

# Langstone Sea Wall & Path Status Report



Report Date: 24/10/2023



## Issue Summary

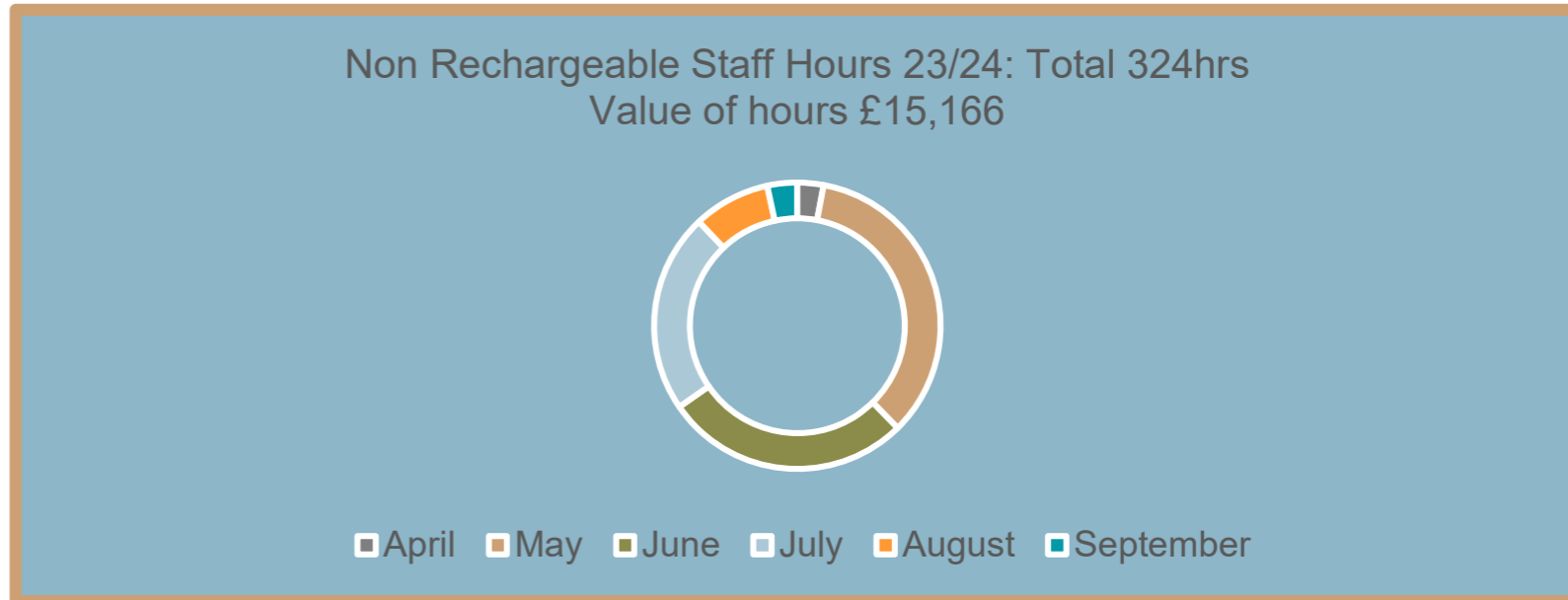
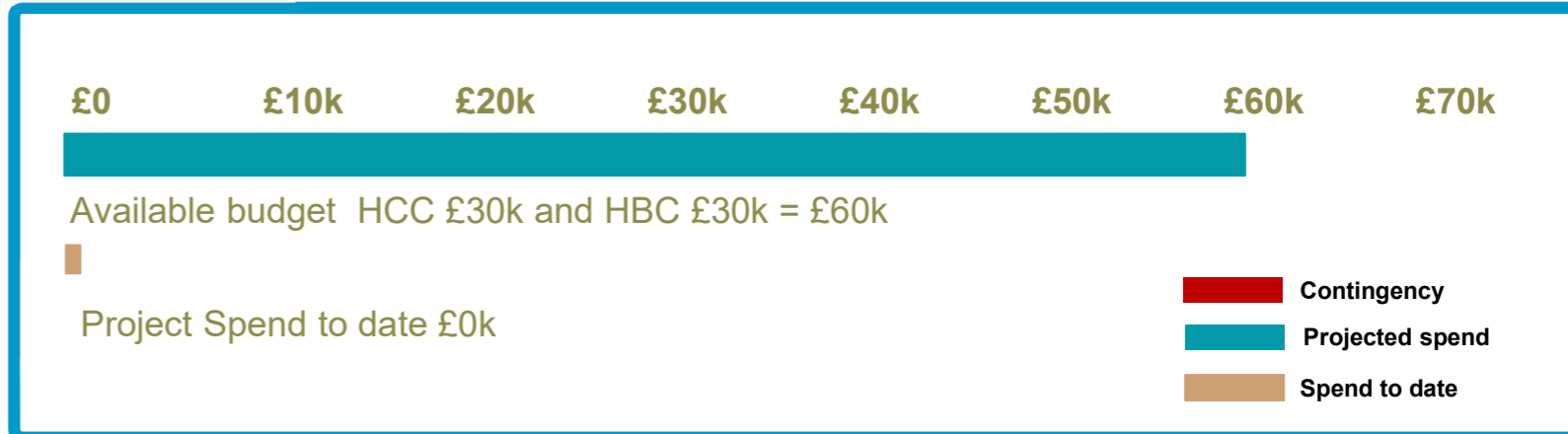
HBC has been working in collaboration with partners (Chichester Harbour Conservancy CHC, Hampshire County Council HCC, Environment Agency EA and Natural England NE) to evaluate the potential options available to respond to public demand for action to protect the coastal footpath from being lost and any detrimental impact to the heritage and habitats in the Langstone Mill Pond. Assent from NE, Chichester Harbour Works Licence, EA Flood Risk Activity Permit for maintenance or repair work is not anticipated

## Highlights

- HBC to match fund up to £30k on an HCC led scheme to deliver a viable improvement.
- HCC to contribute £30k to deliver a solution that keeps a coastal footpath available for use.
- Council Leader letters have received responses from Rebecca Pows MP, EA, CHC, and NE
  - They emphasise that a major cause of the reducing in saltmarsh, is the maintenance of hard defences. CHC are particularly clear that they view the Harbour taking precedence.
  - There is support from these key stakeholders for the Chichester Harbour Adaptation and Investment Plan and Contingency Plan
- CHC's commissioned an independent ecological study of the area is expected at the end of October.

## Future Focus

- Continued monitoring and measurement of erosion.
- HCC to continue explore options to roll back the footpath as the harbour adapts.
- Continue with Local Cllr Led Multi-Agency Meetings.
- Future engagement session focused on the Independent ecological study.



Key Issues		Actions
Strong public campaign for the protection of the Mill Pond.		Council Leader and colleagues attended public meeting on the 28 <sup>th</sup> September. Lyall Cairns continues to meet with the LVA. Website pages are maintained.
Indication from Natural England, Chichester Harbour and Environment Agency that consents will not be given for maintenance or a new wall.		HCC investigating long and short-term options for the footpath to enable roll back with coastal change in this area. Immediate provision of a boardwalk to realign existing footpath. Further negotiations with NE are ongoing.
LVA believe that the Mill Pond is unique and should be protected through the prevention of further degradation of the sea wall		Strong political support for the protection of the seawall. Leader seeking support for the preparation of a contingency plan should it fail before the independent ecological study and Chichester Harbour Environment and Investment Adaptation Plan.

Key Milestones	Comments	Date
Next Multi-Agency Meeting at Havant Plaza	CHC, HCC, EA, NE	06/10/2023
HCC to report back on viability of roll-back option	HCC looking at Long an short term options, costing and landowner discussion.	t.b.c
Chichester Harbour to report back on independent ecological study.	CHC commissioning an independent study for the Mill Pond and surrounding area.	Autumn 2023
Meeting with CHC, EA, NE	Leader and CEO meeting with senior officers of Key stakeholders.	03/11/2023