

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	River Hamble Management Committee
Date:	8 December 2023
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 September and November 2023.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee:
 - (i) notes and supports the remainder of this report.

Updates

3. Oil Spill Preparedness and Response

The Environment & Development Manager (EDM) has undertaken a comprehensive review of the RHHA Oil Spill Contingency Plan, as is required every 5 years under the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co operations Convention) Regulations 1998. Particular focus was given to improving elements relating to waste management and to booming options. The Plan received positive feedback from the various statutory consultees and has subsequently been approved by the Regulator (the Maritime & Coastguard Agency) for a further 5 years until November 2028. Formal copies are now being distributed to the official Plan Holders

4. Port Waste Management

The River Hamble Port Waste Management Plan has been re-approved by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency under the Merchant Shipping (Port Waste

Reception Facilities) Regulations 2003 (as amended). A review of the Plan was conducted by the EDM with input from the River's marinas, yards and sailing/yacht clubs, as is required every 3 years. The Plan is now valid until November 2026.

5. **Maintenance Works**

Approvals have been granted for maintenance dredging this winter at Hamble Point Marina and Mercury Yacht Harbour.

RHHA has been working with riparian landowners in the Upper Hamble area to help them identify, manage and, where required, clear leaning or fallen trees posing a risk to the ease or safety of navigation.

6. **M27 bridge drainage**

As the Management Committee is aware, the M27 Bridge drainage feasibility study was programmed for September 2023. The EDM has approached Highways England for an update, which is given here:

.. We are progressing with the replacement of both parapets which is planned to be completed in November.

With respect to the other structural works, our consultant has developed the options report in draft format for replacement of waterproofing, large bridge deck joints, replacement of the protective paint system on the steel beams, concrete repairs to abutments (end supports) and the collection of surface water from the bridge via suspended piped drainage discharging into the proposed upgraded surface water outlets.

We have however had issues with respect to the re-assessment to increase the load carrying capacity enabling the structure to carry abnormal load vehicles with no restrictions which is proving a challenge. This is being reviewed by specialists and as such I am currently unable to provide a deadline at present as older bridges are notoriously difficult to assess / strengthen.

The above comprehensive structures report was due to be issued in November 2023, however subject to reconciliation of the above assessment is more likely to be early 2024.

We still however hope to progress into design in 24/25 as per programme.

7. **Solent Marine Sites Management (SEMS) Responsibilities**

The Environment & Development Manager (EDM) represented RHHA at the Solent Marine Sites Management Group (SEMS MG) meeting in September, and the associated Natural Environment Group (NEG) in November. The annual process 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) may be having on the protected sites. The annual monitoring survey results are used to produce the Annual Management Report (AMR), with actions then agreed to be taken forward by NEG.

RHHA Harbour Master has accepted the position of Chair of the SEMS MG for a further 3 years.

The NEG meeting focussed on the disturbance of habitats and species, on water quality and also on biosecurity planning to prevent the spread of invasive non-native marine species. Minutes and presentations at [http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/Annual Meeting/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/Annual_Meeting/) and [http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural environment group/NEG Meetings](http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Meetings)

8. Solent Oyster Restoration Project

The Blue Marine Foundation is preparing the final cut of its film about the creation of the Solent's new native oyster beds. The film features the Hamble site and interviews with RHHA staff. The release date is due by the end of this year and, if available in time, will be shown at the end of this meeting.

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

Climate Change Impact Assessment

1. 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.

2. Climate Change Adaptation. A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as no decision is required in respect of this report.

3. Carbon Mitigation. A full assessment of carbon mitigation vulnerability was not completed as no decision is required in respect of this report.

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.