

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	26 June 2013
Title:	Environmental Update
Reference:	4970
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Summary

- 1.1. This report summarises activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary since January 2013.

2. Contextual Information

- 2.1. Defra has announced changes to the requirements and exemptions for Marine Licences for some categories of low risk works. This is as a result of several consultation exercises and workshops to which RHHA staff made considerable inputs. These exemptions took effect from 6 April 2013 and now include certain individual mid-stream pontoons where Harbour Authority works consent has been obtained.
- 2.2. Eastleigh Borough Council has indicated that, henceforth, it will be seeking planning applications for developments that fall below mean low water and up to the mid-river boundary with Fareham Borough Council. This mirrors the approach currently taken by Fareham Borough Council.
- 2.3. Associated British Ports (ABP) Southampton has given formal notification to RHHA of its intention to commence the monitoring programme within the Hamble Estuary that is required in the 6-month run up to the start of the capital dredge of Southampton Water. The Environment and Development Manager (EDM) has been working with ABP's consultant and the managers of pre-agreed marina sites to set up this monitoring system, as per the legal agreement made between RHHA and ABP to safeguard the Hamble. The dredging operation cannot commence until at least six months after the monitoring system has been installed.

- 2.4 The Hamble Estuary Partnership (run by the EDM) met on 16 May. The group has now published a 'Guide to the public slipways and hard in the River Hamble' on its website. An application to the student research fund was approved. The project will focus on studying invasive terrestrial plants along the banks of the estuary. Partnership members updated the group on the work of their own organisations and the following presentations were given:

"Current projects of the Hants & Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology" by Hants & Wight trust for Maritime Archaeology.

"Engaging with the Southern Marine Plan" - Solent Forum

"Coastal Management & The Coastal Strategy" - Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership.

Presentations and the minutes will shortly be available on the HEP website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hambleestuarypartnership.htm>

- 2.5 The EDM attended a meeting of the Solent Forum Natural Environment Group. This meetings provide an opportunity to give and receive updates on topical issues, and to work with other bodies to ensure that the environmental legal obligations of the RHHA continue to be met.
- 2.6 The Harbour Master, Deputy Harbour Master & EDM attended a refresher training course in April to maintain their accredited certification for oil spill response.
- 2.7 The EDM has revised, significantly improved and updated the Oil Spill Contingency Plan which is now awaiting approval from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. The date for the 3-yearly oil spill deployment exercise has been set for 17 October 2013.

3 Recommendation

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

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
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 (including environmental responsibilities) 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 does not deal with any issues relating to crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- 3.1. 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
- 3.2. 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.