

Chief Executive Chichester Harbour

£66,606 - £71,188 dependent on experience

30 days annual leave (plus bank holidays)

Full-time (37 hours per week) permanent position

Are you a leader who can inspire, motivate, and engage people to deliver a thriving and sustainable Harbour environment?

Chichester Harbour is a landscape of national and international importance and its Conservancy a unique organisation in England, including within its remit the role of Statutory Harbour Authority for Chichester Harbour as well responsibility for managing Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and duties to facilitate recreation and conserve nature.

We employ around 25 permanent staff, with a similar number of people on casual or seasonal contracts. Activity in the Harbour is largely recreational with around 9,000 vessels over 3 metres in length, 3,200 swinging moorings, 2,000 berths in six marinas and 14 sailing clubs based here.

The successful postholder will play a central role in the Conservancy achieving Nature Recovery/Net Zero by 2030, tackling the complexities and challenges we face now and will do in the future. You will be building on the successes gained to date and help realise the Government's goal to "improve the environment, within a generation, and leave it in a better state than we found it".

The planned retirement of the chief officer and promotion, out of the organisation, of the head of the Harbour Team has given scope to restructure the senior Team. The Conservancy is now seeking to appoint a Chief Executive who can make a real difference.

Bringing significant successful leadership and direct management experience of a diverse team, you will provide strong and inspirational leadership, managing the effective performance of the Conservancy through the oversight and management of its resources, including buildings, vessels, and vehicles, the effective management of the budget and financial arrangements, and line management of the senior leadership team, including the Harbour Master and AONB Manager.

You will have experience in developing, planning, and implementing business strategies and policies, being able to develop and translate strategy into operational delivery and to prioritise the management of the Conservancy and AONB, ensuring timely delivery with the effective use of resources.

With overall accountability for the conservancy, maintenance, and improvement of the harbour for the use of pleasure craft and other vessels, and the Amenity Area for leisure recreation, and the conservation of nature, you will be passionate about the environment and have experience in landscape, environmental or countryside management. It is desirable that you have sea-going experience or familiarity with small boats.

As this role reports to a committee of stakeholders and interests, you will have experience of working effectively with governing boards and committees, or in a political field. You will work closely with the Clerk to the Conservancy on policies and procedures relating to constitutional and members services for the effective governance of the Conservancy and its legal obligations, ensuring the Conservancy is up to date and compliant with all relevant legislation.

Discharging the statutory functions of the Harbour and its AONB (being accountable for the position of the Conservancy as the statutory harbour authority for Chichester Harbour), you will be responsible for the protection and enhancement of the designated landscape and nature conservation features, the position of the Conservancy as the Joint Advisory Committee for the AONB and its role in the production of the five-year Chichester Harbour Management Plan.

A key part of this role is developing and establishing strong working relationships with committee members and key stakeholders in the business and voluntary sectors, including Local Authorities, Natural England, the Environment Agency, and local community groups, through attendance at events and meetings. With excellent communication and public speaking skills, and highly effective interpersonal and collaboration skills, you will have experience of working with and motivating a wide range of communities, partnerships, and stakeholders to deliver innovative landscape, environmental management, or access management projects or similar.

You will be able to demonstrate a strong interest in the marine environment and be able to engage with the harbourside community, finding a harmonious ethos for the co-existence of recreational activities and environmental protection.

You will have experience of successfully securing funds and resources and have demonstrable experience in effective budgetary control. Given the nature of our work, you will be able to work flexible hours, routinely working out of hours on an on-call basis to meet the Conservancy's needs as and when required.

Essential Knowledge:

- performance management
- environmental legislation
- the Port Marine Safety Code (the postholder will be required to take this course if not already completed)
- Health and Safety legislation

Qualification and Professional Membership:

- Degree or equivalent in a relevant field e.g., business management, environmental-management, finance, or law

Other Information:

- This post will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check

How to Apply

If you are an inspirational leader and passionate about the environment, please email your CV to SBTSinfo@hrdept.co.uk, and we will be in direct contact.

Closing date

5pm Tuesday 31st January