

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	12 July 2019
Title:	Marine Director and Harbour Master's Report and Current Issues
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to record formally RHHA Patrol Operations and inform the Duty Holder of significant events and trends having a bearing on the Marine Safety Management System.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board supports the contents of this report.

Executive Summary

3. This report summarises the incidents and events which have taken place in the Harbour and addresses any issues currently under consideration by the Harbour Master.

Contextual Information

Patrols

4. The harbour has been patrolled by the Duty Harbour Master at various times between 0700 and 2230 daily.

Incidents and Events

5. Graphical indication of trends will be presented at the next round of meetings to take account of the Summer season's events.
6. 03 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Planned patrol boat maintenance.
7. 04 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Strong winds. Patrol assisted a yacht with propulsion failure to the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon for defect investigation. Assisted a motor vessel having difficulties in berthing. Recovered two crew stranded (owing to weather and sea-state) on the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon to Warsash. Re-positioned a number of displaced fenders and re-secured a number of loose mooring lines on midstream-moored yachts.
8. 05 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Further strong winds. Searched for a large log reported floating near Mercury Marina. Not located. Tide gauge maintenance work.
9. 06 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Responded to a complaint from a River User at Hamble slipway regarding inconsiderate parking preventing the recovery of vessels. Vehicle owner compliant. Intervention to prevent a young person diving from the Hamble Link Span, despite signage.
10. 07 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Recovered a large branch from the River, suspected to be that reported at 5.4., upstream from Mercury Marina. Responded to a call from Hamble Lifeboat regarding a member of the public trapped in the mud upstream from the RHCP Jetty. Both Hamble Lifeboat and Patrol attended. Patrol landed Lifeboat team and recovery equipment in shallow water. Hampshire ambulance and HMCG mud rescue teams also in attendance. Casualty, a local lady had been litter picking and was evacuated to Southampton General having suffered a broken leg. Patrol then gave assistance to a yacht with propulsion failure pending arrival of Sea Start.
11. 08 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. HM, DHM and a number of Patrol Officers attended a Police intelligence and operational briefing at Netley Police Headquarters.
12. 09 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol responded to a call from a yacht with propulsion failure at the mouth of the River. Vessel escorted to HM Jetty Warsash for defect investigation. Attended a property near the Bark Store to investigate a report of an overhanging tree.

13. 10 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. New Seasonal Patrol Officer – Roslyn Cameron – joins. Replaced mooring lines at the request of a Crown Estate Mooring Holder. Liaison with visiting yachts regarding berthing training. Re-positioned a number of yachts on the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon.
14. 11 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Liaison with a number of marinas and boatyards. Re-secured a yacht on the 'M' run. Liaison with the Crown Estate Mooring Contractor. Patrol returned a yacht from the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon to her proper mooring following planned maintenance.
15. 12 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol conducted a commercial tow of a yacht to her mooring post maintenance. Repositioning of yachts on the 'HP' run for maintenance. Took delivery of new tide gauges.
16. 13 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Pontoon maintenance. Office refurbishment. Commercial tow of a yacht from the 'G' run to the 'Z' run. Fine weather, heavy traffic.
17. 14 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol stood by a RIB with intermittent propulsion difficulties back to her proper mooring. Stood by a yacht with a fouled propellor at the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon.
18. 15 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Office refurbishment work.
19. 16 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Office refurbishment work. Responded to a call from a motor vessel with intermittent propulsion problems in the mouth of the River and escorted her to her berth at a Marina. Pumped out an inundated tender at the Warsash Link Pontoon. Light Audit liaison with a River boatyard.
20. 17 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Gave assistance to the skipper of a mid-stream moored yacht regarding the rigging of pile lines. Inspected a pontoon reported as having snagged pile rings. Observed a male acting suspiciously on the Warsash HM Jetty. Surveillance conducted and individual reported to the Police.
21. 18 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Yacht coding work. Liaison with a River Marina. Gave commercial assistance to a local boatyard in moving a vessel. Liaison with HMCG which had taken a report of a vessel near a fuelling berth with propulsion failure. Patrol attended

- and assisted a catamaran with a fouled propellor. Attended Hamble Jetty and dispersed a small group of young swimmers. Warsash slipway clearance work.
22. 19 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Signage work at Warsash Slipway. Gave assistance to Hamble Lifeboat in recovery at Warsash of two individuals and treatment by Hampshire Ambulance. They had been swimming from a chartered yacht in the Solent and overcome by the tide. Both were suffering from cold-water shock.
 23. 20 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Routine liaison with Hamble Lifeboat. Attended RHCP jetty and administered verbal warning to a PWC skipper for speeding. Gave assistance to four vessels: battery charging; engine overheating (tow to a marina for defect rectification) and in respect of a failed pile iron on a mid-stream mooring. Easterly cardinal (No 2) reported as intermittent. NTRU issued.
 24. 21 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Stood by a small motor vessel with propulsion problems while returning to her proper mooring. Assisted a yacht with propulsion failure to her proper mooring.
 25. 22 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Routine liaison with Hamble Life Boat. Gave assistance to a commercial craft with engine failure. During patrol to the Upper River, stopped and warned a number of small craft creating excessive wake. Assisted a paddleboarder across the main channel in heavy traffic. Responded to a call from Hampshire Police to render assistance in resolving anti-social behaviour North of the M27 motorway bridge. Around 50 youths had congregated in a field and were swimming across the channel to climb on craft moored at a local boatyard. On arrival, facilitated Police engagement with this group. Gave assistance to the owner of a kayak which had lost its bung and was taking on water. Towed a vessel with propulsion failure from Lands End to a boatyard for defect rectification. Patrol recovered a large branch from the Main Channel off Bursledon.
 26. 23 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Liaison with a boatyard regarding maintenance of Aids to Navigation. While passing Hamble Jetty, intervened to disperse six male youths climbing on the moored Pink Ferry. Verbal abuse of Patrol team followed. Enthusiasm of the group diminished with the arrival of a sharp rain shower. Later reported to the Police in order to build any case for future plan of action. Liaison with Hampshire Constabulary regarding a missing person living in Warsash.

27. 24 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Further liaison with Hampshire Police regarding the missing person at 5.21. Replaced pile lines on a mid-stream moored yacht.
28. 25 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Attended a mid-stream mooring to move cleats. Boat coding and licence work. Stood by a yacht under sail with engine failure as she returned to her proper mooring. Liaison with HMCG following a report of a small yacht aground on Hook Spit. Patrol attended and located the yacht with one person on board. Skipper was not local and had made a navigational error at his own admission. He was content to wait for the rising tide and re-floated safely.
29. 26 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Routine liaison with a River Marina. Gave assistance to a visiting yacht at Hamble Jetty. Liaison with HMCG regarding an inexperienced sailor leaving the River bound for Chichester. Increase in wind strength throughout the day. Commissioning of new sonar scanner in CROWN. Re-secured a flogging sail in a mid-stream moored yacht. Owner informed.
30. 27 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Storm Hannah. Responded to a number of calls reporting a small, unmanned motor vessel aground South of the M27 Motorway bridge. Ebb tide had left the vessel firmly aground. Boat coding work. Liaison with a River boatyard reporting that 3 vessels had possibly been deliberately released from their moorings, including the grounded vessel. Two vessels recovered with no reported damage. The boatyard also recovered the grounded motor vessel at High Water. HMCG and Hamble Life Boat informed. No evidence of malicious activity. Boatyard checked its other moored vessels to ensure that they were secure. Checked mooring lines on a large yacht secured to the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon. Intercepted a PWC off the River Hamble Country Park Jetty and administered a warning for speeding and wash. PWC rider was receptive and recognised that his ignorance of the Bye Laws was no defence.
31. 28 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Extended checks following high winds. Routine liaison with Hamble Life Boat. Further anti-social behaviour at Hamble involving youths. Verbal abuse of the Life Boat crew and throwing of water-filled balloons both at the crew and members of the public. Police engaged. Office refurbishment.
32. 29 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Towed a large yacht from the Visitors' Pontoon to her proper mooring following pile-iron maintenance work. Pontoon maintenance work on 'HP' pontoon (cleat replacement). HM support to British Marine and Health and Safety Executive.

33. 30 Apr. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Re-secured a loose mooring line on a vessel on the 'I' run. Routine light audit completed.
34. 01 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Responded to a report of damage to a mid-stream moored yacht on the 'H' run. On arrival, a hit-and-run incident had taken place with immediately apparent damage to the toe rail of the moored yacht. Incident recorded, photographs of damage taken and owner informed. Boat coding work.
35. 02 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Assistance given to a local yacht with steering difficulties off Warsash. New electronic pontoon inspection app tested.
36. 03 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Visit to Port Hamble at MDL invitation to inspect a new boat cleaning water filtration system. Routine other boatyard liaison. Assistance given to a French visiting yacht at Swanwick.
37. 04 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Liaison with HMCG regarding a person overboard in the Solent. Casualty recovered and being brought to Warsash Jetty for treatment by Hampshire Ambulance Service.
38. 05 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Routine Marina liaison visit. HM support to BBC Radio Solent magazine programme 'Clued Up'. Responded to a call from a Marina regarding flotsam in the vicinity of the A27 Bridge.
39. 06 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Recovered a pontoon float adrift in the River. Patrol gave assistance to a yacht reporting propulsion failure in the mouth of the River. Vessel towed to Warsash HM Jetty for defect rectification. Patrol escorted a large tow out of the River.
40. 07 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Liaison with HMCG regarding a report from a member of the public stuck in the mud on a rising tide South of Warsash College Jetty. First responder including HMCG mud rescue team in attendance. Single male recovered. Liaison with a River boatyard reporting a missing tender. Patrol gave assistance to a small motor vessel with propulsion failure alongside the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon. Skipper had run out of fuel and had a small child on board with no buoyancy aids and no kill-cord. Skipper taken aside and given a comprehensive safety briefing.

41. 08 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol responded to a call from a visiting sail-training yacht, practising approaches to the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon. A crew member had twisted her knee while line handling and required medical attention. Patrol recovered the individual to the Harbour Office, administered first aid and arranged for her to be collected by a relative for further medical attention at Southampton Hospital. Subsequent confirmation of soft tissue injury and thanks from the casualty. Patrol recovered a large branch from the River near Mercury Bend.
42. 09 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Liaison with HMCG. Office refurbishment work.
43. 10 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Office refurbishment work. Inspected and took photographs of rocky material on the foreshore South East of Swanwick slipway in response to a complaint from a River User.
44. 11 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Enforced Bye Law 16 (Prohibited Anchorage). Patrol gave a verbal warning to a RIB creating excessive wash.
45. 12 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol conducted a commercial tow of a yacht from her proper mooring to the Harbour Master's Jetty at Warsash. Routine liaison with Hamble Life Boat. Advised a small motor boat about her excessive wash.
46. 13 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Assisted a new owner of a yacht to the Fuel Berth at Port Hamble. Routine liaison with three Boatyards. Responded to a call from a Boatyard at Bursledon regarding alleged theft. Recovered and returned a dropped fender for a mid-stream moored yacht.
47. 14 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Recovered a tender abandoned off Bunny Meadows. Assisted a tender under oars, struggling in the wind, to a sailing club. Scrubbing pile maintenance Warsash.
48. 15 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Moved on a number of visiting yachts on private mid-stream moorings. Advised two PWCs on the need to control wash. Recovered an abandoned tender near the 'G' run. Assisted a 70' yacht alongside on the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon. Patrol recovered a further abandoned tender to Warsash from Swanwick. Gave assistance to a yacht entering the River experiencing propulsion failure.

49. 16 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Commercial tow of a yacht with propulsion failure from 'G' run to Harbour Master's Pontoon Warsash. Took telephone reports from members of the public regarding speeding PWC. Patrol witnessed these PWC departing the River at around 20kt. Both returned 20 minutes later and were apprehended and given a written warning. Riders were from outside the River and contrite. Written warning to be held for 5 years.
50. 17 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol recovered an abandoned tender to Warsash. Routine liaison with Hamble Life Boat and Hampshire Marine Police Unit.
51. 18 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Stood by a yacht with steering defect adjacent to a marina. Support given to the annual Hamble River Raid. Responded to a call from a visiting yacht, broken down and temporarily moored on a private mooring on the 'L' run.
52. 19 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Routine patrol boat maintenance. Routine jetty maintenance.
53. 20 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Routine liaison with Hamble Life Boat.
54. 21 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol retrieved a large log from the River near the Grace Dieu wreck. Patrol conducted commercial tow of two yachts from their proper moorings to the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon. Collected new tide gauge brackets from manufacturers for fitting. Crableck tide gauge fitted.
55. 22 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Assisted a walker in the recovery of her dog from the mud near the River Hamble Country Park Jetty. Recovered a branch from the River adjacent to the 'J' run. Made up mooring lines (commercial income).
56. 23 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Replaced shackles on a mid-stream mooring for an owner (commercial). Attended a yacht which had anchored in the lower River following a propulsion failure. Towed to Hamble pontoon for defect rectification. Recovered a large bough from the River off Lincegrove Marsh. Assisted MV MEDUSA alongside Warsash Harbour Master's pontoon.
57. 24 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Routine liaison with Hampshire Marine Police Unit. Liaison with a mid-stream mooring holder regarding possible theft of timber from his vessel. Routine patrol boat maintenance. Liaison with HM Coast Guard regarding a vessel with

propulsion failure under tow into the River. Towed the vessel to her resident marina for defect rectification.

58. 25 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Slipway clearance. Recovered a small buoy/float from the River. Patrol towed a small RIB (4 persons on board) with propulsion failure back to her home marina. Escorted a yacht, unable to start her engine, to her proper mooring. Patrol intercepted a small motor boat, speeding. Vessel was from outside the River and, when warned of the speed limit, displayed contrition. Patrol assisted a small motor boat aground off Crableck in recovery to deep water.
59. 26 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol intercepted two speeding motor boats, based outside the River, near Crableck. Both skippers advised of the speed limit and compliant. Patrol evicted a visiting motorboat from a private mid-stream mooring.
60. 27 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol assisted a motor vessel which had run out of fuel near the mouth of the River. Towed the vessel in question to Warsash Harbour Master's pontoon. Commercial tow. Patrol removed two private fishermen from the centre of the Main Channel off Warsash. Patrol stood by a returning yacht under sail with engine failure as she returned to her marina berth which she achieved without further assistance.
61. 28 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Routine patrol boat maintenance. Patrol witnessed a near miss between a rowing boat and a large motor cruiser in the Main Channel. Avoiding action was taken by both craft in accordance with Rule 8 IRPCS. Both craft debriefed by Patrol and no further action taken. The matter will be subject to discussion at the next Quarterly Operational and Safety Meeting. Commercial exchange of pile lines on a mooring on the 'L' run.
62. 29 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Routine patrol boat maintenance. Inspection by Patrol and the Environment Officer of an overhanging tree near Botley.
63. 30 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol recovered a Warsash tender (W7) from the bank adjacent to the Chinese Bridge. Owner contacted. Routine marina liaison. Liaison with the Crown Estate mooring contractor. Patrol gave assistance to a yacht foul on a picking-up line.
64. 31 May. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol responded to a report of a collision of a dinghy underway and a yacht approaching a berth on the 'B' run. Both skippers had failed to take appropriate action in

good time. The dinghy had sailed under the bow of the yacht, causing the former's rigging to become entangled in the yacht's anchor and pulpit. There were no injuries or damage and the two were quickly disentangled. Both skippers at fault and neither showed an understanding of the relative responsibilities between vessels when approaching one another so as to involve a risk of collision. Both de-briefed accordingly, in particular the dinghy crew from a local sailing club. This crew demonstrated some hubris and showed little understanding of the Rules. This requires a reminder to Commodores of sailing clubs of the need for a better understanding and will be addressed at the next operational and safety meeting.

65. 01 Jun. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol responded to a report of theft on at least six yachts on the 'L' run. Police and affected owners informed and assisted the Police in their investigations. Liaison with and briefing of adjacent mooring holders and marina. Items, including a Life Raft and tender were later recovered ashore. This investigation is ongoing. Harbour Master's Charity Pursuit Race. Supported by the River Hamble Combined Clubs. £390 raised for Parkinson's UK. Patrol responded to a report from a marina of a speeding PWC and apprehended a vessel matching the description. Pilot re-briefed.
66. 02 Jun. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Returned two tenders, previously recovered, to their proper ships. Recovered a large branch from the River adjacent to the River Hamble Country Park Jetty. Re-briefed the skipper of a RIB behaving irresponsibly. Further work to support the Police regarding thefts. Re-briefed the skipper of a RIB regarding excessive wash and speed – contrite.
67. 03 Jun. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Patrol to the River Hamble Country Park Jetty and observed that RHHA new signage had been forcibly removed. Sign recovered and returned to the office pending re-establishment. Liaison with Southampton Harbour Master whose patrol boat was entering the River with a broken-down vessel under tow. Towed the latter to Warsash Harbour Master's Jetty for defect rectification. Further support to the Police regarding thefts. Responded to a call from a marina reporting a possible dragged mooring. On arrival, nothing witnessed. Sighted suspicious activity with known individuals involvement. Reported.
68. 04 Jun. Patrol conducted mooring and pontoon checks. Tide gauge maintenance. Patrol recovered a steel trailer from Lands End Hard to Warsash.

Support to British Marine and the Health and Safety Executive

69. At the request of British Marine (BM), the Harbour Master provided practical support and advice on 29 April to BM and officials from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
70. Members will be aware that BM is the trade association for the UK leisure, superyacht and small commercial marine industry. Inter alia, BM provides industry-specific guidance on Health and Safety on a variety of matters. Together with the HSE, it is developing a new Code of Practice for Marinas and Boatyards to assist in ensuring compliance with the Act.
71. The River Hamble Harbour Authority was asked to support a day in the field and give HSE Officials unfamiliar with the maritime domain a fuller understanding of the complexities of the marine environment from an afloat perspective, in particular with regard to accident and incident reporting and responsibility. The Hamble is the largest recreational sailing base in the country and therefore in a good position to contribute. It was BM's choice with our agreement.
72. By their own admission, HSE officials were not familiar in detail with the recent Memorandum of Understanding and supporting Operational Working Agreement involving it and two other Government Agencies, the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) and Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), which have particular and separate yet complementary requirements. Officials were also unfamiliar with the MCA's Port Marine Safety Code for all Harbour Authorities or our statutory responsibilities for compliance with various maritime instruments (for example, the Merchant Shipping (Accident and Reporting) Act 2012). Our role was to ensure that the requirements of these instructions were highlighted and points of contact at the relevant organisations given so as to avoid the potential for any misunderstanding in the development of this subordinate but helpful Code.
73. Whereas there is some crossover in reporting requirements (for example Hand Arm Vibration/working at height) and some specific areas (such as Diving Operations At Work) where the HSE will lead, other marine incidents will not necessarily involve them.
74. Our time and involvement was appreciated and it is likely that we will be invited to comment during the formal consultation.

BBC Radio Solent – RHHA Involvement

75. The RHHA was invited on Sunday 5 May to participate in BBC Radio Solent's Sunday morning item 'Clued Up', hosted by Pat Sissons.
76. Clued Up is a feature within the morning's run of programmes which takes as its theme popular places within the Solent Radio footprint. Listeners are invited to suggest significant local locations and come up with clues to suggest what and where they are. A road team then deploys and meets the listener at that location for a light chat about the place. The HM, along with a local lady (who had proposed our Harbour Office building as such a recognisable location) met up with the team during which there was an opportunity to talk about the River, its meaning to River Users, history and some of the local characters. While a BBC Sounds account (relatively straightforward to engineer) will be necessary, it can be heard at the following link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0779wy1>.
77. Given that the use of the Harbour Office was 'secret', we were not allowed to disclose our involvement beforehand (except to gain HCC approval for engagement). We are at approximately the two-hour marker and our involvement is around 5 minutes.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:
Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

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

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

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 by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

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

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

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An EIA is not required as no negative impacts are anticipated.