

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

**Report to:** Climate and Ecology Policy and Accountability Committee

**Date:** 13/01/2025

**Subject:** Motion for the Ocean – Inland Council sign up

**Report author:** Phoebe Shaw Stewart, Ecology Lead

**Responsible Director:** Bram Kainth, Executive Director - Place

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### SUMMARY

It is the UN Ocean Decade and our ocean and climate are in a state of emergency. H&F declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 but the ocean is missing from our strategies and action plans. The Ocean Conservation Trust want to support local and national governments to take action to improve ocean health. A model 'Ocean Recovery Declaration' – or Motion for the Ocean – seeks to help ALL local governments recognise that the world's Ocean is a fundamental part of climate regulation and that it must be considered as part of an effective climate emergency response.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Climate Change and Ecology Policy and Accountability Committee endorses an H&F specific 'Motion for the Ocean' based on the model motion in Appendix 1 and including the pledges listed below, and recommends it to Full Council for approval at the next available meeting:
  - Continue the development of the Thames Strategy: Kew to Chelsea
  - Embed protection and recovery of the River Thames in all strategic decisions, plans, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Council
  - Ensure that local planning supports ocean recovery
  - Ensure that the Climate and Ecology supports ocean recovery
  - Work with local and national partners to deliver improved water quality and increased sustainability
  - Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in H&F
  - Communicate updates on the River Thames recovery process and signpost opportunities and guidance to get involved

- Recognise that wherever we live we share responsibility for good marine management
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**Wards Affected:** All

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## **Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report**

2.-Model-Motion-for-the-Ocean\_INLAND-Council\_June-2024 ([Call a Motion for the Ocean - Ocean Conservation Trust](#))

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## **DETAILED ANALYSIS**

1. In the UK we are never more than 70 miles from the ocean and we all impact our ocean every day through consumer choices, what we put down the drain, the litter and pollution that flows into our rivers and the carbon emissions we produce.
2. The UK government's recent Marine Strategy assessment confirms that our marine environment is not healthy. In the UK, like the rest of the planet, we are witnessing the ocean crisis first-hand. Fish stocks are collapsing, beaches are covered in litter, microplastics are found in fish and humans. Water temperatures are rising, sea levels are rising and storm events are increasing in frequency and ferocity.
3. Urgent actions is needed to halt these devastating changes and recover the health of our ocean to enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including climate regulation, carbon storage in estuarine, coastal and marine habitats, coastal protection, a thriving local economy, clean safe recreation and happy healthy communities.
4. Inland communities have an essential role to play in recovering the health of our ocean through increasing awareness of how local actions can affect the ocean and by acting as responsible custodians of the rivers, streams and waterways that run through their area on their way to the sea.
5. The Ocean Conservation Trust have developed a model 'Motion for the Ocean' for inland council which should be considered as a template to be adapted to local circumstances. They encourage local councils to adapt the pledges and wording, with the caveat that the ambition must not be reduced.
6. Local authorities cannot solve the ocean crisis along, but we can – and must – play our part.

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Model-Motion-for-the-Ocean\_INLAND-Council\_June-2024