

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee</b>	River Hamble Harbour Board
<b>Date:</b>	19 November 2010
<b>Title:</b>	River Capacity - Update
<b>Reference:</b>	2289
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report summarises progress on implementing the decision of the Harbour Board (26 March 2010) that a 'review of the implications (resource, environmental, legislative etc) of removing or modifying the current cap on mooring capacity' should be carried out.
- 1.2. In order to identify the implications of a review, relevant interested parties were consulted during June and July 2010. This report summarises the key findings of the consultation process and the proposed way forward.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. In 2009, the River Hamble Select Committee recommended (amongst other things) that the Harbour Authority should, in consultation with local planning authorities and The Crown Estate, seek to remove or modify the current cap on maximum moorings capacity on the River (currently set at 3,261 moorings). Subsequently, the Harbour Board decided that, as a first step towards implementing this recommendation, a review of the implications of such a move should be carried out. This review has now been completed, informed by the consultation process outlined above.

### 3. Consultation responses

- 3.1. The invitation to respond to the consultation was sent to those organisations which operate moorings on the River, and those which have regulatory or consenting powers regarding the capacity of the River. However, a number of responses were received from organisations and individuals outside these categories, who had not been included in the invitation to respond.

Nonetheless, the views expressed by all respondents have been taken into account, to the extent that they addressed the resource, environmental, legislative and social implications of a review.

3.2. The consultation responses raised a number of relevant implications, listed briefly below:

a. Resource/economic:

There is a need for a strategic plan for development of the harbour.

Reorganising existing mooring layouts is expensive – who would pay?

There is a risk that the range of mooring types will reduce, and mooring prices will increase as a result.

There are potential economic benefits to commercial interests, clubs and The Crown Estate.

An increase in capacity may result in an increase in radio traffic and incidents for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to deal with.

There is a need to respond to market trends to accommodate more, larger boats.

Increasing capacity will bring more business to local marine related employers, and create more jobs in the local area.

b. Environmental:

As a 'plan or project' under the Habitat's Regulations, an Environmental Assessment will be required.

Any change in capacity will need to ensure no damage to the interest features of SSSIs.

Speed/wash impacts on bank erosion.

Possible increase in future dredging requirements.

Potential impact on inter-tidal habitat, over-wintering birds and fish migration.

Increased disturbance for birds.

Possible increase in pollution incidents.

Need to retain Mooring Restricted Areas.

Need to consider carbon footprint implications.

Potential damage to archaeological sites.

c. Legislative:

Implications under Habitat Regulations.

Implications under Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

Implications of local planning policies.

d. Social and recreational:

Implications for safety and ease of navigation.

Open areas and public access must be retained.

Dry-sailed and dry-stacked vessels should be included in capacity limit.

Parking and traffic implications.

Implications for tender storage and safety.

Space must be retained for dinghies and young sailors.

Implications for views and public amenity.

Potential narrowing of access channels.

Density of boat traffic at peak times.

Review needs to address community benefit.

#### 4. Way forward

- 4.1. The consultation responses were considered in detail by a sub-group which met on 23 September 2010, as announced at the Harbour Board meeting on 10 September 2010. The sub-group comprised the Chairmen of the Harbour Board and Management Committee, plus the Marine Director/ Harbour Master and the Environment and Development Manager. In addition to the consultation responses, the sub-group also considered data obtained from the latest aerial photographs of the River, taken in May 2010, which clearly indicate that the current number of moorings is about 200 less than the permitted maximum of 3,261. In view of the implications highlighted by the consultation, and the fact that the River is currently below its permitted maximum moorings capacity, the sub-group agreed to recommend to the Harbour Board as follows:

#### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board agrees that there is currently no requirement to conduct a detailed review of the moorings capacity of the harbour.**

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	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