

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	5 April 2019
Title:	Environmental Update
Report From:	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 and supports 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 November 2018 and February 2019.

3. Updates

Oil Spill Preparedness & Response

- 3.1. RHHA's required annual return has been approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency regarding oil spill exercises, training and the Plan review undertaken in 2018, ensuring ongoing compliance with the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response Cooperation Convention) Regulations 1998.

3.2. Beneficial Use of Dredge Arisings

The Environment & Development Manager (EDM) is a member of the BUDS Technical Group which met in February to progress the project in response to the Solent Forum's recent successful bid for Phase 2. This will assess the feasibility of both realistic and aspirational options in the Western Solent to recharge the marshes with Solent area dredge arisings to achieve protection of the marsh, delay of retreat and associated loss of biodiversity, and to provide essential flood protection. Bespoke remote sensing surveys will be undertaken and the data added to the BUDS interactive mapping tool. Opportunities for small scale marsh protection options are still being considered and the EDM is promoting the Hamble for this element, utilising the work of the 2016 RHHA sediment and saltmarsh study.

Environmental Plans & Projects

- 3.3. The EDM and Marine Director (MD) were invited to join a cohort of over 40 environmental professionals from the Environment Agency and Natural England's local teams who selected the Hamble Estuary as the meeting place for their workshop 'Integrated Catchment Management in the Greater Solent'. The focus was on sharing knowledge, ideas and commitment to tackle some of the complex

and challenging issues impacting the Solent, particularly improving water quality by reducing nutrient inputs from source to sea and reducing saltmarsh loss. The day reinforced the links between the land-based activities and the downstream impacts in the marine environment, and it highlighted how EA and NE can use the evidence and information, good practice and innovation to direct and target resources to deliver improvements locally. RHHA welcomed the opportunity to input and influence these discussions.

3.4. Secrets of Solent Project

The Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust's project 'Secrets of the Solent' has now commenced. The project aims to "start to establish the unique Solent Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as recognised marine heritage sites which are understood, appreciated and cared for in much the same way as our National Parks". Over the project term up to 2022, Secrets of the Solent will engage with communities around the Solent to raise awareness and appreciation and encourage and embed positive environmental behaviours that are in support of the project's aim. Communities will be those that are geographically located around the Solent as well as those who use the area for recreation or business, such as walkers, visitors, sailors, fishermen anglers. RHHA, as a member of the Stakeholder Group, will help the project establish connections with key audiences, disseminate information and contribute advice on relevant project areas.

Hamble Estuary Partnership

- 3.5. The EDM, as officer of the Hamble Estuary Partnership (HEP) held a HEP meeting on 4 December 2018. Members welcomed Dr Simon Bray as the new Chairman. Presentations were given by the Marine Management Organisation on the implementation of the South Marine Plan, and by the Blue Marine Foundation on the Solent Oyster Restoration Project and its current work within the estuary. Each HEP member gave an update on their organisation's work that is relevant to the Hamble Estuary. Members are encouraged to view the minutes and presentations which are available at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/riverhamble/hambleestuarypartnership>

Interactive Mapping

- 3.6. RHHA's online interactive map 'Riverview' has been updated with aerial photography and layers previously held within RHHA's Learning Zone map. Altering the scale of the map will display a variety of information including designated nature conservation sites, slipways, car parks, HCC land ownership, riverbank photographs, local planning authorities' mooring restriction areas and details of certain wrecks. The map can be accessed at <https://hantscc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f4356a0633e64dc4bff2f139a92c7bc2> or via the RHHA homepage.

CORPORATE OR 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

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.