

Record of Officer's Decision

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of Decision:	22 September 2025
Decision Maker (Officer):	Michael Carran, Assistant Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Health.
Authority for Delegated Decision (Cabinet/Committee Decision or Scheme of Delegation – provide reference):	Part 3, Schedule 3 – Responsibility for Executive Functions delegated to Officers paragraph 4.3 (1) – the Corporate Director has delegated authority to discharge executive functions within their respective service areas (Part 3.38). All delegations are subject to consultation where considered appropriate in the circumstances (paragraph 4.3 (4(ii) – Part 3.39). The Corporate Director has delegated operational matters relating to the House of Christopher Jones lease to Harwich Society to the Assistant Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Health.
Identify which Portfolio Holder(s)/Committee Chairman consulted?	Councillor Ivan Henderson, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism.
Ward Member(s) consulted?	Yes
Is it a Key Decision?	No
Is it subject to call-in?	No
Decision Made:	The Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration concurred with the Assistant Director for Economic Growth, Culture and Leisure to fund the lease of Christopher Jones House from 1 st January 2025 – 31 st January 2025 from various tourism underspends with the agreement that the Harwich Society will refund this amount once the required agreements have been arranged.

Reason for Decision (if a report was produced to support the Decision, refer to or attach it):	As part of the Council's contribution to commemorating Mayflower 400, an agreement to rent the house of the Mayflower Captain (Christopher Jones) was agreed with the owner. This was originally due to last until the end of 2020, but due to the global pandemic was extended until the end of 2022. In January 2024, the Harwich Society contacted the Council and requested that the agreement be extended to 31st October 2024. Further decisions published on 24th October 2024, 13th November 2024, 23th December 2024, 28th January 2025, 28th February 2025, 25th March 2025 25th April 2025, 23rd May 2025, 30th June 2025 enabling the extension to 31st July 2025. The current tenants will be taking over the lease of the house from 1st January 2025 and have agreed to pay the rent to Tendring District Council for the period 1st January 2025 – 31st December 2025. Due to a delay in governance around the agreement, Tendring District Council has agreed to additionally pay 1st September 2025 – 31st October 2025 with the current tenants repaying the amount when the agreement has been confirmed. In concurrence with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Tourism and Regeneration, this request was approved. A copy of the concurrence and decision is available on file. <u>Decision - The House of Captain Christopher Jones - Extension to Lease to 31st May 2024</u> <u>Decision - The House of Captain Christopher Jones - Extension to Lease to 30th November 2024</u> <u>Decision - The House of Captain Christopher Jones - Extension to Lease to 28th February 2025</u> <u>Decision - The House of Captain Christopher Jones - Extension to Lease to 31st March 2025</u> <u>Decision - The House of Captain Christopher Jones - Extension to Lease to 30th April 2025</u> <u>Decision - The House of Captain Christopher Jones - Extension to Lease to 31st May 2025</u>
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Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	The approximate cost of renting the house for a further period will be a maximum of £1,250. This includes rent, insurance, NNDR and energy costs. Funding has been identified from various tourism underspends with the agreement that the Harwich Society will refund this amount once the required agreements have been arranged.
NEW : Details of Local Government Reorganisation and/or Devolution considerations	This is a time limited arrangement that will not progress beyond 2025/26, it has been agreed that the Harwich Society will reimburse Tendring District Council for the total cost covered from 1st January 2025. Officers are working with colleagues to finalise the governance and legal requirements.
Details of any Alternative Options Considered and rejected (together with reasons):	To not extend the lease and close the house as a visitor attraction. Due to the attraction still forming part of a key offer to international and inbound tourists, it has been determined to remain open and consider its future use.
Details of any declarations of interest (by Portfolio Holder/Committee Chairman who was consulted by the officer, which related to the decision)	N/A

If relevant, a note of the dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer:		
Reason Decision, or supporting Report, is not published: <i>Tick one or more of the specific exemptions,</i> <u>and</u> <i>Give more information in the final box with regards to why the exemption applies and outweighs the public interest test (which is in favour of disclosure).</i>	Y	Not applicable – Decision and Concurrence to be published
	If Report is not to be published – tick one of the following boxes:	
		The report supporting the Decision contains confidential information
		The Report supporting the Decision falls within an exemption pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information:
		• Relates to an individual
		• Likely to reveal the identity of an individual
		• Relating to financial or business affairs of a person or organisation
		• Relates to a claim for legal professional privilege in legal proceedings
		• Reveals that the Council proposes to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or to make an order or direction under any enactment
		• Relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
<u>And</u> is exempt if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information Reasons: [insert]		

Officers

Signed: Michael Carran

Title: Assistant Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Leisure

Signed: Jessica Bryan

Title: Culture and Visitor Services Manager

In consultation with:

Signed:

Portfolio Holder For Housing

Signed:

Section 151 Officer (if required)

Signed:

Monitoring Officer (if required)

Dated: 25th July 2025