



SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 23 February 2023

Subject	DRAFT SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR STUDY
Supporting Officer	Madeline Fallon Senior Coastal Advisor Madeline.fallon@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	N/A
Wards Affected:	Southwold

Purpose and high-level overview

Purpose of Report:

To provide members with the opportunity to comment on the Draft Southwold Harbour Study, including Dredging Assessment and Culvert Option Assessment.

Recommendation:

That having commented on their contents, the Harbour Management Committee note the Draft Southwold Harbour Study, Dredging Assessment and Culvert Option Assessment.

Impact Assessment

Governance:

The HMC is required to approve ongoing work related to the management and compliance of Southwold Harbour.

Environmental:

The HMC must act in the best interests of the port, which includes its ongoing sustainability and success. Environmental factors will be considered in the decisions which the HMC will make.

Equalities and Diversity:

No direct impact at this time.

Financial:

No direct impact at this time.

Legal:

No direct impact at this time.

Risk:

No direct impact at this time.

Harbour Business Plan Priorities

To be added when the plan is in place.

East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the themes of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal:		
T01	Growing our Economy	<input type="checkbox"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	East Suffolk Council (ESC) is responsible for the structures at the entrance to Southwold Harbour
1.2	The South Pier is in poor condition and at risk of collapse, and replacing it is expected to require substantial investment.
1.3	The North Wall within the harbour is not well used for mooring, which may be due to wave disturbance, possibly linked to the poor condition of the South Pier.
1.4	The Southwold Harbour Management Committee (HMC) aims to increase use of the harbour, which would benefit from improved conditions at the North Wall.
1.5	The harbour entrance and the estuary defences are mutually dependent, so the future management of the estuary defences and potential changes in the tidal prism need to be taken into account when considering what needs to be done to improve or replace the South Pier and other harbour structures.
1.6	If nothing was done to improve the condition of the South Pier, it is expected to collapse during a severe storm within the next 5 years. If the South Pier does not fail due to wave impact then failure from undermining (following erosion of the channel bed) might occur within 10 years.

2 Current position	
2.1	East Suffolk Council and Coastal Partnership East appointed Royal HaskoningDHV in September 2019 to develop the Southwold Harbour Investment Plan and to undertake the associated technical investigations.
2.2	Following discussions in March and September 2022, the Harbour Management Committee asked Royal HaskoningDHV to explore options for dredging with the aim of enabling increased mooring at the North Wall.

3. How to address current situation	
3.1	The attached reports present the findings of the Southwold Harbour Study and Investment Plan, advising on options to address the future function, operation, and survivability of the entrance to Southwold Harbour in the broader context of estuary management and the economic future of the harbour.

4. Reason/s for recommendation	
4.1	It is recommended that the HMC discuss the findings of the attached reports to and comment on their preferred options, considering input from the Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Appendices

Appendices:	
Appendix A	Draft Southwold Harbour Study
Appendix B	Culvert Option Assessment
Appendix C	Dredging Assessment

Background reference papers:	
None	