

Strategy 2025 - 2030

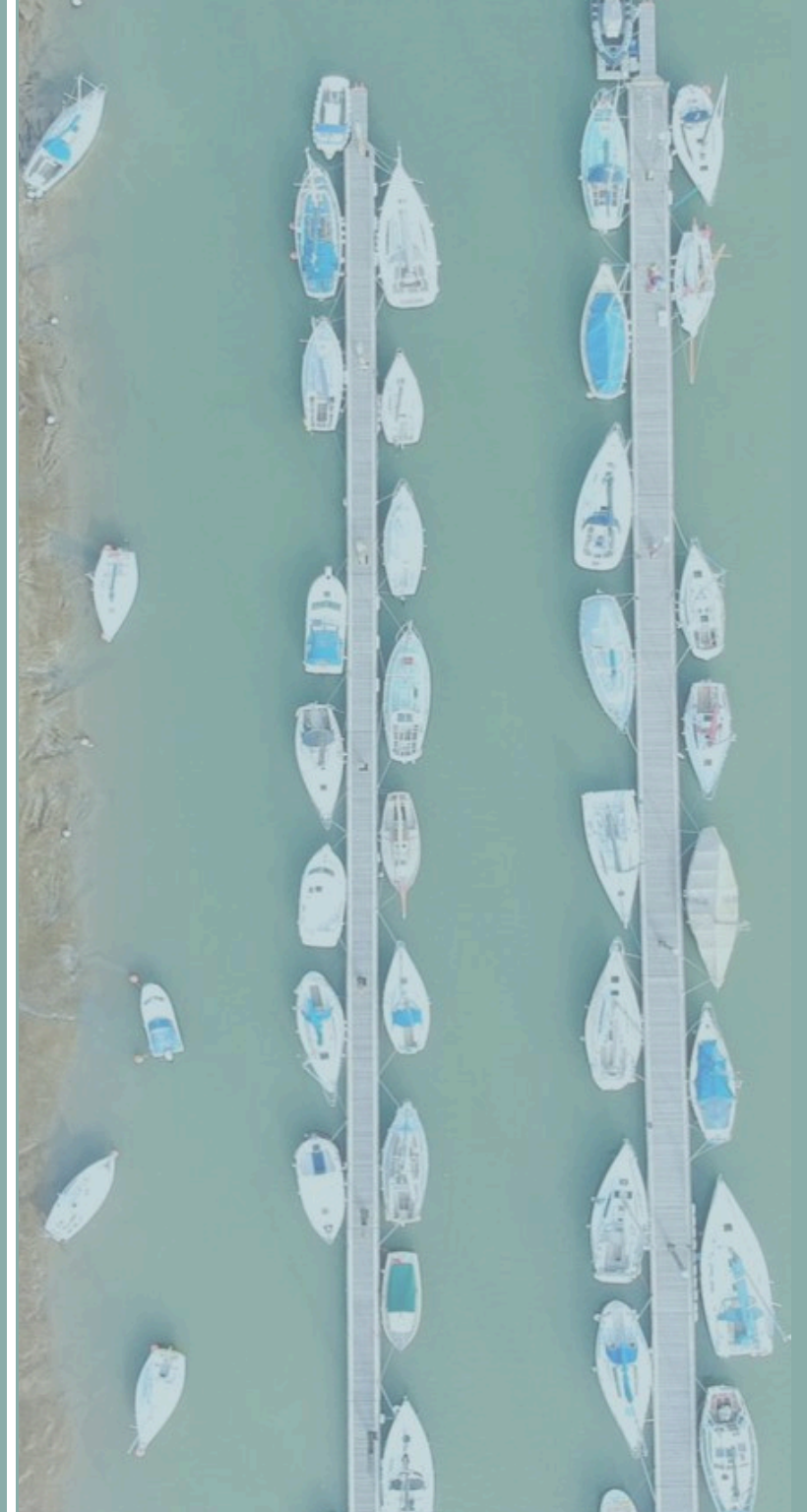


Brightlingsea
Harbour
Commissioners

www.brightlingseaharbour.org

1. Work to ensure sufficient water depth for harbour users and visitors

- Regular hydrographic monitoring of the harbour - working with partners or investing in our own surveying capabilities
- Keeping areas and depths under review to respond to changing circumstances of both environmental and harbour users
- Targeted and cost-effective dredging programmes that benefit harbour users and minimise impact



2. Work to safeguard the harbour environment

- Continue working with partners to further our understanding of environmental changes in the harbour
- Engage with Stakeholders to protect and preserve our marine environment

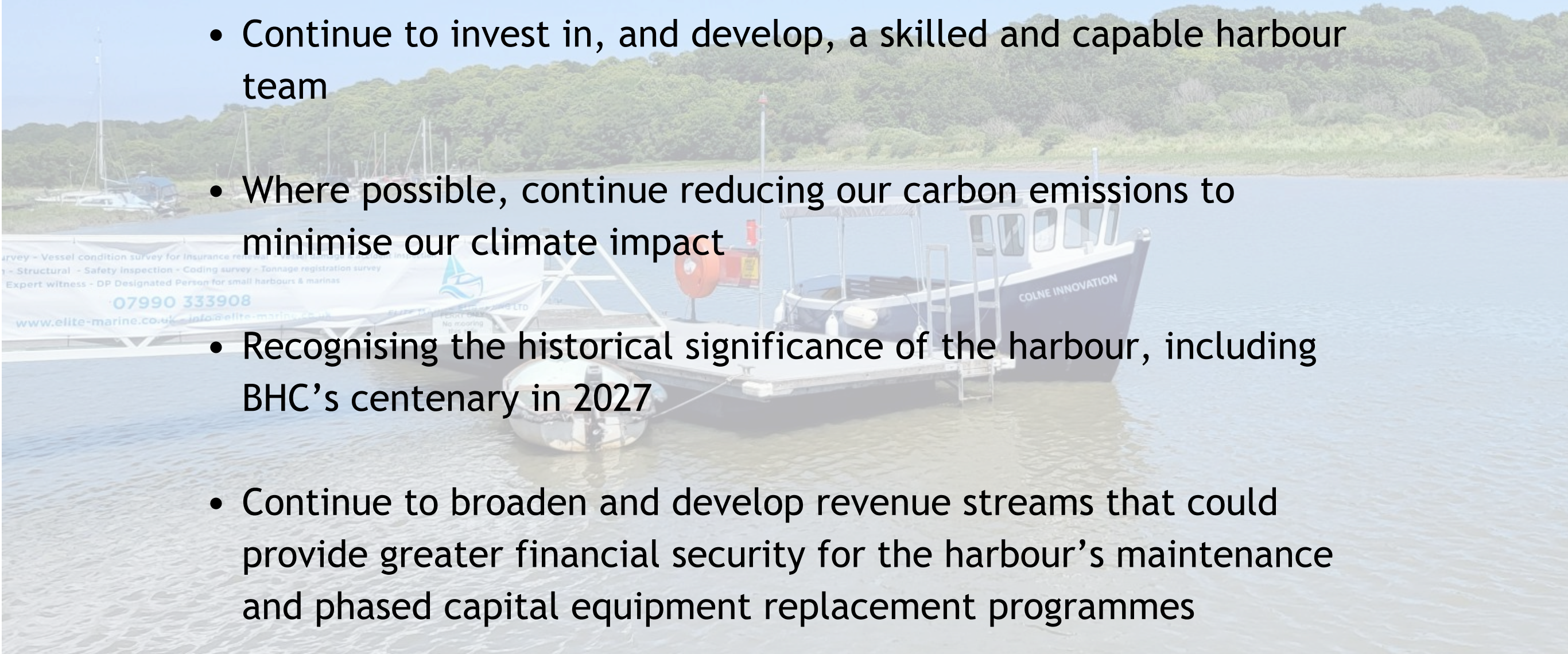


3. Maintain our compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code

- Maintaining our commitment to compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code through application of best practice identified in the “Guide to Good Practice on Port Marine Operations” and through regular independent reviews of our compliance by the “Designated Person”
- Continue to be the Local Lighthouse Authority and Pilotage Authority for the River Colne

4. Sustainably operate the Harbour for the benefit of our Stakeholders - both current and future

- Continue to invest in, and develop, a skilled and capable harbour team
- Where possible, continue reducing our carbon emissions to minimise our climate impact
- Recognising the historical significance of the harbour, including BHC's centenary in 2027
- Continue to broaden and develop revenue streams that could provide greater financial security for the harbour's maintenance and phased capital equipment replacement programmes



5. Continue to provide services and facilities for the benefit of harbour users and visitors

- Maintain a suitable range of moorings and berths for resident and visiting vessels, as well as on shore facilities such as rubbish disposal, showers and the Harbour Office
- Continue to provide a water taxi service and fuel service as required
- Continue to provide a ferry service and range of harbour tours for local communities and public visitors to discover and enjoy the harbour and our local waters
- Continue to provide services to commercial shipping for the independently operated Port of Brightlingsea
- Provide live data and harbour information service to stakeholders and visitors

6. Engaging with stakeholders to inform and involve them in their harbour

- Continue to update stakeholders on harbour activities at biannual public meetings
- Continue engagement with stakeholders on topical issues that might impact the harbour and its users - both leisure and commercial
- Continue to provide ways for stakeholders to feedback on harbour operations and activities
- Explore additional ways of communicating with stakeholders, regardless of their proximity to the harbour

Supporting information

Brightlingsea Harbour is a small mixed leisure and commercial port with a rich heritage and is within a nature conservation area of international importance. The Harbour comprises a commercial wharf (independently owned and operated), a marina and several independent boatyards. BHC provides a total of about 500 berths and moorings which can accommodate boats of up to 50 feet (15m) and 8 feet (2.5m) draft. Facilities at the Harbour have steadily been upgraded over recent years and now include a water taxi, charter service and ferry service, fuelling facilities, scrubbing posts, toilets and showers, and a laundry.

Brightlingsea Harbour was established by an Act of Parliament in 1927 as a Trust Port. It is an independent statutory body governed by a board of Commissioners comprising the non-executive Chairman, the Harbour Master / Chief Executive, and several other non-executive commissioners. The Chairman and non-executive commissioners are all unpaid volunteers. Their appointment is based on the skills and knowledge they bring to the organisation. They are selected and appointed, after the positions are publicly advertised, for a four-year period which can be extended to a second four-year period. They meet as a minimum on 6 occasions throughout the year. The Harbour Master / Chief Executive is a Commissioner as well as a full-time employee.

As Commissioners, Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners (BHC) have responsibilities to the Department of Transport and stakeholders to serve local and regional interests, with an ultimate goal to safeguard the Harbour and to hand it on in the same or better condition to succeeding generations. Stakeholders are not specifically defined but are considered to include harbour users, the local community, local businesses and central government.

BHC are publicly accountable for the execution of their duties and have the power to enforce Harbour Dues to cover the costs of discharging their statutory obligations. These dues are payable by all users of the Harbour. As a Trust Port it is required to run as a commercial business, seeking to generate a surplus that can be ploughed back into the port.

The limits of the statutory harbour include all the waters in Brightlingsea Creek to the east of a line drawn between the Martello Tower at Point Clear and Bateman's Tower in Brightlingsea, with the exception of the area of St Osyth boatyard.

Following the closure of the port of Colchester, Brightlingsea Harbour



Commissioners is the local lighthouse authority and pilotage authority for the River Colne downstream of Roman River. The regulation of these waters is governed by Brightlingsea Harbour Acts and Orders 1927 to 2002, and the Colchester Borough Council Act 2001.



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