



COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION

HARBOUR COMMISSIONER INFORMATION PACK

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

Introduction

Cowes Harbour is a Trust Port, which means it has no shareholders or other owners, but is managed for the benefit of its users, or 'stakeholders'. It is run by a Board of nine Harbour Commissioners and the Chief Executive. The Commissioners are appointed through a public selection process and give their time on a voluntary basis. The non-executive Commissioners appoint a Chief Executive, to whom day-to-day responsibility for running the harbour and the harbour team is delegated.

Cowes Harbour Commission's main function is to be the Statutory Harbour Authority for Cowes and to undertake commercial marine activities, so that it can be self-financing, both of which are explained in more detail below. As the Commission has no shareholders, any surplus funds raised through its activities are reinvested back into the harbour and its facilities, to the benefit of its harbour users, or 'stakeholders'.

The Commissioners are appointed on merit on an open recruitment basis to provide the Commission with the professional skills and experience to determine the policy and business decisions of the organisation. The Commissioners are appointed for a term of three years and can usually serve a maximum of two terms. A maximum of two additional Commissioners can be co-opted at any one time for specific purposes and serve for a period of 12 months.

At present, Commissioners are expected to attend 10 Board meetings a year, held on a Friday morning. Commissioners also attend the Annual Public Meeting, as well as two informal dinner meetings a year.

The Commission is looking for a new board member to join the Board of Cowes Harbour Commissioners from 1 May 2022. Candidates should be familiar with local issues and have a financial background. A recognised accountancy qualification would be preferable but not essential.

This is a non-executive voluntary role that offers an exciting opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the future of Cowes Harbour, a leading Trust Port, key economic driver and the Isle of Wight's principal maritime gateway.

CHC is committed to further increasing diversity on the Board of Commissioners and we therefore welcome applications from all sections of the community. We aim to ensure that Commissioner membership is drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and skills to deliver diversity in Board composition and decision-making, a key element of good governance.

The following outline information is provided but more detail and information on the Commission and its work is available on CHC's website: cowesharbourcommission.co.uk.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Statutory

- Manage the harbour in accordance with government standards, as per the Trust Ports Guide to Good Governance:
cowesharbourcommission.co.uk/trust_ports_guide_to_good_governance.
- Maintaining an **open port policy**, available to all users.
- The **safe management of harbour activities**, in compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code:
cowesharbourcommission.co.uk/port_marine_safety_code.
- Maintaining navigational aids and hydrographic surveys, navigational control, policing and Local Notices to Mariners.
- Provision of pilotage services.
- Committing to the sustainable management and conservation of the harbour and estuary.
- Levying and collecting harbour dues.
- Oil pollution control and waste management.
- Works and dredge licence consents.

Marine Services and Core Policy

Provide and invest in marine services and facilities that are market-led and customer focused, adding value to the "Cowes offer" and maintaining a commercial return for CHC and our stakeholders.

Cowes Harbour Services: MOORINGS – BOATYARD – STORAGE – FUEL - COMMERCIAL

- Harbour and river moorings - Annual licenced moorings; pontoon, pile, and swinging. Visitor moorings, swinging moorings, event moorings, and river pontoons, Trinity Landing and Town Quay.
- Boatyard - Extensive boatyard facilities, with 40t boat hoist. Onsite independent marine trades.
- Storage - The Cowes Harbour Storage facility offers secure self-storage units for rental at Cowes Harbour Services Boatyard, East Cowes.
- Fuel berth - Deep draught fuel pontoon on the River Medina, 200m south of the Chain Ferry.
- Commercial marine services - Harbour maintenance and commercial marine contract service provider. Commercial units for lease.

Cowes Harbour Shepards Marina: DRY SAILING – EVENTS - MOORINGS

- Marina - Visitor and residential marina, dayboat sailing centre, and dry sailing facilities. Independent onsite marine businesses.
- Events Centre - The Sugar Store Events Centre is a unique waterfront events venue on the seafront at Shepards Marina.

ACCOUNTABILITY

As a publicly accountable body, the Commission strives to ensure that it maintains proper standards of transparency, accountability, integrity and honesty.

To ensure the views of our stakeholders are properly taken into account we have a Harbour Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives of our key stakeholder groups, such as yacht clubs, local business leaders and representatives of both Town and County Councils:

covesharbourcommission.co.uk/advisory_committee.

CHC STRATEGIC POLICY

The business objectives of Cowes Harbour Commission are set out in a 5-year strategy document. Progress towards these objectives is reported annually at a Public Meeting, generally each May, and in an Annual Report: covesharbourcommission.co.uk/strategic_plan.

COMMISSIONERS – SKILLS AND ABILITIES

CHC is committed to increasing diversity on the Board and is actively encouraging applications from a broad section of the local community and from all those with enthusiasm and a genuine interest in public service.

APPOINTMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

The appointments will be effective from 1st May 2022 and will run for a period of three years. Further detail and information is available on CHC's website:

covesharbourcommission.co.uk/board_of_commissioners

If you are interested in being considered for this position, please request an application form from the Harbour Office, Town Quay, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7AS, by email: chc@cowes.co.uk or telephone: 01983 293952.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday, 21 February 2022.