, and we will respond quickly and effectively to instances of religious repression. But as with our other human rights priorities, I look to many in this room to help me and stand with me in that important and noble cause

This diplomacy will be supported this year by around £1 million from our

Magna Carta fund. This will make a wide range of projects possible, including projects that promote respect through education in Iraq, help human rights defenders supporting FoRB in Burma and capacity building on this priority for parliamentarians in Sudan.

International partnerships will also be essential, and I will continue to build strong relationships with partners working on this field in Europe and the Holy See, and also America and the Middle East. I have recently had productive meetings with the Danish government and European Commission's FoRB Special Envoys, and I will continue to forge international collaboration. Indeed tomorrow, I shall be leaving for the international conference convened by the United States in Washington on religious freedom which will be hosted by the US Secretary of State, Pompeo, in Washington later this week.

### **Respect through education**

Educating the next generation to respect each other's faith or belief is, I believe, vital if we are to eliminate intolerance, promote understanding and ultimately break down barriers of ignorance and fear in communities. Ladies and gentlemen, it is essential that we educate our children to understand other religions, in the hope that they will be wiser and more tolerant.

As a moment of personal reflection, nothing makes me more proud, as a born and bred Brit of Indian heritage, that I choose to send my children to quality schools: a nursery for my youngest, which is a Church of England nursery; and for my eldest, I chose Jesuit schools. Yes they are good schools, and that's important for a parent, but it's the ethos or the faith of the school, which is also important. It's those freedoms that we enjoy in the United Kingdom, not just tolerance and understanding, but also that strength and diversity of our communities, of faith communities, and those of no faith, that underlining priority, which I believe is the great strength of our nation. Promoting tolerance and understanding is a primary objective for Britain to instil in other parts of the world through constructive collaboration and progress. A young child is not born with prejudices, any kind of prejudice, they learn prejudices from those around them, people and society. Therefore, States, Governments, all of us have a responsibility to teach them about respect, inclusivity and not just tolerance but also understanding. It was Nelson Mandela who famously said education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

### **Conclusion**

But that change cannot be affected by Governments alone. And that is why again I put on record to many in the room and beyond, the great value we attach to your work, to the support of non-government organisations, civil society and faith groups, and leaders, many of you here today, in the strength of our relationship of promoting and protecting freedom of religion or belief, of human rights. Your partnership, your advice your direction and your thoughts, your observations, your experiences are vital in taking all these important strands of our human rights work forward. And let me assure you, and as long as I am Minister of Human Rights, I know I speak on behalf of the Government who have the shared sentiment and priority, the doors to

Ministerial Offices and to this incredible the senior team working on this important agenda are always open, open to good ideas, open to experiences, open with a willingness to collaborate on these important priorities.

And let me assure you finally, for my part, I am determined to champion the Government's defence of its full range of commitments set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As we reflect back, this year, the 70th anniversary year of the Declaration we are reminded of the importance of continuing to defend and promote and strengthen the values it enshrines. We picked up that challenge in 1948, and let me assure you we will continue to rise to that challenge in the years ahead, with the ultimate noble objective to ensure that the rights set out in that historic document 70 years ago should not remain a dream for many parts of the world. And by setting our objectives, our collaboration, and our partnerships, at the strongest level, I assure you that we will continue to see progress towards with that ultimate ambition that those very rights we enjoy, can be enjoyed by all. Thank you.