

Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group – Review of Estuary Strategy

Membership:

Cllr Watson, Cllr Hames, Ian Harper & Steve Dengate
Sean Kearney, Richard Haste & Jon Walter

Date of meetings: 6 July 2021, 12 August 2021, and 6 September 2021

Aim of Working Group

1. To review the Torridge Estuary Strategy, adopted in August 2014 and determine the progress to date made on the identified areas outlined in the strategy particularly in regard to the advancing of the commercial, environmental and leisure activities
2. To review the detailed action plan of the councils in relation to the Estuary's use and activities
3. To make recommendations to the Harbour Board / C&R as to actions needed if necessary

During the discussion at the Task and Finish Group Meetings the following suggestions for improvement were made:

- Protecting and enhancing the environment should be given greater prominence
- Add reference to climate change and our carbon plan/footprint
- Greater promotion of the cattle market car park (and Ringo) for long stay parking to Lundy
- Greater use of the Quay for events etc when no ships are due (we have plenty of notice for ship arrivals so this should not be an issue)
- Add reference to coastal change, flood risk and biodiversity
- Increase promotion of the Harbour linked to an Annual Report and improved website
- Develop the Taw/Torridge Partnership

Areas of the Estuary Strategy that need updating or removing include:

- 2.8, 2.9 & 2.10
- 3.11, 3.15, 3.18 & 3.22
- 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 & 4.6
- 5.7, 5.14, 5.15, 5.16, 5.17, 5.20, 5.21, 5.22, 5.25 & 5.26
- 6.7, 6.8 & 6.10
- 7.3, (check info re marina) 7.3.3 (link to LP review), 7.8 (remove cruise) & 7.13.
- Appendices – A (update), B (remove), Tables C1 & C2 update (remove ref to EtW Wharves) review what other berths are available & assess if any other information would be useful in the appendices.

Recommendation:

The task and finish group recommend:

- That a review of the Estuary Strategy is added to the Economic Development Team's Business Plan for 2022/23 using the information from the Internal Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.