

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Report

<b>Committee</b>	River Hamble Harbour Board
<b>Date:</b>	13 July 2018
<b>Title:</b>	Environmental Update
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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### 1. Recommendation

- 1.1. It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board notes the contents of this report.

### 2. Summary

- 2.1. This report summarises activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary between February and April 2018.

### 3. Updates

- 3.1. Solent Oyster Restoration Project

A baseline survey of the Hamble River bed has been conducted by the Blue Marine Foundation in preparation for identification of potential sites to restore bed populations of the native oyster in the next phase during 2018/2019, subject to consents. Additional breeding cages have been installed by the project team at further marinas in the River. On 26th April RHHA supported the filming of BBC's Country File programme with John Craven, Portsmouth University and the Blue Marine Foundation. This short piece about the project's aims to reintroduce the native oyster was shown on BBC1 on 13 May.

- 3.2. Beneficial Use of Dredgings in the Solent (BUDS) Project

ABPmer have completed Phase 1 of the Solent Forum led BUDS project, of which RHHA is a member. The Phase 1 Report<sup>1</sup> involved a high level review of the locations where dredge arisings of silty material could be used in the Solent to recharge coastal habitat. A strategic GIS planning map has been produced of Solent dredge locations and disposal sites and areas of potential value for recharge work. It has also been undertaken to help identify collaborative partnerships that might be

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<sup>1</sup> ABPmer (2018). Beneficial Use of Dredge Sediment in the Solent: Phase 1 Project Scoping and Partnership Building.

willing to support such initiatives, especially at a large scale. A high level cost benefit analysis and costing of proposals to undertake beneficial use projects has been carried out concurrently by ABPmer<sup>2</sup>.

The report concluded there is one stand-out area where a large-scale project should be carried out (Hurst Spit to Lymington) where not only do saltmarshes play a key role in coastal protection, but where additional social, economic and environmental benefits could also be realised. Two further potential large-scale sites were identified within Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours. Opportunities for smaller scale initiatives were also noted.

The Solent Forum is currently bidding for funding for Phase 2 'Feasibility and Stakeholder Working'. The Harbour Authority has written a letter of support to accompany the bid. If allocated funding, this phase will develop options for a project(s) within a set time period and develop full feasibility plans for actual use of dredging at some key sites. It will also work with stakeholders to develop strategic guidance and protocol. RHHA will continue to seek local opportunities for both the reuse of Hamble-derived dredgings and of habitat recharge when and where appropriate. More info at <http://www.solentforum.org/services/buds/>

### 3.3. Central Dredging Association

The EDM and MD were invited to meet with representatives of the Central Dredging Association (CEDA) as part of its project to gather information from all stakeholders involved in dredging, to understand the barriers and potential solutions to beneficial use of dredged material. CEDA is a knowledge sharing society, with corporate members drawn from industry, consultancy, government agencies and others.

### 3.4. Solent Forum – Solent Current Issues and Updates

The EDM represented RHHA at the bi-annual Solent Forum members' meeting in March and the bi-annual Natural Environment Group in April. Updates and discussions on issues relevant to RHHA included progress on the beneficial reuse of dredgings, the Regional Habitat Creation Programme, research into ecological enhancements of coastal defence structures, the Seabin, the Solent Forum's new project related to plastics and littering 'Clean Solent Seas and Shores' and Natural England's progress on condition assessments of designated sites. Minutes and presentations for each can be found at <http://www.solentforum.org/networking/meeting/> and [http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural\\_environment\\_group/NEG\\_Meetings/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Meetings/)

### 3.5. Anode Research Poster

Key findings of the PhD research looking into anode degradation (part-sponsored by RHHA) have been highlighted in a leaflet and poster produced by RHHA and circulated to all Hamble clubs and marinas. It has been posted on RHHA's website and promoted via RHHA social media. Onwards dissemination to other interested parties and marinas and clubs has been encouraged. This compliments the same messages sent to all The Crown Estate Mooring Holders in the Hamble via the RHHA annual newsletter last autumn.

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<sup>2</sup> ABPmer (2017). White Paper: Using Dredge Sediment for Habitat Creation and Restoration: A cost benefit review, A summary of the techniques, costs and benefits associated with using fine dredged sediment to 'recharge' intertidal habitat.

### 3.6. Sea Wall Enhancements

A new Environment Agency project 'Greening the Grey' is commencing on the Hamble estuary with the support the Harbour Authority. This is linked to the Vision of 'Sea View 2027', the Defra body initiative to improve the Solent marine environment, as previously reported. The aim is to trial and demonstrate measures to 'soften' a heavily modified section of the estuary (i.e. sea wall) and provide a small scale refuge and feeding point for estuarine fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other marine ecology. An area of wall surrounding the Harbour Master's Office is likely to be used pending necessary checks and permissions. This intertidal area will be easy for the project team to access and monitor, and is well positioned to increase public awareness of the estuary environment. RHHA will work with the EA to publicise the project with other estuary wall owners to encourage replication and to improve developers' confidence in enhancement or mitigation schemes.

**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.)**

DocumentLocation

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.