**Environmental Policy Statement**

**24 October 2019**

**The Green Statement**

To promote the safe and sustainable use of Brightlingsea Harbour, balance the demands on its natural resources, improve infrastructure, work closely with natural processes and stakeholders, support the safe management of appropriate activites within the Harbour, and work strategically with key agencies in order to manage the Harbour in a sustainable and responsible manner. The Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners’ are committed to reducing the potential detrimental direct impact that we have on the environment and local economy, now and in the future. They will achieve this through continuous improvement of their environmental performance by fulfilling their duties relating to conservation, regulation and enhancement of the harbour and complying with relevant UK, European and International legislation.

In implementing this policy, Commissioners have put the following resources in place:

**Environmental Management**

Assess and mitigate environmental risks for all aspects of the Harbours’ operations.
Include measurable environmental objectives and targets in business plans which will include EIAs (Environmental Impact Assessments) and HRAs (Habitat Regulations Assessments).
Conduct regular management reviews and audits to identify areas for improvement, these will be included in the Bi annual SHE meetings chaired by the HM.
Adhere to the BHC Procurement Policy.
Record all significant environmental occurrences, this includes the Oil Spill Contingency Planning (OSCP).

**Resource Management**

Continue to monitor, and where possible reduce resource consumption.

Monitor and maintain acceptable water quality levels in the harbour.
Seek opportunities to apply innovative technology to reduce emissions and energy consumption.

When replacing an item of the inventory, it is replaced with a suitable environmentally better alternative (for example, avoiding the consumption of single-use plastics).

Wherever possible we recycle all our plastic bottles, cardboard, cans, magazines, Paper & glass or re-use these materials.

Buy in bulk to reduce packaging and mileage.

Re – use packaging whenever possible.

Issue leaflets and Publicity documents to visitors when they have expressed a desire to have one, rather than leave them to collect.

Ensure the staff welfare facility no longer uses individual wrapped teabags, coffee or sugars but are in refill jars UHT Milk & cream Cartons are replaced by self-serve fresh milk left in the fridge.

Diligently switch off all electrical devices not in use and have limited central heating radiators in public areas, which only operate in the winter months during working hours, the thermostat is set to ensure that the temperature is at a comfortable level so we are not heating an empty office.

Ensure toilets have been fitted with an eco-friendly twin flush system, to reduce water consumption.

Ensure the welfare room has a filtered water source attached to the fridge eliminating the requirement for a water cooler which needs regular deliveries of water.

Ensure the pressure washing activity, where available, will always use saltwater which is more plentiful than freshwater.

Use local business where available to meet our operational needs which reduces the mileage and delivery element of any transaction.

**Waste Management**

Continually assess recycling, re-use and waste minimisation opportunities, we redefine what is considered as waste and employ as a resource where possible.

Beneficial use or dispersion of dredged material to benefit and sustain the environment.

Where possible, use of Christmas trees for brushwood polder work as part of saltmarsh protection.

**Communication & Training**

Communicate this Policy and procedure to employees, contractors, regulators and the general public to ensure people are aware of their roles and responsibilities and are competent in performing them.

Host regular training events to ensure adaptation of measures and to promote the best response.

**Pollution Prevention & Control**

Ensure that contingency plans and controls are in place and regularly reviewed and tested and to endeavour to prevent spills of oil, chemicals or potentially contaminating materials;
Apply best available technology, without involving disproportionate costs, to plant acquisitions, facilities and activities to advance pollution control and emissions reduction;
Pursue good house-keeping policies to ensure tidiness on the Harbour Estate.

It is the Commissioners’ policy for the ‘polluter’ to pay for the cost of clean-up and disposal following land and marine based incidents.

**Environmental enhancements**

Provision of tern nesting platform

Encouragement of dredging of pacific oyster (invasive species)

Provision of sustainable crabbing supplies

J Thomas



Harbour Master