

# Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan Annual Review 2017-2018



*enjoying, protecting, enhancing*



## Chairman's Welcome

As the newly appointed Chairman of the Conservancy, I would like to take this opportunity of introducing both myself and the Annual Review for 2017/18.

I have lived and worked in this area for over 45 years. In that time I have always appreciated, whether walking, swimming or sailing, the magnificence of this wonderful Harbour and the AONB that encompasses it. I am therefore delighted to have this opportunity to play a small part in helping to protect and enhance this priceless asset for future generations.

I would particularly like to give thanks to my predecessor, Roger Price, who successfully led the Conservancy between 2015 and 2018. I would also like to welcome the new Vice Chairman of the Conservancy, Ann Briggs. I very much look forward to working with her, as well as with all the Conservancy Team.

As you will read over the following pages, during the past year an impressive amount of work was completed by the Conservancy and our partners. We are also working on the new 5-year Management Plan, which will set the strategic direction of travel. I would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation earlier this year. The next Management Plan will be adopted from 1 April 2019.

Meanwhile, the government are preparing for a new Environment Act in the coming years. As part of their background work, they are currently undertaking a widespread review of all our National Parks and AONBs. The Conservancy has already responded positively to this process and we will be inviting the review team to visit Chichester Harbour in 2019, so they can see for themselves the beauty of Chichester Harbour and the landscape that surrounds it.

**Jeremy Hunt**  
**Chairman**  
**Chichester Harbour Conservancy**

# A landscape for habitats and wildlife

## Fishbourne Meadows

- 11 cattle grazed Fishbourne Meadows.
- 729 Southern Marsh Orchids were recorded at in June 2017.

## Nutbourne Marshes

- 13 cattle grazed Nutbourne Marshes.
- 6 members of the Sussex Botanical Recording Society visited in June 2017, recording 126 species including the scarce *Carex divisa* divided sedge, suggesting that the grazing regime over the past 18 months is creating a more structurally diverse sward and is returning the site to a more botanically rich state.
- Cetti's Warbler, Reed Bunting, and Reed Warbler all bred in the reedbed alongside the stream. Winter rains flooded several pools on the site and encouragingly those areas supported small groups of Teal and up to 40 Snipe, during January and February.

## Ella Nore Spit

- Temporary electric fence installed to help nesting Terns.
- 3 nesting attempts by Little Terns.

## Stakes Island

- 12 pairs of Common Terns and 7 pairs of Little Terns attempted to nest. All nests were washed-out by high tides on at least two occasions between late May and late June.
- 24 pairs of Black-headed Gulls. Most were washed out by high tides, except for a handful of nests on the concrete culverts on South Stakes. 5 Black-headed Gulls successfully fledged.

## Thorney Island

- Surveyed for the endangered grass poly, *Lythrum hyssopifolium*, a plant of seasonally flooded arable margins or pasture. 514 plants were found, suggesting that this plant is thriving at this site, and the current management suits it well.



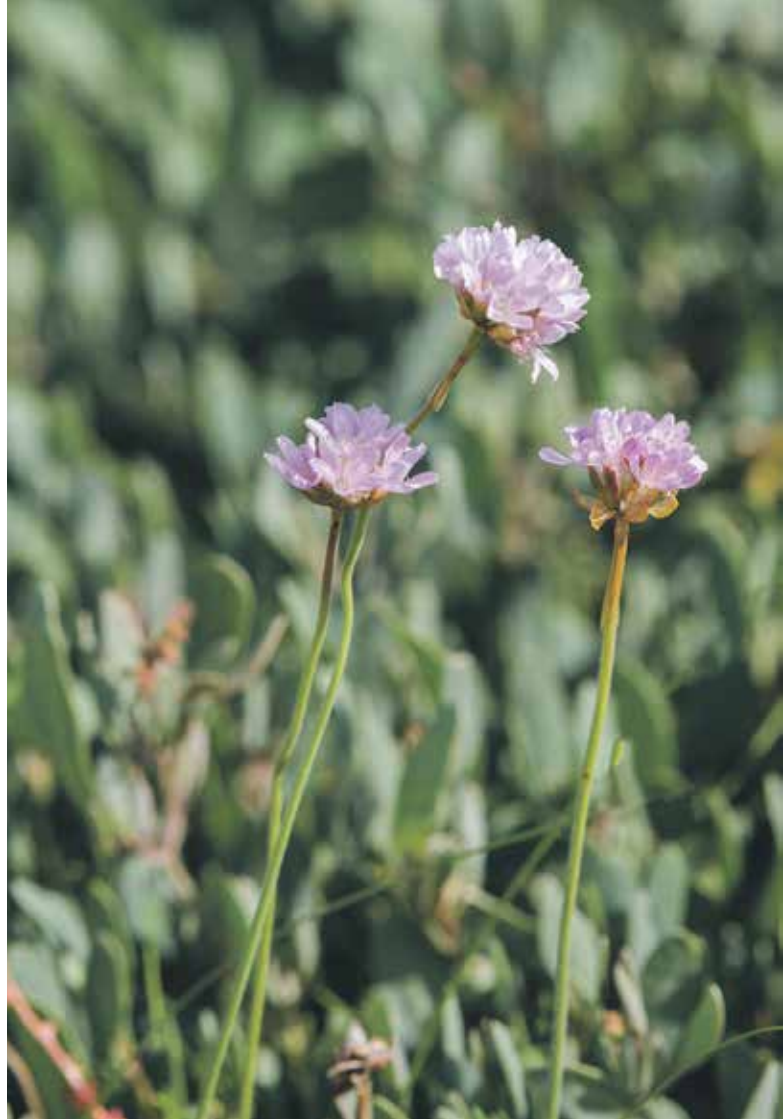
### Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)

- 24 volunteers were involved in the counts over the course of the year.
- Brent Geese appeared to have very low numbers of juveniles indicating a poor breeding season in 2017, which peaked at 10,224, the lowest figure over the last 5 years.
- Dunlin peaked at 12,960, the highest count for 4 years.
- Overall peak count of 35,857 birds in was February 2018, suggesting severe February weather held back spring migration for many species (most peak counts occur December or January).
- 15 volunteers carried out the low tide counts covering 60 sectors of intertidal mud and saltmarsh in Chichester Harbour.



### In the Water

- The Sussex IFCA fish survey caught 220 fish from 9 species, with Sand Smelt being the most abundant.
- 4 seal surveys revealed a minimum of 54 individuals present in August, made up of Common 'Harbour' Seals and Grey Seals.
- A volunteer is surveying levels of recreational disturbance at a Seal haul out site.





## SPA Wildfowl Species Peak Counts Between 2011/12-2017/18


Species	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 (peak month)	2016/17 (peak month)	July-March 2017/18 (peak month)	5 Year Average	Conservation Concern
Brent Goose (Dark-bellied)	10,309	10,867	11,206	16,446	14,260 (Jan)	13,058 (Dec)	10,224 (Feb)	13,038	
Shelduck	563	696	363	572	340 (Jan)	499 (Jan)	656 (Mar)	486	
Eurasian Widgeon	2,729	2,381	3,865	2,062	2,938 (Oct)	3,387 (Oct)	2,355 (Dec)	2,921	
Eurasian Teal	2,387	1,689	1,129	1,651	987 (Dec)	1,325 (Jan)	1,083 (Feb)	1,235	
Northern Pintail	283	193	220	296	117 (Mar)	128 (Dec)	246 (Dec)	201	
Red-breasted Merganser	217	154	267	222	76 (Dec)	97 (Jan)	103 (Jan)	153	

## SPA Wader Peak Counts Between 2011/2012 and 2017/18

Species	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 (peak month)	2016/17 (peak month)	2017/18 (peak month)	5 Year Average	Conservation Concern
Ringed Plover	424	750	512	751	254 (Jan)	209 (Nov)	271 (Aug)	399	
Grey Plover	1,463	1,450	1,222	1,536	1,667 (Jan)	1,443 (Nov)	1354 (Dec)	1,444	
Sanderling	450	350	606	404	148 (Apr)	106 (Dec)	110 (Dec)	145	
Dunlin	15,474	12,099	14,799	8,821	9,853 (Dec)	12,830 (Jan)	12,960 (Jan)	11,852	
Black-tailed Godwit	821	401	606	594	807 (Dec)	698 (Nov & Dec)	512 (Dec)	643	
Bar-tailed Godwit	620	903	1,159	328	760 (Jan)	721 (Dec)	609 (Feb)	715	
Curlew	1,857	1,557	1,960	1,391	1,125 (Jan)	1,372	1,594 (Nov)	1,488	
Redshank	2,137	1,790	1,953	2,139	1,649 (Oct)	1,595	1,491 (Nov)	1,765	
Greenshank	99	97	99	96	101 (Aug)	84 (Aug)	70 (Aug)	90	
Little Egret	205	141	252	259	132 (Sept)	146 (Sept & Oct)	216 (Oct)	201	

 Globally threatened,  
population in severe decline

 Unfavourable but  
signs of recovery

 Least critical group, but still  
needs to be maintained

# A landscape for leisure and recreation

## The Role of the Harbour Authority

- The Conservancy is committed to meeting the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC).
- Members of the Conservancy are nominated as the Duty Holder, and an auditable Safety Management System is maintained.
- An explanation as to how plans and policies are delivered is detailed in the Conservancy's annual Safety Plan Safety Management System document. A comprehensive review of Harbour Office Standing Instructions (HOSIs) was completed in 2017/18 incorporating a major re-ordering and a revised document control procedure.
- The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) currently monitor compliance with the PMSC by seeking a statement of compliance from the Duty Holder of each Harbour Authority every three years. This requirement was completed and sent to the MCA in January 2018.

## Incidents

- 229 incidents in 2017, compared to 322 in 2009.
- 21 byelaw infringements, mostly for speeding offences:
  - 1 prosecution with a guilty plea.
  - 7 letters of censure were issued.
  - 13 verbal warnings.
  - New Warning Tickets introduced.
  - New speeding education leaflet published.
  - All speed signage around the Harbour reviewed.
- 5 reports of collisions and near misses between moving vessels.
- 22 reports of collisions with moored vessels or navigation aids, of which 7 were incidents of damage to moored vessels that occurred without the other party being identified or leaving identification.
- 29 vessels ran aground.



- There were no reported incidents of tenders capsized leaving persons in the water during 2017. The Conservancy's campaign aims to encourage the safe use of tenders and is helping to improve practice.
- In September 2017 a Drascombe Longboat returning from Cowes was overpowered on the Chichester Bar causing it to broach and then founder on Hayling Beach. The three occupants who were picked up by the RNLI were shaken but otherwise unharmed.
- One incident within Chichester Harbour required reporting to the Marine Accident and Investigation Branch (MAIB) during 2017/18. This was a small fire restricted to a tyre used as a fender on a commercial tug working on the dredge of Emsworth Yacht Harbour.
- Email alerts:
  - 31 Weekend Navigation Bulletins
  - 17 Local Notices to Mariners
  - Around 5,000 people received these email alerts, with 1,125 people clicking on the links to read more about the safety messages.

### Enforcement

- The Conservancy adopted a public facing enforcement policy in January 2018.
- There was one prosecution for breach of Byelaw 5, speed of vessels. Seven letters of Censure were sent for speeding.

### Hydrography

- The Chichester Bar and approach channel, and the channel from Black Point to Sandhead, were surveyed on 31 May 2017. Details of shoaling were promulgated in the Local Notice to Mariners and surveys made available on the Conservancy's website.

### Admiralty Charts

- Bathymetric surveys and the Local Notice to Mariners were passed to the Hydrographic Office. The latest edition of chart 3418 Langstone and Chichester Harbours (Edition No. 10) was released by the UKHO 27 November 2014.

### Prevailing Conditions

- The Conservancy has continued to provide access to weather forecasts on its website and notice boards, and real time weather information through Chimet and Cambermet.

### Aids to Navigation

- The navigational risk assessment was reviewed and revised January 2018. Trinity House, the General Lighthouse Authority, inspected the aids to navigation 7 June 2017 and found them to be in good and efficient order. There were faults with 3 third party aids that have all been rectified. The last audit of the navigational Safety Management System was conducted 17 October 2017 when it was concluded,

*“All was found to be in good order with the management of aids to navigation effectively achieved by a competent team supported by comprehensive written instructions.”*

- North Pilsley buoy was lighted following recommendation from the 5-yearly review of aids to navigation.

### Local Lighthouse Authority

- On the 3-yearly rolling assessment of the availability of aids to navigation set by the General Lighthouse Authority the Conservancy's performance was:  
Category 2: 100.00%  
Category 3: 99.92%

### Anchorage

- The use of anchorages continues to be kept under close review. Snowhill and East Head Spit buoys remain appropriately sited for current levels of activity at East Head. Two unlighted starboard floating withies along the chart datum contour within the East Head anchorage to give a visual indication of the shallow areas were deployed in 2015 and continue to serve a useful purpose. These floating withies were upgraded to more substantial buoys in 2017, as was the starboard hand buoy opposite Hayling Island Sailing Club.

### Works and Dredging Licenses

- The Conservancy considered 9 applications for Works Licences last year:
  - 8 applications were approved.
  - 1 application was refused.

### Environmental Duty

- Chichester Harbour's Port Waste Management Plan (PWMP) is endorsed by the MCA and was valid until April 2018. The MCA undertook a PWMP inspection 20 February 2017. The Inspector concluded he was:

*"...impressed by (the Conservancy's) proactive nature in dealing with your customer's waste requirements and complying with the spirit of the legislation in reducing the instances of marine pollution from waste disposal at sea."*





### Prevention of Pollution

- Issue 4 of the Conservancy's Oil Spill Response Plan was approved by the MCA in December 2016 and is valid until November 2021. There were 6 reported pollution incidents within the Harbour during 2017/18 with one at Northney Marina requiring specialist contractors. The Conservancy has a Tier 2 contract in place with Adler and Allan. A Tier 1 exercise was conducted in December 2017.

### Licensing of Passenger Vessels and Masters of Passenger Vessels

- 17 vessels were issued licenses under Conservancy's passenger boat licensing scheme.
- 140 trips took place on *Solar Heritage*, which operated all year round.
- 57 trips on *Oyster Boat Terror*, which operated during the spring and summer. She is managed by the Friends of Chichester Harbour, sailing from Emsworth Yacht Harbour.

### Moorings

- The Conservancy took on the maintenance obligation for Manor of Bosham moorings and these moorings now meet the required standard. Conservancy moorings continue to be maintained in accordance with the maintenance schedule.

### Communications

- A new Communications Strategy was produced and adopted in July 2017.
- 30,000 copies of Harbour News & Guide were published.
- 24,000 copies of the Walks, Events & Activities 2018 booklet were published.
- Monthly editions of Harbour CHIRP (the AONB newsletter) and What's On (the activities guide) were published and emailed to around 3,200 people.
- The Conservancy published a new look website in March 2018.

### Activities

- Activities help to engage people with Chichester Harbour and the AONB. In total, 2,781 adults and 648 children took part in our annual activities programme:
  - 38 guided walks
  - 8 family events
  - 6 photography/art workshops
  - 15 community talks



## Incident Summary 2017 (up to 1st December)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Vessels aground</b>					
Sail	20	14	20	21	16
Motor	2	4	7	9	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Cause</b>					
<i>Navigation error</i>	24	22	22	10	20
<i>Mechanical failure</i>	5	6	5	8	2
<i>Furling failure</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Dragged anchor</i>	0	2	0	0	0
<b>Collisions with moored vessels or navigational aids</b>					
Sail	9	8	6	7	17
Motor	1	5	7	8	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Collisions / near miss with moving vessels</b>					
Sail & sail	1	6	7	0	0
Sail & motor	3	4	2	3	3
Motor & motor	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Vessels adrift</b>					
Sail & motor	27	23	30	20	21
<b>Cause</b>					
<i>Mooring failure</i>	25	17	14	8	14
<i>Motor stop failure</i>	1	4	14	11	2
<i>Deck failure / dragged anchor</i>	1	2	2	1	5

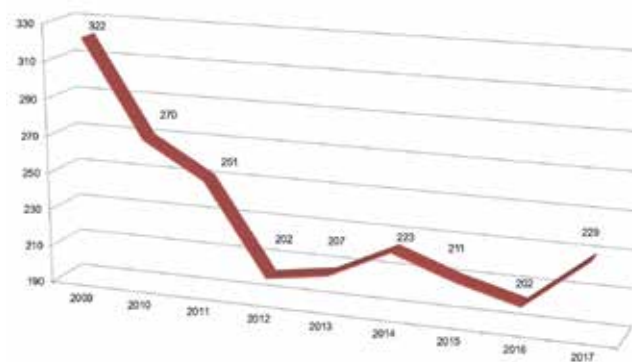
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Vessels requiring tow</b>					
Sail	22	15	11	19	12
Motor	12	19	23	15	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Cause</b>					
<i>Mechanical failure</i>	31	26	31	24	23
<i>Out of fuel</i>	0	3	0	1	2
<i>Fouled prop</i>	3	2	2	4	0
<i>Lost engine</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Taking on water</i>	0	0	0	3	0
<i>Weather</i>	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Dismasted</i>	0	1	1	0	1
<b>Complaints and other notable incidents</b>					
3rd party injuries	1	3	3	3	4
Pollution	0	2	1	2	6
Byelaw infringement - wash	1	7	1	0	1
Byelaw infringement - speeding & prosecutions	12	24	20	13	21
Byelaw infringement - other	2	3	7	4	1
Taking on water / sunk on mooring	22	11	5	9	11
Dinghy rescue - independent	5	6	15	11	4
Racing complaints	1	1	4	1	0
Dinghy rescue - club racing	4	1	5	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Miscellaneous and others</b>					
	63	68	37	52	78
<b>Incident Totals</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>229</b>

## Highlighted events and trends

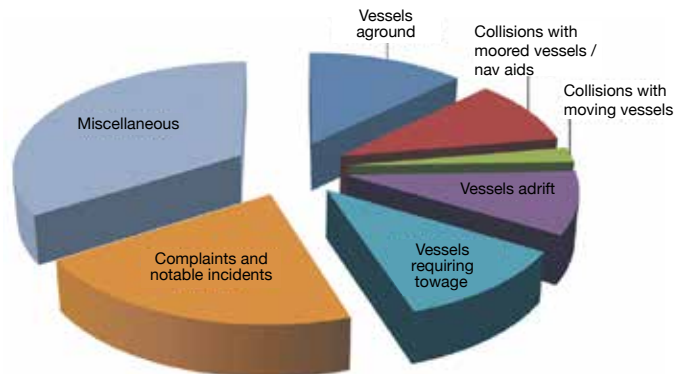
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fatalities	0	0	0	1	0
Racing collisions / near miss	2	4	5	2	2
Man overboard / tenders	6	4	2	4	0
International 14s / fast asymmetrics	0	1	0	0	0
International Moths	0	0	1	0	0
Alcohol related	0	0	0	0	2
Poor seamanship	0	2	0	0	2
Rude/abusive behaviour	0	4	3	8	2



## Number of incidents per year, 2009-2017



## Types of incident in 2017



# A landscape for communities and business

## Friends of Chichester Harbour

- 39 Friends of Chichester Harbour conservation work parties, with an average attendance of 19 people. They collectively worked over 744 hours of volunteer time.
- The Harbour Watch volunteers collected 38 bags of litter.
- The Conservancy planted 1,272 trees.
- The Friends of Chichester Harbour provided an AONB Project Grant to Chichester Harbour Conservancy. This was derived from membership fees. The funding helped to pay for Phase 2 of the refurbishment of the Education Centre, Junior Conservancy, outreach sessions with local schools and the *Get Afloat!* project. Interpretation panels at Beaky's Wildlife Area near Dell Quay were replaced. New boardwalks were installed at Fishbourne Meadows. The Cobnor Footpath upgrade project (Footpath 227) was funded in 2017/18 and implemented this year.

## Historic Environment

- The Chichester Harbour Heritage Partnership met on two occasions. A significant archaeological find was the Warblington Cist, which went on display at Emsworth Museum. The Partnership discussed the annual excavation at Warblington Roman Villa, the work of the Chichester and District Archaeology Society, the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network (CITiZAN), the Fishing Industry Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (FiPAD) and the use of the use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) REMOTE sensing.

## Planning

- 301 recommendations to the Local Planning Authorities. The accordance rate was 91%, which indicates most recommendations made were accepted.
- A new Joint Chichester Harbour AONB Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted by Havant Borough Council on 19 July 2017 and Chichester District Council on 20 July 2017. This replaced the 'Design Guidelines for New Dwellings and Extensions' document.



- The Conservancy's 18 Planning Principles were revised in July 2017. As well as several minor corrections, the list of cross-referenced documents and policies was updated. No new Principles were introduced.

### Education

- Phase 2 of the refurbishment of the Education Centre was completed thanks to generous grants from the Friends of Chichester Harbour and the Woodger Trust.
- The Education Service hosted 10,393 sessions, where one session is one half-day learning experience per person. There was a total of 7,054 beneficiaries:
  - 5,524 primary and secondary age children
  - 339 children with special educational needs
  - 1,191 adults
- Chichester Harbour Education Centre also hosted 215 individual events, working with 100 different organisations, including schools, adult community groups and other organisations.

### Reports

- The National Association of AONBs commissioned a report into the activities of charities bodies supporting AONB Partnerships. The report was undertaken by Rural Focus and published in May 2017. The report found that charitable bodies support AONB Partnerships by campaigning on their behalf, involving local people, raising funds and volunteering and managing sites. The report is available from the Conservancy.
- The State of the AONB Report is published at 5-year intervals to capture the latest facts and figures about Chichester Harbour, which then informs the management planning process. The 2018 report was researched by Land Use Consultants (LUC) and is available on the Conservancy's website.



# Working in Partnership

The Conservancy attended the following partnership meetings:

Arun & Rother Rivers Trust

Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership

Bird Aware Solent

British Ports Association Environmental Group

British Ports Association Regional Ports Group

Chichester Harbour Crime Forum

Chichester Harbour Federation

Chichester Harbour Heritage Partnership

Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative (CHOPi)

Chichester Harbour Trust

Chichester Harbour Water Quality Group

East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group

Friends of Chichester Harbour Executive Committee

Friends of Maybush Copse

LEADER Local Action Group

Manhood Peninsula Partnership

Marina Managers Meeting

National Association of AONBs

Oyster Boat Terror Operating Committee

Solent & Southern Harbour Masters Association

Solent European Marine Sites

Solent Forum

South Downs National Park Education Providers' Forum

South East of England Protected Landscapes Planning Group

South East of England Protected Landscapes Leadership Group

Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline (SCOPAC)

Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum

Thorney Island Conservation Group

UK Harbour Masters Association



# Financial Summary

The financial summary provides a general overview of the year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Income		
Moorings from Harbour Users	£720,383	35%
Harbour dues from Harbour Users	£372,798	18%
Precept from Hampshire County Council	£188,600	9%
Precept from West Sussex County Council	£188,600	9%
AONB Grant from Defra	£143,874	7%
AONB Project Grant from the Friends of Chichester Harbour	£35,326	2%
Chargeable Activities	£54,975	3%
Miscellaneous*	£368,994	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,073,549</b>	<b>100%</b>

The rates for moorings and harbour dues are established in association with the Chichester Harbour Federation, to help ensure they are in-keeping with similar rates across the south coast. Income from moorings and harbour dues is solely used to run the Harbour Authority.

The precepts from Hampshire County Council and West Sussex County Council, the AONB Grant from Defra, and the AONB Project Grant from the Friends of Chichester Harbour are specifically used to help to fund the work of the AONB Unit that looks after the environment of Chichester Harbour.

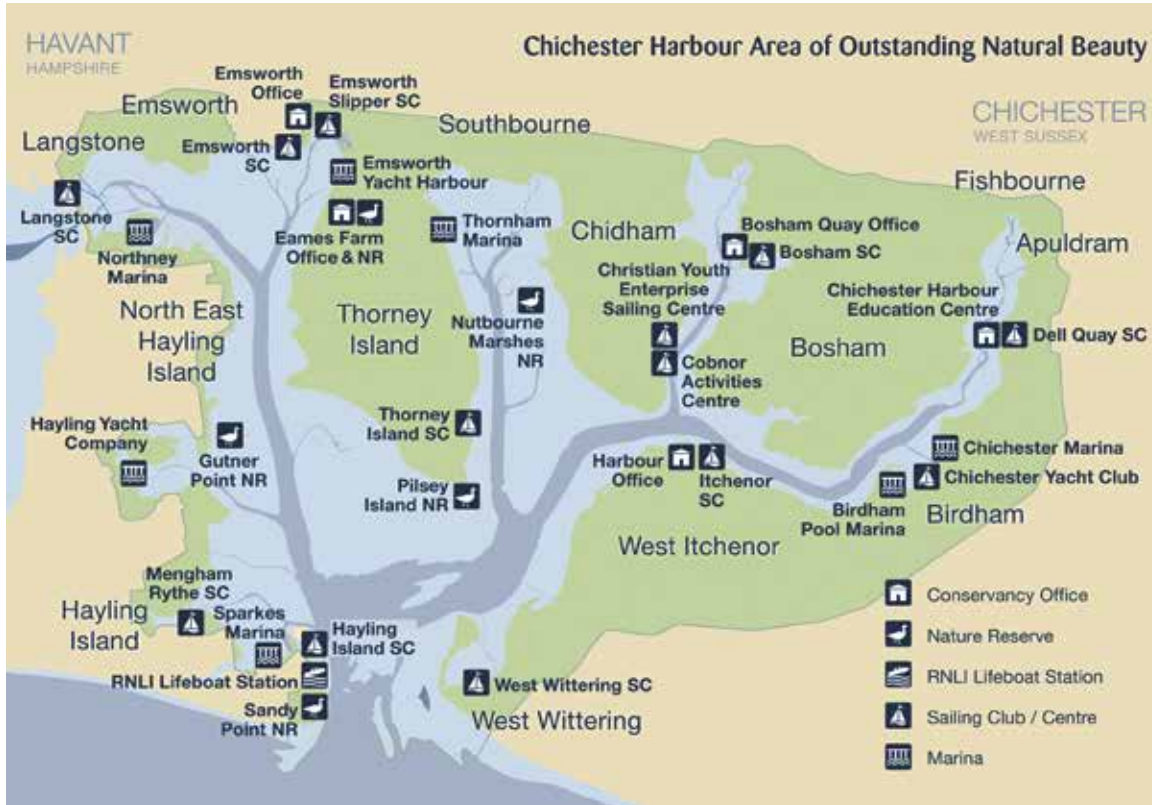
\* Other harbour charges, boat park income, harbour rents, works licences, legal charges, rural payments, car park, investment income, other income.

Expenditure		
Staff costs	£957,871	46%
Estates	£349,480	17%
Administration	£55,763	3%
Professional Services	£60,088	3%
Transport	£71,194	3%
Projects	£52,682	3%
Contribution to Reserves	£319,725	15%
Miscellaneous**	£206,746	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,073,549</b>	<b>100%</b>

Contributions to Reserves includes:

- £120,000 surplus generated by Harbour activities added to the Harbour Development Fund.
- £68,000 AONB funds set-aside for 2018/19 the replacement of Thornham Point Bridge (now completed), a footpath upgrade project at Cobnor (now completed) and external works to the Education Centre (underway).
- £84,400 transferred to the Repairs and Renewals Fund.
- £48,000 transferred to Infrastructure and Office Upgrades reserves to deliver identified Harbour funded projects in 2018-19.

\*\* Moorings maintenance, bank charges, tools, repairs, insurance and contingency.



Straddling the boundary between Hampshire and West Sussex, Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated in 1964. Chichester Harbour Conservancy, established in 1971, is unique in that it is the only Statutory Harbour Authority with responsibility for managing an AONB.

Chichester Harbour is one of England's most beautiful and cherished landscapes with valuable wildlife habitats and iconic archaeological and historical sites. It is quite rightly regarded as a treasured national resource.



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Hampshire County Council



Havant BOROUGH COUNCIL



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