



Agenda item B6

From: **KEIFCA Chief Fishery Officer**

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority  
30 January 2024.

Subject: **DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Summary:** To present to the Authority the Draft Annual Plan 2024-2025

1. Kent & Essex IFCA are required to publish an annual plan that meets minimum standards as set out in Defra guidance, setting out the Authority's main objectives and priorities for the year. A final draft of the plan would normally be submitted to the Secretary of State by 31st March each year.
2. The Draft Annual Plan enclosed with these papers is presented for Members' approval and comment.
3. As part of the government's spending review settlement, DEFRA agreed to fund IFCAs an additional £150K a year over the length of the Parliament to help further a series of national priority workstreams. KEIFCA has used this money to fund two new officer posts which will directly help KEIFCA deliver the national priorities.

The first is a cockle officer post that will help KEIFCA input into the Cockle FMP, undertake and continue to develop the annual cockle MPA assessments and support our enforcement of the cockle fishery. The second is a part-time Fisheries Liaison Officer post that will disseminate progress and foster engagement with the FMPs that are important to for both recreational and commercial fishermen (Bass, Skates and Rays etc) and feedback issues and ideas from these groups to the Authority.

4. The INSTRUCTIONS and COMMENTS of the Authority are requested.