

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	25 September 2015
Title:	Marine Director's Current Issues
Reference:	6902
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Jason Scott

Tel: 01489 576387

Email: Jason.Scott@hants.gov.uk

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report covers the issues currently under consideration by the Marine Director.

2. New Marine Director & Harbour Master

- 2.1. Jason Scott joined the Harbour Authority on 23 July.

3. Warsash Slipway

- 3.1. All consents and exemptions have been obtained and confirmed respectively, including associated variations for the agreed reduced scheme. Hampshire County Council's Engineering Department has finalised the detailed design drawings and invited bids to tender from small-scale framework contractors. Unfortunately, no bids have been received. This means that construction is unlikely to commence in October. Bids to tender from large-scale framework contractors are now being sought, initially by telephone, in order to expedite the construction process. In the event that large-scale contractors elect not to bid, HCC Engineering Department will seek quotations directly from three selected contractors. An update will be provided at the Board Meeting.

4. Warsash Link Pontoon

- 4.1. The proposal to link the Harbour Master's Warsash Jetty and Fishermen's Pontoon was outlined to the Management Committee in June 2014 and approved in principle by the Harbour Board in July 2014. Increasing tender berthing at Warsash has previously been identified through consultation on the Asset Enhancement Reserve as being one of the main enhancements that could be made on the River. Such a project would at least double the number of tender berths which would help meet the huge demand at Warsash for limited spaces. It would also provide a small increase in visitor berths for RIBs and yachts, the demand for which has seen an increase at Warsash in recent years. In addition, it would allow for public access to the linked section of the Fishermen's Pontoon, whilst retaining a security gate to the far end for private

access to the fishing boats. Following refusal of the Hamble Jetty extension project, and subsequent availability of funding, the Harbour Board has requested that the design and cost estimates for the Warsash Link Pontoon be formally re-submitted for decision at this meeting. These are provided at Appendix 1.

5. Harbour Dues

5.1 The River Hamble Harbour Authority (RHHA) report of Statutory Accounts was considered by the Harbour Board at the last Board meeting on 17 July. At that meeting, it was proposed that a further £49,300, originally identified for transfer from the Revenue Reserve to the Asset Enhancement Reserve be utilized to reduce Harbour Dues. The Chairman was charged with taking forward this piece of work alongside County Council Officers. The Chairman has asked the new Marine Director to develop options for consideration. The outline options currently being explored are:

a. To divide the figure retrospectively and equally among those who paid Harbour Dues last year. The headmark principle of this option would be to ensure that all those who contributed are refunded on an open, even and transparent basis. Any calculation would need to take into account the rates paid by yacht clubs and marinas based on berthing capacity and allow them to put in place arrangements to pass on the refund to their customers in turn. In the interests of equality, pursuing this recommendation would also need to take into account those who have paid day-rates or multiple day-rates. This solution refunds all those who have already contributed to the upkeep of the River. It is, however, the most complicated solution with a high administrative cost in terms of staff time.

b. To divide the figure in a forward looking manner on the same basis for next year. This may mean that those who contributed last year, but who no longer use the River, may not benefit. This is also a complicated solution to administer in staff terms.

c. Using the £49,300 to commit to a zero per cent increase in Harbour Dues next year, with the intent of keeping rates flat for as long as possible. How long that might be would be subject to a prudent, ongoing review which would take account of events and the future financial position. This is the simplest solution to implement and offers the greatest flexibility.

In each of the first two cases, it would be necessary to make it explicit that any refund would be of a 'one-off' nature.

6. Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board

a) proceeds with applications for permissions to develop the Warsash Link Pontoon.

b) commits to a zero per cent increase in Harbour Dues next year (option c).

c) notes the remainder of the report.

Integral Appendix A

**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. This report includes an Equalities Impact Assessment within the draft Strategic Plan.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. This report does not deal directly 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.