

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Chichester Harbour Management Plan 2024-2025

1. Contacts

Report Author:

Tom Day – Environmental Strategy Manager
Telephone: 01243 534854 E-mail: tday@chichester.gov.uk

Cabinet Member:

Jonathan Brown – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environmental Strategy
Telephone: 01243 514034 E-mail: jbrown@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Cabinet recommend to Council that the Chichester Harbour Management Plan 2024-2025 is adopted.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 places a duty on Local Authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of a National Landscape (as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are now known). This duty has to-date been discharged by adopting the joint Management Plan for the Harbour AONB and implementing the actions within it that are relevant to our powers and responsibilities.
- 3.2 The CRoW Act also stipulates that AONB Management Plans are to be reviewed and revised every five years. However, the new guidance on National Landscape management plans was not ready in time for a new five year plan to be prepared and adopted by April 2024. DEFRA offered National Landscape authorities the option of a one-year “light touch” review of an existing plan in order to give time during 2024-25 to prepare a new five-year plan for 2025-2030. Chichester Harbour Conservancy as Joint Advisory Committee took up this option on behalf of the local authorities, and so the plan in Appendix 1 will run for one year only.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 The main outcome is to conserve and enhance Chichester Harbour National Landscape for residents and visitors to the District.
- 4.2 The action points listed under each policy heading will be subject to annual monitoring reports by CHC.

5. Proposal

5.1 Chichester Harbour Conservancy is the Joint Advisory Committee for the National Landscape and so leads on the production of the revised Management Plan on behalf of Hampshire, West Sussex, Havant and Chichester Councils.

5.2 As a light touch review the plan is essentially a continuation of the existing five year plan. The main changes are given below:

- The Actions have been refined to reflect the 12-month period of the Plan.
- Policy wording has been sharpened up in places, particularly taking account of the SSSI Condition Review of 2021.
- Policy 6 on Water Quality has been completely rewritten.
- The Foreword and Welcome notes have been replaced by a single Preface.
- The title of Policy 7 has changed from Catchment Sensitive Farming to Farming and Land Management. All other policy titles have stayed the same, as have the order of the policies.
- The description of the special qualities has been reproduced from the 2014-2019 Plan, rather than the summarised version in the 2019-2024 Plan.
- The Statutory Advisory Committee page better reflects the actual wording of the 1971 Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act.
- The Lists of Principal Partners, which were on the individual policies in the 2019-2024 Plan, are now merged to avoid duplication.

6. Alternatives Considered

6.1 The duty under the CRoW Act applies to all the local authorities within the National Landscape area. However not to have co-operated with the preparation of a joint plan would have undermined the management of the National Landscape and required considerable resource to draw up a separate plan just for Chichester District.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

7.1 The adoption of the plan fulfils an existing statutory duty on the Council. The 2019-2024 plan, that forms the basis of this revision, has been subject to the legal requirements of Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

7.2 Through co-ordination of effort and policy the Council has been able to support the delivery of actions contained in these plans through existing staff resources since 2005. The main staff resource implication will be over the next 12 months in drawing up and consulting on the new 2025-2030 Plan.

7.3 A small amount of officer time is also required to contribute to the annual monitoring reports.

8. Consultation

8.1 The one-year extension is not required to be consulted upon as it is, in large part a continuation of the existing plan, which was subject to public consultation. The

process of producing the next 5-year plan for 2025-2030 will include a public consultation.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 The implementation of the previous Management Plans has led to positive community benefits for residents, visitors and businesses. The main risk associated with the plan is non-delivery of the actions. The track record of delivery on previous plans indicates that this risk is low and can be managed through the annual review and monitoring process.

10. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing		X
Other (please specify) N/A		X

11. Appendix

- 11.1 Chichester Harbour Management Plan 2024-2025: A Partnership Programme for Chichester Harbour National Landscape and Trust Post.

12. Background Papers

None