

From East Suffolk Council 15th March 2019

A brighter future for Southwold Harbour was secured today, following a historic agreement by Waveney District Council and Southwold Town Council, supported by local harbour users.

At a meeting chaired by Cllr Mark Bee, the Leader of Waveney District Council and Michael Rowan-Robinson of Southwold Town Council, it was agreed that a new strategic body called the Harbour Management Committee will oversee harbour operation, bringing expertise and experience to the management of the port.

It will ensure there is more local involvement and engagement in the management and delivery of harbour operations and safeguard its future. The Committee will consist of a group of Councillors and experts committed to securing long-term investment, while also reinforcing transparency and local involvement.

A spokesperson for Waveney District Council said: "Following a thorough and detailed consultation with local people, we are delighted that a decision has been reached that addressed the concerns of various stakeholders while also safeguarding the future of the harbour.

"Investment in the harbour can now take place with confidence and in the knowledge that local people will play a role in a bright future for the town and the site."

In December, the Joint Committee agreed that it wishes to revisit resolutions made in March 2015 to create a charitable company to manage the Southwold Harbour Lands as it believes these resolutions were no longer appropriate.

The new 'Harbour Management Committee' for the Southwold Harbour Lands will provide a sustainable model which will:

- Meet all of the 'Key Principles' outlined in the 2014 'Southwold Harbour Lands Consultation' document
- Enable 'local influence' by inclusion of varied stakeholder groups, including Southwold Town Council and Waveney District Council
- Provide an opportunity to include appropriate skillsets for the effective management of the Southwold Harbour Lands
- Provide an effective management structure to implement the PGGG and consider future governance and legislative options
- Satisfy the economic security and level of control required by Waveney District Council for future investment

Work will now get under way to begin the process of establishing the committee agreeing its governance and making appointments in the best interest of the Harbour. This work will be carried out jointly between Waveney District Council and Southwold Town Council and we will be engaging with the public and stakeholders during this next crucial stage in the process.