

To: Councillor Mary Newton, Portfolio Holder for Business and Economic Growth

From: Laura Richardson, Economic Growth Officer

Cc: Barbara Pole, Economic Growth and Enterprise Manager

Cc: Lee Heley, Corporate Director, Place & Economy

Cc: Mike Carran, Assistant Director, Economic Growth & Leisure

Date: 27th January 2023

Dear Councillor Newton,

Annual TDC Contribution to Harwich Harbour Ferry

TDC has for a number of years annually contributed £1,500 towards the operational costs of Harwich Harbour Ferry (HHF), alongside partners as follows:

- Essex County Council
- Suffolk County Council
- Babergh District Council
- East Suffolk Council
- Harwich Town Council
- Felixstowe Town Council

Each tier contributes a variable amount, related to their level of government and capacity to do so. For the 2023 season the total contribution is £31,750, which is equivalent to the total contribution made in previous years.

HHF operates a service between Harwich, Felixstowe and Shotley, with Harwich benefitting from the increased tourism revenue and brand recognition the company brings to the area.

An annual update meeting in December 2022 highlighted increased passenger numbers after difficult pandemic years, and also highlighted the Owner's aspiration in the medium-term to move to green energy sources, which would not only reduce the service's carbon footprint but also reduce maintenance costs for the vessel overall.

- The service continues to be COVID safe, with the ability to process contactless payments.
- The trend has continued in a reduction in commuter passengers, balanced by increased day trip/staycation passengers.
- The Owner is continuing his efforts to train local people to become part of the business whether as maintenance or as Skipper; this continues efforts he was making pre-pandemic.

Consideration has been given to the environmental impact of this continued public funding support; this ferry offers alternative public transport options to those who do still use the service to commute or travel for pleasure between Harwich, Felixstowe and Shotley, as well as encouraging other sustainable travel through initiatives such as allowing bicycles onboard. This is an extant service and therefore will not be a new impact to the surrounding area and waters, and as aforementioned the Owner is looking to further reduce carbon impact by preparing the vessel for a hybrid/low carbon engine as soon as they come to market.

I therefore request your approval for TDC's contribution of £1,500 to HHF to be made for the 2023 season.

Kind regards,

Laura Richardson
Economic Growth Officer
Tendring District Council

Phone: 01255 686355

Email: lrichardson@tendringdc.gov.uk

To: Laura Richardson, Economic Growth Officer

From: Councillor Mary Newton, Portfolio Holder for Business and Economic Growth

Cc: Barbara Pole, Economic Growth and Enterprise Manager

Cc: Lee Heley, Corporate Director, Place & Economy

Cc: Mike Carran, Assistant Director, Economic Growth & Leisure

Date: 30th January 2023 (via email)

Dear Laura,

Annual TDC Contribution to Harwich Harbour Ferry

Thank you for your memorandum dated 27th January 2023 requesting approval for TDC's annual contribution of £1,500 to be paid as outlined.

I agree/ do not agree for the contribution to be made.

Kind regards,

Cllr Mary Newton

Cllr Mary Newton
Portfolio Holder for Business and Economic Growth