

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

06 MARCH 2025

Present

Prof Mike Elliott (Chair)
Cllr David Chance (Vice Chair)
Mr Graham Collins
Cllr Neil Swannick
Rachel Hanbury

Representing

MMO Appointee
North Yorkshire Council
MMO Appointee
North Yorkshire Council
MMO Appointee

Lisa Nicholson (acting Clerk), East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Treasurer David Kirvan, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, David McCandless, NEIFCA Chief Officer and Mr Robert Latimer also attended the meeting.

The meeting took place in County Hall, Beverley, the meeting commenced at 9.30am.

01.	APOLOGIES
	Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Norman and Creevy.
02.	PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION MR R LATIMER – WHITBURN – SEWAGE DISCHARGING COASTAL WATERS
	Detailed presentation to members given by Mr Latimer on the subject of sewage discharge in the NEIFCA district. Detailed discussions held with members on the logistical issues of reporting and accountability within the government agencies and how NEIFCA can help going forward.
	Resolved – Members note the presentation.
03.	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS
	Resolved – The Chair asked Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests with respect to items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests. No such interests were declared.
04.	TO TAKE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 05 SEPTEMBER 2024 AS A CORRECT RECORD
	Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 05 September 2024 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
05.	NEIFCA ANNUAL PLAN 2025/2026
	The Chief Officer, David McCandless presented a report for members to review the Annual Plan for the year 2025/2026. Key areas of work for the year ahead included in the plan included managing the final stages of the build and commission of the new main fisheries vessel and

	supporting the confirmation and implementation of the new Shellfish Permit, Humber Estuary Fishing and Beam Trawling byelaw regulations.
	Resolved – The annual plan for 2025/2026 was reviewed.
06.	BUDGET REPORT 2024/2025
	The Treasurer presented a report to advise Members of the budget position at the end of month 10 (December) 2024/2025. At the end of December 2024, the Authority has net expenditure of £725,505 against an expected £1,042,254 underspending by £316,749. The forecast outturn underspend is £1,274,436. The majority of the underspend is as a consequence of the patrol vessel replacement project and one-off receipts from sale of the patrol vessel, planned delays in recruitment to vacant posts in the offshore team and temporarily increased bank interest receipts.
	Resolved – (a) That the budget monitoring position is noted. (b) That the £850,000 underspend relating to the sale of the North East Guardian III patrol vessel is transferred to the Renewals Fund as outlined in paragraph 2.3. (c) That the £220,000 underspend relating to Defra ‘grant in aid’ is transferred to the Renewals Fund. (d) That the balance of any remaining underspend at outturn be transferred to the Renewals Fund.
07.	REVENUE BUDGET 2025/2026
	The Treasurer presented a report to provide members with a detailed operational budget for 2025/2026. At its meeting on 5 December 2024, the Authority set the levy for the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority at £1,712,499 for 2025/26. The 11.5% levy increase approved at the Authority Meeting on 5 December 2024 has been incorporated into the budget, along with increases to reflect the new annual finance lease with East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the build and commission of a new Fisheries Patrol/Research vessel. The proposed budget also includes provision for a 2025/26 pay award and the increase in Employers National Insurance contributions on employee budgets. The proposal includes a budget for £30,500 Standby Duty payments as approved as the Executive Meeting on 5 September 2024, funded through a combination of supplies & services savings, reallocation of existing overtime budgets and £14,150 income from the new Commercial and Recreational Shellfish permitting scheme. In addition, a review of individual budget lines has been undertaken and a number of minor changes made to ensure they are set at an appropriate level within the existing budget.
	Resolved – a) That the draft budget for 2025/26 is approved. b) That the level of general reserves is maintained at £228,450 (13%) of the annual levy.
08.	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC
	That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minutes 09) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
	Resolved – That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (minutes 09)

10.	RISK MANANGEMENT STRATEGY & STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER REVIEWS
	<p>The Chief Officer presented a report to inform members that in accordance with the Authority's Risk Management Strategy, a six monthly review of the Strategic and Operational Risk Registers has been undertaken and is reported for information.</p> <p>A number of the risks identified during the last review in September 2024 have now reduced, particularly those relating to the sale of North Eastern Guardian III, which was formally completed on 17 February 2025, the expected delivery of the new vessel, recruitment and funding.</p>
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
11.	HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY & SAFE WORKING PRACTICES 2025/2026 - REVIEW
	<p>Chief Officer David McCandless advised members of the completion of the six monthly review of the Authority's Health & Safety provisions. Since the last review reported to the Executive Committee on 5th September 2024 there had been no notable incidents or accidents to report to members</p>
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
12.	NEIFCA BYELAWS UPDATE
	<p>Chief Officer David McCandless presented a report on the current status of the 3 new byelaws in process at the moment with the summary for each being:</p> <p>Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 Currently in MMO Quality Assurance stage 4 as of 19 December 2024. Projected to be confirmed May 2025.</p> <p>Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2022 Currently awaiting submission to final stage MMO Quality Assurance as of 27 January 2025. Projected to be confirmed April 2025.</p> <p>Beam Trawling Byelaw 2024 Currently with Defra awaiting formal confirmation by the Minister as of 6 January 2025. Projected to be confirmed March 2025.</p>
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
13.	CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL UPDATE
	<p>Chief Officer David McCandless provided members with an operational update covering the period December 2024 to February 2025. The main items being the sale of NEG III and the status of the build of the new patrol vessel along with the recruitment process for the current vacancies which have been held due to the new vessel build.</p> <p>Members also discussed the DEFRA IFCA report in detail.</p>
	Resolved - Members noted the report.
14.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	Nothing to report.
	The meeting closed at 12:20pm