

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Management Committee
Date:	13 March 2015
Title:	Environmental Update
Reference:	6459
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 during December 2014 to February 2015.

2. Updates

- 2.1. The Hamble Estuary Partnership (HEP) met on 2 December 2014. Each HEP member gave an update on their organisation's work that is relevant to the Hamble Estuary. The following presentations were received:
- 'Fish of the River Hamble'. Presentation by the Environment Agency.
 - 'Marine Conservation Zones: A Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust perspective'.
 - 'Work of the Southern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority'.

Members of the Management Committee and Harbour Board are encouraged to view these useful updates via the minutes and presentations which are available at

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hambleestuarypartnership.htm>

- 2.2. The Marine Director and the Environment & Development Manager accepted an invitation to meet on site with residents of Lands End, Bursledon on 4 December. Residents have ongoing concerns regarding observed changes to their foreshore and to the extent of saltmarsh. Residents were given an explanation of: the roles of various authorities regarding management of the marshes and granted consents; research being conducted, and; an update on the potential project that the Harbour Authority is exploring regarding the viability of restoration work, ideally through reuse of dredged material. Residents were told this project is in the early stages, but if viable, they will be kept informed of progress at appropriate stages.

- 2.3. On 21 January 2015 The Marine Director and Environment & Development Manager convened a meeting of academics, consultants, regulators and practitioners with experience in habitat restoration/ creation, reuse of dredged material, coastal change and associated relevant research. A set of key issues were discussed to explore the extent and availability of information which would be required to ascertain if it would be viable to replenish or create saltmarsh and mudflats, ideally through the reuse of maintenance dredge arisings, within the Hamble Estuary. A draft project brief is being reviewed by the participants, and then will need to be endorsed by the project Steering Group prior to submission to the Harbour Board. The project brief is intended to prompt and inform a professional desktop study to ascertain the potential viability of a larger scale project in the future.
- 2.4. The car transport Hoegh Osaka went aground in the Solent on 3 January 2015. This was outside the jurisdiction of RHHA but had the potential to release pollution which may have entered the Hamble. As such, RHHA officers formed part of the Tactical Coordination Group, kept in close liaison with the Tier 2 oil spill response contractor, and remained on alert to implement the Oil Spill Plan if a pollution incident was declared. The ship has been moved to Falmouth for repairs and the Tier 2 contract has been stood down by ABP Southampton. This incident has not resulted in any costs to RHHA.

3 Recommendations

- 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:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

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.