

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	19 April 2013
Title:	Marine Director's Current Issues
Reference:	4804
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on a number of issues which the Marine Director has been involved in, namely: proposals for improvements to the Warsash Slipway, clearance of debris from Warsash Slipway, a crime deterrence scheme, provision of a new workshop and storage facility for the Harbour Authority, and recruitment to replace the Environmental Member of the Harbour Board.

2. Improvements to Warsash Slipway

- 2.1. With the approval of the Harbour Board, a contract has been agreed with consultants ABP Mer to assess the feasibility and likely effectiveness of the proposals to improve Warsash Slipway, as suggested by the working group chaired by Councillor Cartwright. The consultants will also provide an estimate of the likely cost of implementing the proposals.

3. Clearance of debris from Warsash Slipway

- 3.1 Following discussions with Fareham Borough Council and others, it has been acknowledged that the responsibility for clearing debris from Warsash Slipway, below the Mean High Water mark, is the financial responsibility of Hampshire County Council as the Harbour Authority (as stipulated in the lease of the river bed from The Crown Estate – covenant 3.5.2 of the lease). Fareham Borough Council retain responsibility for the cobbled area at the top of the slipway, under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act (1990), although the Act does not specifically refer to the removal of seaweed.

- 3.2 In the circumstances, it has been acknowledged that the most cost effective means of keeping the slipway relatively clear of debris is to engage the services of a single contractor to clear both areas on an 'as required' basis, with Fareham Borough Council meeting pro-rata costs up to an agreed maximum. A contractor will be appointed as soon as possible.

4. Crime Deterrence Scheme

- 4.1 Following a full tendering process, a supplier (SmartWater) has been contracted to provide 4000 forensic marking kits to be distributed free of charge to owners of all vessels on the River which have paid annual Harbour Dues for 2013. In conjunction with the Police and representatives of SmartWater, the scheme was successfully launched over the Easter weekend, with considerable press coverage.

5. Workshop and storage facility

- 5.1 After a lengthy process to determine the best solution, a five-year lease of two units at Stone Pier Yard has been agreed. One unit will provide essential storage for oil spill equipment and documents, the second will provide a workshop facility. The Harbour Authority moved into the new premises on 1 February 2013.

6. Harbour Board recruitment

- 6.1 The Environment Member of the Harbour Board, Dr Susie Tomson, will complete her second term of four years on the Board at the end of June 2013. Since this is the maximum tenure permitted by the Constitution, a successor is required. The recruitment process has been initiated and an advertisement posted on the Hampshire Jobs Portal.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 It is recommended that this report be noted.**

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. A full Equalities Impact Assessment for the River Hamble Harbour Authority's compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code has been carried out and this report does not raise any issues not previously covered by that Assessment.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. This report deals with a project designed to achieve forensic marking of valuable items on boats throughout the harbour with a view to deterring and reducing criminal activity (specifically theft). When the project is fully implemented, it is anticipated that it will have a significant positive impact by reducing the incidence of theft of valuable items from boats.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? The contents of this report have no impact on carbon footprint or energy consumption.
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? Not applicable to this report.