

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Report

<b>Committee</b>	River Hamble Harbour Management Committee
<b>Date:</b>	1 December 2017
<b>Title:</b>	Environmental Update
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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### 1. Summary

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

### 2. Updates

#### 2.1. Port Waste Management Plan.

The River Hamble Port Waste Management Plan has been approved by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency under the Merchant Shipping (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations 2003 (as amended). The Plan had been updated by the Environment & Development Manager (EDM) with input from the River's marinas, yards and sailing/yacht clubs, as is required every 3 years.

#### 2.2. Warsash Link Pontoon.

Following the approved installation of the Warsash link pontoon in November 2016 which connected the Harbour Master's Jetty and Fishermen's jetty, two 'finger pontoons' have been added to the arrangement, connected to a bracket on the main pontoon. They act as a buffer between the boats moored at adjacent locations. The relevant approvals, variation and exemption registrations were obtained.

#### 2.3. Winter maintenance projects.

Pile replacement works are due to be undertaken this winter at the Royal Southern Yacht Club, Port Hamble Marina and various Crown Estate mid-stream moorings. Routine maintenance dredging has been approved for this coming winter at Hamble Point Marina, Port Hamble Marina and Mercury Marina. Methodology and dredging volumes are consistent with the approved River Hamble Maintenance Dredge Plan.

#### 2.4. Solent Forum and Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS) Management Group.

The EDM attended the bi-annual meetings of the Solent Forum (SF) Members' Meeting, the SF Natural Environment Group, and the annual Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS) Management Group. Attendance ensures the RHHA both inputs and remains up to date on emerging issues and project work, and that environmental obligations continue to be met. The annual process relating to the SEMS Management Group ensures that relevant authorities such as RHHA are fulfilling

duties with regards to monitoring and managing the impacts that activities (as opposed to plans or developments) have on the protected SEMS.

#### 2.5. Beneficial Use of Dredgings in the Solent (BUDS) Project.

The EDM attended the first meeting of the technical group that is overseeing Phase 1 of the Solent Forum BUDS project. The project, which aims to try and make best use of arisings for habitat creation and coastal defence, compliments and builds upon RHHA's 2016 River Hamble Saltmarsh & Sediment Study. The overall aim of the phased Solent Forum BUDS project is to "bring about beneficial use of dredging within one or more Solent sites, using an incrementally phased approach to scope and cost sediment sourcing and sediment receiver sites, building a system of protocols and guidance." The Phase 1 review, being undertaken by ABPMer, is an initial, small-scale, investigation designed to achieve the following:

- Briefly review history of beneficial use;
- Identify potentially suitable sites for implementing a project that beneficially uses fine dredge sediment for habitat restoration (and other functions);
- Identify potential partnership members to realise such a future project.

#### 2.6. The Seaview Project has moved on a stage following a workshop of the Hamble sub-group. The group assessed responses given to an Environment Agency consultation of local stakeholders (via the Hamble Estuary Partnership) conducted on a list of potential options throughout the estuary for habitat enhancement opportunities. Identifying these 'mitigation measures' is required under the Water Framework Directive to ensure the estuary can reach the classification 'good ecological potential'. This is separate, although complementary, to work required under the Habitats Regulations relating to protection and enhancement of the associated designated sites. Some options relating to removal of structures were discounted on the basis of protection of heritage features and/or high risk of habitat damage in accessing structures, however, over 30 potential options were discussed to be taken forward for further consideration. There are significant challenges to delivery of these options, including funding, landowner agreement, and further appropriate research into understanding the true benefits of some designs of ecological enhancement.

#### 2.7. Solent Oyster Restoration Project

RHHA has been approached with a view to the Hamble Estuary being used as key location for the next phase of the project, to include both more brood-stock cages and re-seeding the river bed population, subject to the project organisers Blue Marine Foundation obtaining the relevant permissions and funding.

### 3. Recommendations

#### 3.1 It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee notes the contents of this report.

**CORPORATE OR 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

## **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 disproportionately 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 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.