



The purpose of this Report is to provide an update on the latest developments with the management of the Haven.

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**No. DETAILS**

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**1) BACKGROUND**

- a) Following a consideration of the potential threat to the town of the ending of the Isle of Wight Council's contract with Cheetah Marine for clearing the seaweed from the Haven on 31 March 2020 at its meeting of 8 July 2019 Minute 89/19 determined that the Town Council:
    - i) *authorises its Mayor and Clerk to continue informal discussions with the Isle of Wight Council's political leadership and relevant officers respectively;*
    - ii) *encourages the Clerk and his colleagues to explore potential sources of external – including government – funding, and explore any potential sources of increased income;*
    - iii) *authorises continuing informal discussions with Sean Strevens and Geoff Blake; and*
    - iv) *requires regular reporting to and updates from the Assets and Services Working Group.*
  - b) Councillor Jason Mack, Assets & Services Group member Jim Toogood and I have met four times with Cheetah Marine's Sean Strevens and Blake Fisheries Geoff Blake to discuss a range of options for the future funding and management of the Haven.
  - c) The matter was also discussed at a meeting of 4 September that involved the Isle of Wight Council's Deputy Leader and Finance Portfolio holder Stuart Hutchinson with officers Alex Minns and Sean Newtown with the Town Council's Mayor, Councillor Jason Mack, the Clerk and Nick Cox.
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**2) UPDATE**

- a) The Isle of Wight Council have now provided Cheetah Marine with a two-year extension of the current contract for seaweed clearance and that is a welcome postponement of the risk to the town although not a longer term solution.
  - b) The continuing threats are a combination of the Isle of Wight Council's need to find £4.5M savings from its Budget over each of the coming three years and the fact that the boat and pump used by Cheetah Marine to clear the seaweed need complete replacement.
  - c) It is encouraging that all four stakeholders – the Town Council, the Isle of Wight Council, Cheetah Marine and Blake Fisheries remain open to continuing discussions about the possibility of a new governance structure involving the stakeholders in a form of local ownership.
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**3) RECOMMENDATION**

The Town Council is recommended to encourage and support ongoing discussions about the feasibility of a stakeholder-based local ownership governance structure of the Haven.

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