HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	21 October 2016
Title:	Harbour Dues 2017
Reference:	7840
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend the rate for Harbour Dues for 2017.

2. Background

2.1 The River Hamble Harbour Authority (RHHA) report of Statutory Accounts was considered by the Harbour Board at the last Board meeting on 15 July. At that meeting, the Board heard that the surplus for the 2015/16 year was £1400 and that this was an improvement on the original forecast. It was reported that the balance on the General Reserve, at 31 March 2016, was £108,642 and it was noted that this was in excess of the 10% gross revenue budget as per the agreed policy. This represents an improved position against the budget. The budget for the current financial year, as agreed by the Board at the meeting of 15th January 2016, provided for a zero increase in Harbour Dues for the 2016 calendar year and also provided for an overall surplus of £16,000, after the agreed annual contribution to the Asset Replacement Reserve. The forecast outturn for 2016/17 will be brought to the next Board meeting in January, together with the forward budget for the 2017/18 financial year for approval. However, it is currently projected that a small draw will in fact be required from reserves in order to meet the full contribution to the Asset Replacement Reserve. Nonetheless, the General Reserve would remain at a level above 10% of gross revenue budget, as agreed in the reserves policy, and therefore the budget would support a further freeze to the Harbour Dues. Alternative options to benefit those paying Harbour Dues were explored last year and remain true this:

a. To divide this small 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. 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.

3. Proposal

3.1. To commit to a zero per cent increase in Harbour Dues for 2017 as outlined above in option C.

4. Recommendation

4.1 It is recommended that River Hamble Harbour Board agrees to a zero per cent increase in Harbour Dues for 2017.

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

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	

Integral Appendix B

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 disproportionally 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.