

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	River Hamble Harbour Management Committee
Date:	16 September 2022
Title:	Environmental Update
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 summarise activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary between June and August 2022.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee notes and supports this report.

Contextual information

3. The M27 motorway bridge drainage

The Environment & Development Manager and Harbour Master have held discussions and a separate online meeting with 5 members of management and specialist teams from National Highways (NH) to discuss progress of the longstanding issue of direct run-off from the M27 bridge into the Hamble estuary. The NH team set out the scope of work required to the Hamble bridge as significant, complex and comprising several elements including deck waterproofing, strengthening in relation to abnormal loads, painting, drainage and potentially the replacement of the barriers (to be confirmed after corrosion investigation work). Work relating to run-off sits within two NH workstreams - that within the bridge itself and another relating to the outfalls with installation of interceptors. NH confirmed that the two feasibility studies are underway and being run in tandem this financial year. NH committed to another meeting with RHHA when the feasibility study on options is complete

next Spring, with ongoing liaison with RHHA on requirements for survey/site/access matters in the meantime. Funding approval will be required at each of the next stages of detailed design and construction.

RHHA has separately been approached by Portsmouth University to facilitate sample collection of run off for a PhD studying the effects of car tire chemicals on aquatic life.

4. Solent Oyster Restoration project

Final preparations are underway with the Blue Marine Foundation team and its surveyor and contractor for their planned laying of shells and gravels on specified subtidal areas of the riverbed to create oyster habitat as part of the Solent Oyster Restoration project. This is planned for the end of September. The Blue team held a stakeholder engagement event on 14 July in the Hamble to tell the wider community about the project, and has released a short film about the project at <https://youtu.be/z2JuNQHKjHs>

5. Visit by Senior Officers from Natural England and Defra.

The Harbour Master attended a site visit by Natural England's (NE) Chairman, Tony Juniper, NE Chief Executive, Marian Spain, and Defra's Director General for Environment Rural and Marine, David Hill. This visit was hosted by Portsmouth University to showcase the research it is undertaking in the Hamble estuary in relation to the oyster ortacs, saltmarsh restoration and the native oyster restoration work supporting the Blue Marine Foundation.

6. Oil Spill Response

Planning has commenced on RHHA's required 3-yearly Tier 2 oil spill exercise and boom deployment which will take place on 12th October in the lower reaches near the harbour office.

RHHA has renewed Adler & Allan's 36-month contract for the provision of its Marine Response Counter Pollution Service until 14 August 2025.

RHHA invited newer members of HCC's Emergency Planning & Resilience Team to a meeting to develop a greater understanding of RHHA's role and responsibilities in a coastal pollution incident, as well as the wider HCC support available to RHHA in terms of PPE, trained loggists and waste contracts.

7. Secrets of The Solent Project

Some RHHA staff will feature as part of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's 'People of the Solent' photography exhibition which celebrates livelihoods of the Solent. At Yellow Edge Gallery in Gosport 27 September to 9 October and Quay Arts Centre, Newport 15 October to 5 November 2022. <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/secrets-of-the-solent/people-of-the-solent>

8. Upper Hamble Estuary

RHHA continues its partnership work with a variety of organisations to ensure the appropriate management of the upper reaches of the estuary. Recent activities have included removal of trees that have fallen across the navigation, liaison with landowners and regulators on identification and approvals of potential tree works required, queries on wreck sites, assistance with installation of Bird Aware's paddle sports environmental education signage, along with routine patrols and clearance of river debris. Curdrige Parish Council has recently removed its small jetty adjacent to the Horse and Jockey pub.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

9. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
10. Climate Change Adaptation. A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as no decision is required in respect of this report.
11. Carbon Mitigation. A full assessment of carbon mitigation vulnerability was not completed as no decision is required in respect of this report.

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:

12. 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.

13. Equalities Impact Assessment:

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