

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2020

Present:

Councillor Ron Allcock
 Dr Stephen Axford
 Councillor Edward Bell
 Councillor David Chance
 Councillor John Copsey
 Mr Graham Collins
 Mrs Kirsten Carter
 Prof Mike Elliott
 Andrew Earle
 Councillor Stephen Harness
 Miss Rebecca Lynam
 Councillor Chris Matthews (Chair)
 Mr Mike Montgomerie
 Miss Donna Marie Mear
 Councillor Tony Randerson
 Councillor Paul Stewart
 Mr Jon Whitton
 Mr Andy Wheeler

Representing:

North Lincolnshire Council
 MMO appointee
 Durham County Council
 North Yorkshire County Council
 East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 MMO representative
 North East Lincolnshire Council
 MMO appointee
 East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 North Yorkshire County Council
 Sunderland City Council
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee

Mrs Caroline Lacey, Clerk, Mr David McCandless, Chief Officer, Mr Stephen Chandler, Treasurer also attended the meeting.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via video teleconference. The meeting started at 09:30am.

46.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	Apologies of absence were received from MMO members Houghton, Redshaw and Mr P Slater, Environment Agency.
47.	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS
	Resolved –The Clerk asked Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests. Councillor Matthews and Councillor Copsey declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to Agenda Item 15.
48.	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND STAFF MEMBERS
	That the public and Staff members be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minutes 49) 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 and staff members be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (minutes 49).

49.	NEIFCA ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION
	The Clerk submitted a report detailing the work completed to date on the staffing and organisational review which included all of the responses received during the consultation period. Members were informed that the main concerns expressed by all staff members centred around three main points, the removal of the 7.5% unsocial allowance, the starting spinal point each officer had been placed on and the pay allowance for the Deputy Chief Officer role. Members questioned what impact Brexit would have on the demands and expectations placed on the Officers and the potential for greater unsocial working hours.
	Resolved – (a) The recommendations made by the Executive Committee on the Internal Organisational Review to be adopted with no change. (b) A review of the changes implemented to be undertaken in June 2022.
50.	MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2020
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 18 September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
51.	MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUSARY 2020
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 5 February 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
52.	MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2020
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 16 April 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
53.	MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2020
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 21 July 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
54.	MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2020
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 2 September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
55.	MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2020
	Resolved – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 12 November 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

56.	LEVY 2021/2022
	<p>The Treasurer presented a report to determine the levy on member local authorities for 2021/22 and to highlight issues relating to the setting of the levy for 2022/23 and 2023/24. At its meeting on 6 December 2019, the Authority set a levy totalling £1,285,536, for 2018/19 and 2019/20, increases were agreed covering the cost of pay increases, however in 2020/21 an increase of 5% was agreed to fund both the annual pay increase (2.75%) and to support the staffing and organisational review. Indicative increases of 5% for 2021/22 and 2022/23 were proposed but not agreed. The COVID-19 pandemic had placed even more pressure on local authority budgets therefore a 5% increase was now considered unrealistic.</p> <p>The staffing and organisational review was expected to be fully completed by 31 January 2021 and would be funded from the additional budget provision approved in the 2020/21 Levy along with £20,000 base budget savings, with the balance of £11,754 to be funded from the General Reserve. An increase in the Levy for 2021/2022 was not considered necessary due to the pause in the increase in public sector pay. The levy proposed for 2021/22 was held at £1,285,536 although a further option of a 1% increase to £1,298,392 was put to members to eliminate the need to draw from the General Reserve. Indicative increases in the Levy of a minimum of 2% to cover the cost of increases in pay was proposed in 2022/23 and 2023/24.</p>
	<p>Resolved – (a) That the levy for 2021/22 be set at £1,298,392 (1% increase on the 2020/21 rate) and the Clerk be authorised to issue demands on the relevant local authorities as presented at Appendix A.</p> <p>(b) That the Authority acknowledges the issues affecting NEIFCA and their effect upon the levy for 2022/23 and 2023/24, which is anticipated to be a minimum of a 2% increase each year.</p> <p>(c) That a detailed budget for 2021/22 be brought to the Authority for approval at the Executive meeting in March 2021.</p>
57.	STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER REVIEW
	<p>In accordance with the Risk Management Strategy a 6 monthly review had been undertaken. The Clerk and Chief Officer presented the revised Strategy to Members for their consideration and approval. The ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly relating to operational risk remained very much at the forefront of assessed operational risk alongside more strategic risks associated with staffing vacancies, funding for a replacement patrol vessel, pending decisions surrounding the 2019 Organisational Review and the end of the EU exit transition period.</p>
	<p>Resolved – That the revised Strategic and Operational Risk Register be reviewed in six months’ time.</p>
58.	NEIFCA HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY & SAFE WORKING PRACTICES 2020/2021
	<p>The Chief Officer provided a report to inform members of the completion of the 6 monthly review of the Authority’s Health & Safety provisions. The Chief Officer reported that policy and provisions were reviewed continuously throughout the year at NEIFCA staffing and Senior Management Team meetings, since the last review in</p>

	<p>April 2020 there have been no notable incidents or accidents to report whilst staff have been working and as part of this standard six-monthly review all the standard Safe Operational Working Practices and supporting risk assessments have been fully reviewed and updated. Over and above the standard operational risk assessments and associated safe working practices, NEIFCA officers had continued to respond rapidly to the unprecedented impacts and risks associated with the global Covid-19 pandemic to ensure the protection and well-being of all staff and compliance with all current governmental advice.</p>
	Resolved – Members noted the report.
59.	CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL REPORT
	<p>The Chief Officer presented a report to provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational overview covering the period September 2020 to December 2020. Since the last update provided to members at the meeting held on 18 September 2020, NEIFCA operational contingency planning continued to evolve in response to the ever changing situation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. Following the announcement of a second national ‘lockdown’ in England on 2 November 2011 officers had once again moved to a more observational orientated work pattern whilst still maintaining a presence both onshore and offshore.</p> <p>Since the beginning of October national work streams had become much more focused on preparations for the future exit of the European Union with primary involvement through the IFCA Chief Officers Group and the national Association of IFCAs.</p> <p>The Chief Officer updated members on the progression of the Replacement Patrol Vessel project and the progression to date relating to the 9.5 m Cabin RIB. The build contract for the cabin RIB was formally signed off with Northern Marine Power Ltd on 13 October 2020 and the vessel build was now underway with expected delivery expected sometime during early April 2021.</p> <p>The Chairman remarked on the extent of the work that officers had undertaken despite the obvious impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic and passed on the collective thanks of the members.</p>
	Resolved – (a) That the notes be received.
60.	BUDGET MONITORING 2020/2021
	<p>The Treasurer presented a report to advise Members of the budget position at the end of month 07 (October) in 2020/21. At the end of October 2020, the Authority had a net expenditure of £453,053 against an expected £629,717, underspending by £164,542. The forecast outturn underspend was £214,006 mainly due to employee underspends due to vacancies (£141,595). It was anticipated that the outturn position would be an underspend of £214,002 which allowed for the planned transfer of £102,900 plus accrued interest into the Renewals Fund and £10,000 into the Vehicle Replacement Reserve. It was proposed that £47,016 of the underspend at the year-end be transferred to the General Reserve to support pressures from the staffing and organisational review over the next four years and any remaining underspend (currently projected to be £166,786) to be transferred to the Renewals Fund towards the replacement of the patrol vessel, however the decision to increase the levy by 1% means that there is no requirement to transfer £47,016 into the General Reserve. Members highlighted that there may be unknown issues which may arise following the</p>

	UK exit from the EU, and any underspend should be placed in the General reserve, this would enable the funds to be used if required to support any unknown pressures. This will be reviewed at outturn when the final decisions will be made on where any underspend is transferred to, at the Authority meeting in June.
	Resolved – (a) That the budget monitoring position is noted. (b) That any underspend at the year-end be transferred to the appropriate reserve
61.	FISHERIES STATUTES AND PROSECUTIONS
	The Clerk submitted a report on the fisheries enforcement activities taken by the Authority during the period September 2020 to December 2020.
	Resolved – That the notes be received.
62.	MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF IFCAS
	The Chief Officer presented a report to provide Members with an update on recent changes within the National Association of IFCAs. At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16 April 2020 members received a detailed update from the Chief Officer relating to issues and concerns surrounding the functioning of AIFCA and value for money in terms of NEIFCA’s continuing membership. The Chief Officer also advised members of the recent resignation of the Chief Executive. A new Chief Executive of AIFCA, Rob Clark, (previously the Chief Officer of Southern IFCA) was appointed during August 2020 and actively commenced the role on 1 September 2020. In the short time that the new Chief Executive had been in post confidence and positivity has already lifted significantly in terms of the functioning of AIFCA. Given the current climate surrounding the UK’s formal departure from the EU, the associated development of a new UK wide marine management regime and also the potential impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic on central government funding, the need for strong national IFCA representation had never been greater. It was therefore recommended that the Authority maintained their annual subscription to AIFCA until 31 March 2022 with a further update and review of the position at the meeting in December 2021.
	Resolved – Members note the report and support NEIFCA’s continued membership for a further year until 30 March 2022.
63.	NEIFCA BYELAWS UPDATE
	The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on all current fisheries byelaw work streams.
	Resolved – Members note the report.
64.	REPORTS FROM PARTNER AGENCIES AND BODIES
	Partner reports were unavailable at the time of printing, Patrick Gray from the MMO provided a verbal report to members. Members expressed concerns and frustrations that there was no representation from the Environment Agency (EA) at the meeting. The Clerk made a recommendation that a letter from the Authority should be

	submitted to the EA, highlighting members' main concerns and any specific issues which they would like to discuss.
	Resolved – A letter on behalf of the full Authority be submitted to the Environment Agency highlighting specific issues which members wish to discuss.
65.	PROVISION OF SERVICES TO NEIFCA
	The Clerk and Treasurer vacated themselves from the meeting, the Vice Chairman presented the report to members on behalf of the Chief Officer. The purpose of the report was to seek the Authority's approval for the continued provision of core services including Clerkship and Secretariat, Treasurer and financial services, Human Resources and Legal services through East Riding of Yorkshire Council with effect from 1 April 2021 until end of March 2024. Members agreed that the level and support provided by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council represented good value for money and contributed to the effective and efficient functioning of the organisation as a whole.
	Resolved - That Authority members consider the report and approve the continued provision of the following core services through East Riding of Yorkshire Council, with effect from 1 April 2021 for a further period of three financial years until the 31 March 2024:- (i) Clerkship (ii) Treasurer and financial services (iii) Human Resources (iv) Legal
66.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	Councillor Bell informed members of the Authority that he would be standing down as a Council member in May 2021, he wished the Authority well following his departure.
	The meeting closed at 11:45