

## **Response to the Economy and Culture scrutiny Task and Finish group recommendations on the Operation of Flatholm Island**

**R1.** Consult and identify the correct balance between protecting the natural environment and increasing the footfall and income of Flat Holm Island.

**This recommendation is accepted.** This is particularly important as we move to the management and operation of the island transferring to a third party organisation.

**R2.** Develop a long term costed plan for Flat Holm island that identifies areas for investment and potential alternative funding sources such as lottery funding, European funding, educational funding, private finance, invest to save etc.

**This recommendation is accepted** although this has been superseded by the need for the new partner organisation to carry out their own longer term planning for the Island.

**R3.** Prioritise as a part of the existing forward plan the development of the landing stage.

**This recommendation is accepted.** It is acknowledged that the landing is critical to the economic, environmental and educational success of the Island

**R4.** Investigate the viability of Lewis Alexander boat, evaluate and develop a range of suitable options to transport more visitors to Flat Holm whilst meeting operational needs. This should include the evaluating involvement of commercial boat operators.

**This recommendation is accepted.** The decision was taken this year not to operate the Lewis Alexander due to the high costs of repairs needed to maintain the vessel. Commercial operators have operated trips to the Island this year providing a significant financial saving

**R5.** Develop a coherent branding and marketing approach for Flat Holm that builds on the island's environmental and sustainability credentials. This could take the form of eco tourism or the educational offer.

**This recommendation is accepted.** It is acknowledged that a marketing plan for the Island will be a necessity for the partner organisation and that this should include environmental and sustainability opportunities in addition to the historic and visitor offers.

**R6.** Increase the accommodation available for public overnight stays on Flat Holm, at the Farm House, Barracks and Drift Wood and formally negotiate with Trinity House regarding the possibilities of using the lighthouse accommodation. The Task Group also support the plans to develop 'glamping' on the island.

**This recommendation is accepted.** The works to improve the Fog Horn cottage have been completed this year and improvements to the accommodation offer on the island has been identified by the partner organisation likely to take over responsibility for the Island as a key issue for the future.

**R7.** Ensure that any long term plans are aligned to the availability of electricity and water supply. Investigate the feasibility of a bore hole to ensure the security of clean water supply for the island.

**This recommendation is accepted.** Budget costs have been obtained for exploratory drilling of a borehole on the island and this information is being made available to the preferred operator.

**R8.** Develop a range of visitor packages for Flat Holm that includes the provision of private helicopter trips

**This recommendation is accepted.** Options for the use of helicopter trips have been obtained and this information will be passed to the preferred operator to consider developing this offer further.

**R9.** Formally pursue Flat Holm as a residential field studies centre that provides high quality, academic field courses for British and overseas students in order to increase the demand from education providers. The centre should offer a comprehensive selection of fieldwork courses (e.g. geography, ecology, geology, environmental studies and outdoor education) for all ages and abilities.

**This recommendation will be passed on to the preferred operator to consider as part of their planned education offer on the Island.**

**R10.** Actively pursue a more inclusive approach to the management of the island that engenders a regional approach, brings in new partners and new opportunities for growth. Such partners could include the Centre for alternative Technology, higher education, private and voluntary sectors, and bordering Local Authorities.

**This recommendation will be passed on to the preferred operator to consider as part of their planned management of the Island.**