

# Crouch Harbour Authority

## Harbour Management Plan

2023 - 2024



**CHA Office Address:**

Crouch Harbour Authority

Harbour Office

The Quay

Burnham on Crouch

Essex

CM0 8AS

# 1. Background

## The Crouch Harbour Authority (CHA)

The Crouch Harbour Authority is the Statutory Harbour and Navigation Authority for the Rivers Crouch and Roach in South Essex. It is a not-for-profit organization. It has its own Act of Parliament (Crouch Harbour Act 1974) and is a 'Trust Port' – one that holds its assets and uses its powers for the benefit of its stakeholders.

The limits of the area of the Crouch Harbour Authority is set out in the Crouch Harbour Authority Act 1974. These are listed in Crouch Harbour Act 1974 s.63: Seaward: Latitude 51 37'00 N Longitude 00 57'19 E (Foulness Point) and drawn therefrom on a bearing of approximately 058 (T) to Latitude 51 41'36 (N) Longitude 01 09'00 E 00 56'25 E on a bearing of 270 (T) to position 51 41'36 N Longitude 00 56'25 E (being a position east of Tillingham on the coast of the Dengie peninsula).

Landward: A line drawn across the River Crouch along the downstream face of the railway bridge at National Grid reference point TQ 76739408 and a line drawn across the River Roach along the weir at Stambridge Mills at National Grid reference point TQ 88669024.

The CHA is responsible for marine safety and managing all maritime activity within Crouch and Roach rivers.

This includes:

Managing and directing the movement of regulated vessels

Provision and authorising of Pilots and provision of pilotage

Licensing of boat moorings

Surveying and publishing navigational information and dredging of fairways and channels,

Buoyage and Marking of Channels

Removal of Hazards, Wrecks and Obstructions

Licensing of Marine Works and Dredging operations

Speed Limits and Regulation of Waterskiing and Personal Watercraft (PWC)

Collection of Harbour Dues and Charges

Oil Spill Prevention and Clean-up

Management of Waste from Vessels

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Harbour Authority must abide by a wide range of laws and regulations, especially the Port Marine Safety Code, which sets out the standards and principles for ensuring that all marine risks are managed so that they are 'as low as reasonably practicable'. There is also an increasing amount of environmental and water quality legislation with which the Harbour Authority must comply.

Finance continues to be a challenge to the Crouch Harbour Authority and many other small Ports and Harbours. The responsibilities of governance mean the CHA needs to break even with a surplus on a regular basis. This continues to be a focus of the Members but means pressures on fees charged to users. The Authority must manage its duties such as providing a Pilotage Service under the responsibility of being a competent Harbour Authority, patrolling the waterway and its obligations of having pollution control plans and equipment. In addition to the cost of these is the training and inspection by external bodies in the compliance of these Codes.

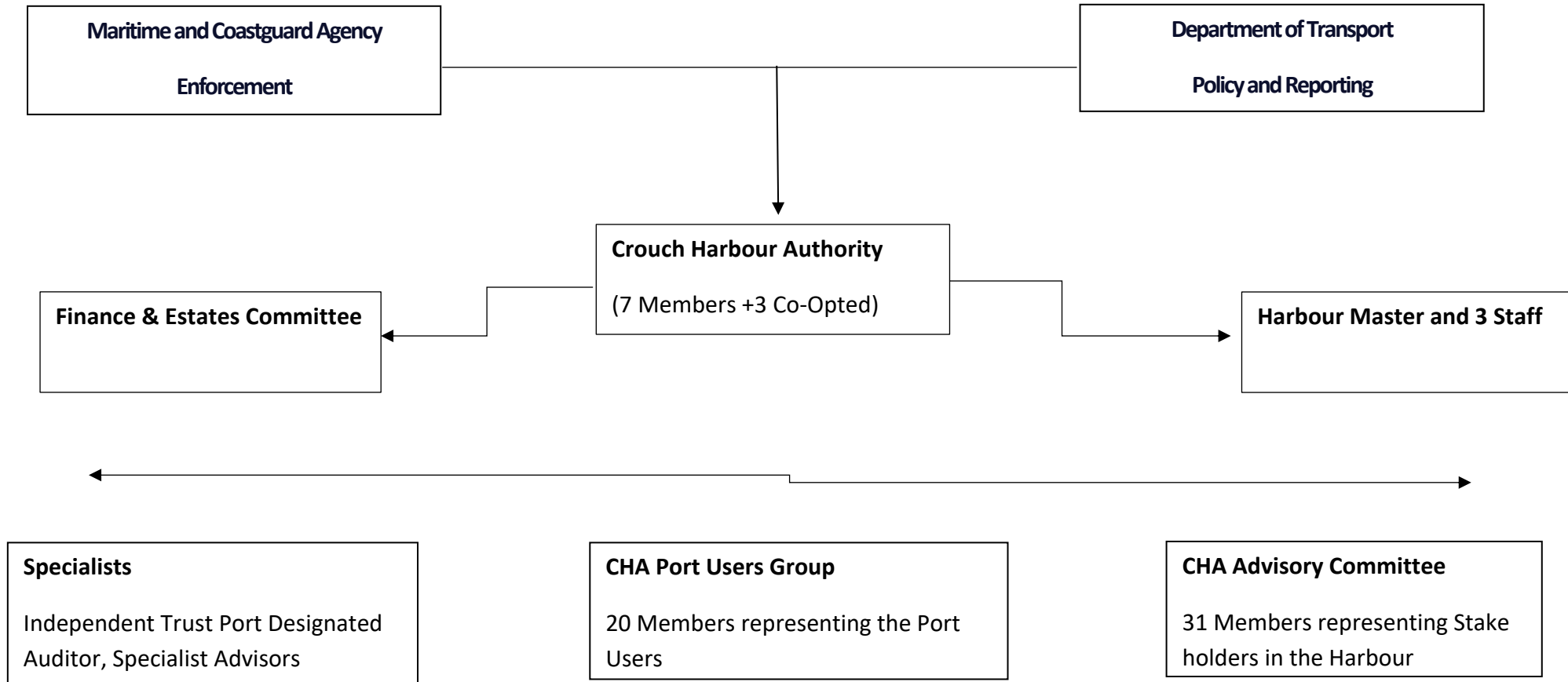
Bringing new experience to the Authority on the Trustees / Members board, Advisory Committee and other advisory groups is a constant challenge. A focus remains on encouraging those with the right experience and skills to contribute in this voluntary position/role. Attracting qualified marine staff to the organisation to carry out the necessary administration of operations is also key.

Ken Wickham  
Chairman

## 2. Governance

### Crouch Harbour Act 1974

Crouch Harbour Authority (Constitution) Harbour Revision Order 2007



## **Crouch Harbour Authority Board Members for 2023: -**

Chairman: Ken Wickham

Stuart Munro

Vice Chairman: Edwin Buckley

David Sloan

John James

Andrew Wise

Robert Coyle

Stewart Olley Co-Opted

Trevor Dann

Robert Brown Co-Opted

Simon Hollington

The membership of the Crouch Harbour Authority was changed by Crouch Harbour Authority (Constitution) Harbour Revision Order 2007. The appointments process is intended to ensure that the board of members contains a wide range of experience and abilities relevant to the management of a Harbour, as set out in the Revision Order. Trustee / Member vacancies are advertised locally.

### **Consultation**

The Crouch Harbour Authority, except in times of particular urgency, consults with the CHA Advisory Committee on all matters substantially affecting the preservation, protection, regulation, management maintenance and improvement of the Harbour and navigation. Particularly: -

- Any application for a works licence
- Any charges proposals

The CHA Advisory Committee and the CHA Port Users Group consist of "stakeholder" members representing: landowners and farmers, the Crouch Area Yachting Federation, the Dengie Hundred Protection Association, the Sports Council, Local Councils, The Essex Wildlife Trust, Kent and Essex Fisheries Committee, Nature Conservancy Council, Port of London Authority, the Roach Area Fairways Conservation Committee, the Royal Yachting Association, RSPB, the Ship and Boat Builders National Federation, Trinity House, Commercial Users of the Harbour and Wildfowlers.

## **Crouch Harbour Authority Advisory Committee for 2023 are: -**

National Farmers Union & Country Landowners Association  
Crouch Area Yachting Federation  
Crouch Area Yachting Federation  
Essex Association of Local Councils x 2  
Essex Wildlife Trust  
Kent & Essex Inshore and Conservation Authority  
Nature Conservancy Council for England  
Burnham Town Council  
Port of London Authority  
Roach Area Fairways & Conservation Committee  
Royal Yachting Association  
British Marina Federation East Anglia  
Trinity House  
Fishing Interests  
Commercial Users Shipping Interests  
Active Communities Network (Sports and Recreation)  
Adjacent Landowners  
CHA (Rep. of owners of Freehold Interests in more than half of the Harbour Lands)  
Essex Joint Council of Wild Fowling Clubs  
Water Skiing Interests  
Burnham Town Council General Interests  
RSPB  
Essex Marine Police  
British Canoe Association  
Wild Swimmers

**Mr Philip Cottis**  
**Mr Nick Parsons**  
**Mr Clem Freeman (Chair)**  
**Vacant**  
**Dr Jeremy Dagley**  
**Cllr. Jane Fleming**  
**Alex Baker**  
**Vacant**  
**Vacant**  
**Ken Wickham**  
**Cllr Bob Calver**  
**Vacant**  
**Captain Trevor Dann**  
**Matthew Smith & Russell Pitt**  
**Vacant**  
**Vacant**  
**Mr P Woodford (Vice Chair); Mrs Charlotte Bailey & Mr S Hollington**

**Mr John James**  
**Mr John Biscoe**  
**Mr Philip Pope**  
**Cllr. Nick Skeens**  
**Rachel Fancy**  
**MPC Paul Rawson (Co-opted Member)**  
**Clive Marfleet (Co-opted Member)**  
**Imogen Radford & Zena Shean (Co-Opted Members)**

## **Crouch Harbour Authorities Port Users Group**

Commercial Port users  
Leisure: Canoes/Kayaks  
Marine Trade/Marinas/Boatyards  
Waterskiing  
Burnham Clubs  
Yachting/Sailing General  
Commercial Shipping  
Environment/Flood Defense/Riparian Landowners  
Marinas  
Upper River Clubs  
Commercial Fishing/Shellfisheries  
Burnham Coastal Rowing Club  
Charter Vessels  
Residential Boat Owners  
Roach Sailors/Clubs  
Yachting /Sailing General  
Nature Conservation  
Charter Vessels  
Essex Marine Police

**Robert Brown**  
**Clive Marfleet**  
**Vacant**  
**Phil Pope (Chair)**  
**Nick Milton**  
**Clem Freeman**  
**Conrad Dennison**  
**Vacant**  
**David Barke Jnr**  
**Steve Harris**  
**Vacant**  
**Dawn Wood**  
**Vacant**  
**Charles Foster**  
**Ken Wickham**  
**Bob Calver**  
**Rachel Fancy**  
**Steve Adams**  
**To be Advised**

### 3. Introduction: Harbour Management Plan

The Crouch Harbour Authority faces several challenges over the next years, including sourcing new areas of income to support CHA services; regulating a possible influx of houseboats into various locations where pump out waste must be to the main sewers and not onto the Harbour water; developing new strategies to cope with changing environmental concern; impending regulation of Marine Conservation Zones; leisure use of the rivers and creeks, and water quality of any discharges into the Harbour waters.

There is an ever-increasing eclectic number of crafts now using the Rivers Crouch and Roach. These include Paddle Boards, Personal Watercraft, airborne Drones, Foil type sailing craft, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), bringing new challenges to the Authority in managing a safe water space.

The understanding of these latest generation sail boats and powered craft along with the varying levels of experience of those responsible for their operation necessitates a need for the Authority to review powers available in order to manage safe navigation for all.

Environmental and Social Governance brings new themes in cultivating a sustainable Harbour environment and that of the users.

Further Codes of Practice have been introduced by the Department for Transport which Statutory Harbour Authorities are obliged to comply with. These are the Port Marine Safety Code and the Ports Good Governance Guide

The 2023 Harbour Management Plan sets out the obligations of these Codes and the local area. How these are complied with and how compliance is measured.

It is very important that those who govern the Harbour, and the stakeholders, understand that the Authority can only do what is set out in the various Acts and Codes.

A Harbour Management Plan is a formal way of addressing possible changes.



### **The aim of the 2023 CHA Harbour Plan: -**

- Marketing a strategy to enable stakeholders to understand the value and support the CHA objectives.

### **Possible Challenges facing the CHA: -**

- Impact of new IFCA policies 2024
- Involvement in Tidal Flooding procedures
- River Water Quality and effects of legislation requirements
- Managing and licensing of Houseboats and the perceived issues of waste discharges
- Mandatory compliance to PMSC River Patrols
- Impact of Fishing or Cessation of shell fishing and Several Orders
- Training of CHA staff and board members
- Succession planning for staff and the various Committees
- Income generation including any State grants

### **Expenditure**

- Maintenance of Buoyage and Marks
- Boats and Fuel and Staffing costs
- Office and computing development
- Harbour Guide and website overhaul
- Salvage and craft removal
- Annual planned maintenance and certification for all Harbour vessels

### **Sourcing possible New Income**

- Jetties and Pontoons
- Categories of Fees for Boats and Vessels

### **Key Performance Indicators**

- Financial return actual over-expenditure forecasts against a Business Plan
- Compliance with PMSC and the Ports Good Governance Guide
- Accident Incident reports for month on month issued on a 6-monthly basis
- Number of commercial shipping visits month on month against estimated budget numbers

### **Considerations**

- Develop initiatives involving local schools, District and Parish Councils and concerned organizations in stay safe projects, on water safety.

## 4. Summary: Harbour Management Plan

Mission Statement	The Crouch Harbor Authority will protect and enhance all operations within the Harbour, openly, accountably, and with commercial prudence, to strike a balance that fully respects the interests of all stakeholders. This includes commercial considerations and leisure activities to eventually hand it on in the same or better condition to succeeding generations.
Vision Statement, achieved at end of 2024	To be respected as a professional, transparent, and efficient Trust Port Authority, meeting more than its statutory obligations. To be valued at the heart of the Rivers Crouch and Roach communities.
CHA Core Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake and regulate marine operations to safeguard the Harbour, its users, the public and the environment. The CHA must take reasonable care, so long as the Harbour is open for public use, that all who may choose to navigate its waters may do so.</li> <li>• Run a safe, efficient, cost-effective, sustainable Harbour operation to benefit all users and the wider community.</li> <li>• Maximise its services', quality and value for money and maintain Dues at a competitive level to attract users to the Harbour.</li> <li>• Meet the national requirements in the Port Marine Safety Code and Guidelines. The Code represents the national standard against which Harbour Authorities policies, procedures and performance may be measured.</li> </ul>