



Lancaster House  
Hamshire Court  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 7YH  
Tel: 0191 376 2589  
Fax: 0191 376 2681

16 October 2012

Our Ref: 048

By email: [planning.policy@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@lewisham.gov.uk)

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: Consultation on Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan and Site Allocations Local Plan modifications**

Thank you for inviting the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to comment on the above consultation.

As the marine planning authority for England the MMO is responsible for preparing marine plans for English inshore and offshore waters. At its landward extent, a marine plan will apply up to the mean high water springs mark, which includes the tidal extent of any rivers. In our duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure compatibility with existing development plans, which apply down to the low water mark, we are seeking to identify the 'marine relevance' of applicable plan policies. The borough of Lewisham is included within the South East inshore plan area as part of the River Ravensbourne that runs within the borough is under tidal influence, as a tributary to the Thames. As such, when the MMO begins marine planning for this area we will be working with Lewisham, and other London boroughs, regarding this. Until such time as a marine plan is in place we advise local authorities who are within the plan area to refer to the Marine Policy Statement for guidance on any planning activity that includes a section of tidal river.

The MMO is also responsible for issuing marine licences under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. A marine licence may be needed for many activities involving a deposit or removal of a substance or object below the mean high water springs mark or in any tidal river to the extent of the tidal influence.

Having reviewed maps outlining the extent of the Lewisham Town Centre area, it does not appear that the sections of river within this area are under tidal influence and as such are not within the remit of the MMOs work. As such, we have no comments to submit in relation to this consultation.

However, we would like to draw to your attention that, should planning work be undertaken for other parts of the borough that include any section of river, it is important to establish whether these are under tidal influence. If they are then we would encourage Lewisham to include reference to Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the Marine Management Organisation, Marine Policy Statement, marine planning and marine licensing within these plans to ensure that all those concerned are clear about the regulatory framework surrounding tidal stretches of river.

If you have any questions or need any further information please just let me know. More information on the role of the MMO can be found on our website [www.marinemanagement.org.uk](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'A. Atkinson'.

Angela Atkinson  
Stakeholder and Networks Officer