



**DECISION NOTICE FOR THE
SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR LANDS JOINT
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 6 MARCH 2019**

**Publication Date:
Thursday, 7 March 2019**

**Call-in period:
Friday, 8 March 2019 to Thursday, 14 March 2019**

**Implementation Date:
Friday, 15 March 2019**

(Please note the call in provisions do not apply to Southwold Town Council)

If you require this document in large print, audio or Braille or in a different language, please contact the Senior Democratic Services Officer on (01502) 523241 or email: democratic.services.wdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk



SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR LANDS JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Area	Cabinet Members appointed to the Southwold Harbour Lands Joint Committee
Title of Report	Southwold Harbour Governance
Report Reference	SHLJC06

Purpose of Report

To receive an update on the developments since the 18 December 2018 meeting of the Southwold Harbour Lands Joint Committee and to consider the results of the consultation exercise, pursuant to the resolutions it made on 18 December 2018, and to revisit previously planned changes and to consider the way forward for the future governance of the Southwold Harbour Lands.

Options Considered

All options for the new governance arrangements for the Southwold Harbour Lands have been carefully considered. The recommendation to the Simultaneous WDC Cabinet and Southwold Town Council meeting, is to modify some of the resolutions made at the previous meeting on 28 July 2014 and to advise on proposals for a Harbour Management Committee, to secure the sustainability and viability of the Southwold Harbour Lands for future generations. A full and extensive public consultation exercise had also taken place, which included drop in sessions on 19 and 26 January 2019, a public meeting on 6 February 2019 and street surveys on 11 and 18 February 2019.

Reasons for Decision

A great deal has happened and emerged since 2015, which the Joint Committee must take into account when deciding how to proceed. For the reasons summarised in the report, it has become clear that the charitable model previously adopted by the Joint Committee is not appropriate. Accordingly, the resolutions made in 2015 to adopt that model should be rescinded.

The proposal to create a Harbour Management Committee would enable long term planning and improvements to be made to the Southwold Harbour Lands and the Harbour Order itself, by designing proposals, addressing future ownership and long term sustainability, responsibility, liability and delivery, in line with the terms of reference of the Joint Committee and this key principle.

SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR LANDS JOINT COMMITTEE DECISIONS

Following consideration of the published report to the Joint Committee (the “**February Report**”) with appendices, the consultation responses received by 28 February 2019 and the other representations received by 1 March 2019, the Joint Committee resolves to:

1. rescind the resolutions it made on 18 March 2015 (the “**Resolutions**”) because, having considered the circumstances which have emerged and developed since those Resolutions were made and the results of the consultation exercise arranged pursuant to the resolutions made by the Joint Committee on 18 December 2018, it is satisfied that the Resolutions are no longer appropriate;
2. recommend to the simultaneous meeting of Waveney District Council (“**WDC**”) and Southwold Town Council (“**STC**”) which has been arranged for 10:30am on 15 March 2019 at the Stella Peskett Hall, Southwold that they modify the resolutions made by them on 28 July 2014, to withdraw the delegation to the Joint Committee to act as an “Initial Strategic Board” and direct the Joint Committee to, in line with its terms of reference, arrange to consult professional advisers and stakeholders and advise WDC and STC on proposals for a Harbour Management Committee to succeed the Joint Committee and:
 - (i) enable short term governance improvements (including more local involvement and engagement in management and delivery) in line with the key principles in the June 2014 consultation document and the Ports Good Governance Guidance issued by the Department for Transport in March 2018; and
 - (ii) design proposals to deliver medium term improvements (which are likely to be made by application to the Marine Management Organisation for a Harbour Revision Order), addressing future ownership and providing for the long term welfare, sustainability, responsibility, liability and delivery of the Harbour Lands,
3. recommend that, when planning the short term improvements described in 2(i) above, the points set out in section 12 of the February Report should be taken into account, including places on the proposed Committee for member(s) of STC and other external appointees to represent local and other stakeholders.
4. recommend that, when designing the medium term improvements described in 2(ii) above, specific safeguards should, subject to legal advice and the requirements of stakeholders including the Department for Transport/Marine Management Organisation, be included:
 - (i) to protect surplus income from the Harbour and Harbour Lands, for the protection and benefit of the Harbour and Harbour Lands;
 - (ii) to preserve the Harbour Lands in the ownership of WDC and its successor local authority; and
 - (iii) to complement the short term governance improvements made in accordance with the resolutions above.
5. arrange to instruct professional advisers to advise on the appropriate constitution for a Harbour Management Committee as outlined above; and
6. make stakeholder engagement arrangements to consult community stakeholders and all other relevant stakeholders on the improvements outlined above.

Declarations of Interest / Conflicts of Interest	<p>Southwold Town Councillor I Bradbury declared Local Non Pecuniary Interests that he was the Secretary to the Blyth Estuary Partnership, the Southwold Town Council representative on the Southwold Harbour, a member of the River Blyth Users Association and the Southwold Haven Port Stakeholders Group.</p> <p>There were no declarations received from any Waveney District Councillors on the Joint Committee.</p>
---	--

Meeting Date	Wednesday, 6 March 2019
Call-In Period	Friday, 8 March 2019 to Thursday, 14 March 2019
Implementation Date (If no Call-In activated)	Friday, 15 March 2019

Councillor W Windell
Chairman of Southwold Harbour Lands Joint Committee

Councillor D Ritchie
Vice-Chairman of the Southwold Harbour Lands Joint Committee