

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Report

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| <b>Committee</b>    | River Hamble Harbour Board                             |
| <b>Date:</b>        | 21 March 2017  |
| <b>Title:</b>       | Environmental Update                                   |
| <b>Report From:</b> | Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services |

**Contact name:** Alison Fowler

**Tel:** 01489 576387

**Email:** Alison.fowler@hants.gov.uk

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report summarises activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary from mid-November to mid-February 2017.

### 2. Updates

- 2.1. The harbour works consent application made to RHHA for a private pontoon and Jetty at Fairport House has been withdrawn by the applicant.
- 2.2. Annual maintenance dredging has been granted consent and been undertaken at Hamble Point Marina and Mercury Marina in line with the River Hamble Maintenance Dredging Baseline Document.
- 2.3. The Environment & Development Manager (EDM) hosted a visit of primarily new starters from Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and RHHA. The session involved an introduction to the estuary, the work of RHHA, a visit on board an operational maintenance dredger, and both on-water and shore-side familiarisation of the estuary. Attendees felt the visit will greatly aid their ability to deal with related case-work. Thanks to MDL Marinas, Lymington Technical Services and ML Dredging UK for their assistance.
- 2.4. RHHA's annual return has been made to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency regarding oil spill exercises and training undertaken in 2016, ensuring ongoing compliance with the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998.
- 2.5. The EDM has been promoting the recently published River Hamble Sediment Management and Saltmarsh Restoration Feasibility Study, including a presentation at the meeting of Solent Forum's Natural Environment Group and an article in the bi-annual Solent News publication. Discussions are also on going with private landowners and commercial groups.
- 2.6. The EDM submitted a response to the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) consultation on the draft South Inshore Marine Plan. "*The Plan*:"

- *sets out priorities and directions for future development within the plan area through objectives and policies.*
- *informs sustainable use of marine resources.*
- *helps marine users understand the best locations for their activities, including where new developments may be appropriate.*
- *guides those who use and regulate the marine area to encourage sustainable development while considering the environment, economy and society.”*

The Plan relates to the coast, estuaries and tidal waters and has important links with land-use planning, particularly where both planning systems cover the same location i.e. intertidal areas.

The Marine Plan will be supported by the Marine Information System (MIS). This has been created for all users from public authorities to industry applicants. The MIS supplies plans, policies and supporting data and information.

The MMO anticipate that the final Plan will be adopted in Spring/Summer 2017. A full update will be provided to members in the Environment Report after this time. More information can be found at 2.9 below via the link to the MMO’s recent presentation to Hamble Estuary Partnership.

- 2.7. The EDM assisted the Local Government Association Special Interest Group on Coastal Issues (LGA Coastal SIG) by contributing to examples of MMO Marine Licensing where authorities from around England felt that working and efficiency can be improved. This information has been shared with the MMO and the SIG are continuing to champion this issue.
- 2.8. In January the EDM attended the Coastal Futures conference. This annual conference provides an invaluable review, briefing and forward look of coastal and marine environmental issues. Key topics of interest included the Defra 25 year environment plan, Brexit, coastal management through partnerships, and Marine Planning. Outputs are available at <http://coastal-futures.net/archive>
- 2.9. A meeting of the Hamble Estuary Partnership was held on 5 December 2016.
  - The EDM gave a presentation outlining the different permissions required for riverside developments.
  - The Marine Management Organisation gave an update on the consultation of the draft South Inshore Marine Plan.
  - A timeline was set out for the completion and planned adoption of Eastleigh Borough Council’s Local Plan.
  - Fareham Borough Council planning officers outlined the formation of the Local Plan 2036, and explained how developments are considered and controlled within the vicinity of the Hamble Estuary.
  - Each HEP member gave an update on their organisation’s work that is relevant to the Hamble Estuary.

Members are encouraged to view the minutes and presentations at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hambleestuarypartnership/hep-members.htm>

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board notes this report.**

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

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| <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>                   | 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.)**

DocumentLocation

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:**

- 1.2. The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- 1.3. Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- 1.4. 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.

#### **1.5. 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.