

Informal Pre-application Public Consultation
Proposed North Sunderland Harbour Revision Order

Background and purpose

North Sunderland Harbour Commissioners (the “Commissioners”) are proposing to apply for a harbour revision order to re-constitute the Commissioners and to consolidate, modernise and extend their powers to operate, improve, maintain and manage North Sunderland Harbour.

The proposed harbour revision order would bring the constitution of the Commissioners in line with the recommendations of the Department for Transport as set out in its “Ports Good Governance Guidance” published in March 2018.

The proposed harbour revision order would also include modernised and additional powers which are reflective of those contained in many other modern harbour revision orders. These powers include standard statutory harbour powers, such as the power to borrow, powers to dispose of and develop land, powers associated with charges (including deposits and liens associated with charges) and miscellaneous powers including a power to dredge, powers related to the licensing of moorings (including pontoons), works, repairs and dredging within the harbour, powers related to the removal of wrecks or other obstructions and various powers related to the carrying out of commercial activities by the Commissioners.

A more detailed explanation of the contents of the proposed harbour revision order is to be found on pages 35-37 of the draft order.

The Commissioners believe that such modernised and additional powers are necessary to enable the Commissioners to improve, maintain and manage the harbour in an efficient and economical manner.

The proposed harbour revision order would repeal those provisions in the Commissioners’ current local harbour legislation (dating from 1931) that are outdated, complex and in some cases no longer fit for purpose.

The proposed harbour revision order would not change the Commissioners’ power to levy harbour dues on vessels using the harbour.

Pre-application consultation

The Commissioners have already carried out initial consultation with the Marine Management Organisation. The Commissioners now wish to undertake an informal pre-application consultation with other stakeholders who have an interest in North Sunderland Harbour.

A draft of the proposed harbour revision order is available to view at www.nsh.org.uk and at the Harbour Office, Harbour Road, Seahouses, Northumberland, NE68 7RN.

When considering the proposed harbour revision order, stakeholders should also

consider the Department for Transport's Ports Good Governance Guidance (which is available [here](#)).

The Commissioners will consider any comments submitted as part of this informal pre-application consultation and will incorporate appropriate amendments into the proposed harbour revision order.

The informal pre-application consultation will run for 28 days starting on Monday 29th March 2021 and closing at 5pm on Sunday 25th April 2021.

Consultation responses must be made in writing and should be emailed to accounts@nsh.org.uk or posted to Clerk to the Commissioners, Harbour Office, Harbour Road, Seahouses, Northumberland, NE68 7RN. All consultation responses must be received in advance of the deadline.

Formal application process

The Commissioners intend to submit their application for the proposed harbour revision order to the Marine Management Organisation before the end of May 2021.

As part of the formal application process, the Marine Management Organisation will run a 42-day public consultation. The consultation will be advertised in a local newspaper and the London Gazette. As such, there will be a further opportunity to provide comments on the proposed harbour revision order directly to the Marine Management Organisation once the application has been made.

For and on behalf of the Commissioners