

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee:</b>	River Hamble Harbour Board
<b>Date:</b>	12 July 2019
<b>Title:</b>	Environmental Update
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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#### **Purpose of this Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to summarise activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary between March and mid-May 2019.

#### **Recommendation**

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

#### **Updates**

##### **Oil Spill Preparedness & Response**

3. In accordance with the RHHA Oil Spill Contingency Plan produced to comply with the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response Cooperation Convention) Regulations 1998, the Environment & Development Manager (EDM), Harbour Master (HM) and Deputy HM undertook their required 3-yearly refresher of the MCA Level 4P oil spill management training course to ensure RHHA's preparedness for command and control of a medium to large scale oil spill. Also required is the planning and delivery of a practical incident management exercise every 3 years. This is being planned with RHHA's contractor to take place on 1 October 2019.

##### **M27 Motorway Bridge Crossing**

4. On the 19<sup>th</sup> March the EDM and HM held a meeting with representatives from Highways England (HE) and its partners Keir and BMJV to discuss collaborative efforts to secure an engineering solution to the risk posed to the

estuary by the direct run-off of drainage from the M27 bridge. All parties agreed that the Smart Motorway initiative represents a key opportunity to address now not only the risk of a high-profile, large spill from a motorway incident entering the River with catastrophic results but also the uncontrolled and long-term daily direct run-off of pollutants. Following the meeting, RHHA wrote to HE and received further confirmation by reply that HE is continuing to develop an engineering solution and funding opportunities.

### **Water Quality**

5. The EDM was invited to view the newly installed Filtabund filtration system at Marina Developments Limited's (MDL) Mercury Yacht Harbour. This is thought to be the first of its type to be installed in the Solent Region, with more planned for other MDL sites. The filtration system collects all water and associated solids produced during the washdown of a vessel. The waste water is pumped through an automated 7-stage filtration system that removes solids (including paint particulates and non-native species), fine sediments, hydrocarbons, dissolved copper and zinc. Whilst other sites in the river have systems that remove solids, sediment and oils, albeit to a lesser degree, this system further enables additional pollutants to be removed, thus resulting in significantly cleaner water being drained back into the estuary.

### **Enhancement Projects**

6. The EDM & HM attended the Solent Forum members meeting to receive updates on the emerging issues and projects. Of particular note was the MARINEFF Project (an EU funded multi-partner project) to enhance and protect coastal ecosystems through research into innovations that will integrate habitats for marine organisms directly into marine infrastructures. The EDM is in liaison with the project team regarding use of the Hamble for potential trial sites.

### **Designated Nature Conservation Sites**

7. As part of RHHA's responsibilities associated with having jurisdiction within protected sites, the EDM attended the biannual Natural Environment Group to track actions and receive updates on issues relevant to RHHA. An update was provided that it will become mandatory for any developments that fall under the Town & Country Planning Act (except permitted development) to have a biodiversity net gain of a minimum of +10%, and will include intertidal areas. To date a minimum of 'no net loss' has been acceptable. This will be mandated in the pending Environment Bill. Whilst this will be implemented by Local Authorities through the Town & Country Planning Act, RHHA must remain mindful of this requirement when advising applicants or considering its own developments within the estuary. Minutes and presentation available at [http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural\\_environment\\_group/NEG\\_Meetings/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Meetings/)

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

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