



Report No: **327/2007** Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Tor Bay Harbour - Operational Moorings and Facilities Policy**

Wards Affected: **All Wards in Torbay**

To: **Harbour Committee** On: **3 December 2007**

Key Decision: **No**

Change to Budget: **No** Change to Policy Framework: **No**

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**1. What we are trying to achieve and the impact on our customers**

- 1.1 This report is seeking to amend the operational moorings and facilities policy. The impact of this policy is to ensure that a consistent, fair and equitable approach is applied to new, existing and potential facility customers that use Tor Bay Harbour and the harbour estate. It also aims to ensure that the policy and associated conditions are fully understood and recognised as being reasonable.

**2. Recommendation(s) for decision**

- 2.1 That the document set out in Appendix 1 be adopted as the Tor Bay Harbour Operational Moorings and Facilities Policy.**

**3. Key points and reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 Within Tor Bay Harbour a number of discretionary services are provided. Some of the most popular discretionary services are the provision of moorings, berths, boat park spaces, tender racks, storage lockers, etc. The annual use of these various Council owned harbour facilities is governed by a variety of controlling factors. These factors include local harbour legislation, harbour byelaws and the annual Facility Form Agreement terms and conditions.
- 3.2 In June 2007 the Harbour Committee introduced a new operational policy statement to supplement the Tor Bay Harbour Act 1970 (and subsequent amending legislation), the associated Harbour Bye- laws, and the facility agreement conditions.
- 3.3 Waiting lists for facilities have existed for many years and local boat owners have been given preference when vacancies have arisen. The new Tor Bay Harbour

operational moorings and facilities policy makes it clear how this system works and it sets out the order of priority for facility allocation.

- 3.4 An operational moorings and facilities policy was required to ensure that a consistent, fair and equitable approach is applied to new, existing and potential facility holders that use Tor Bay Harbour and the harbour estate. It also aims to ensure that the policy and associated conditions are fully understood and recognised as being reasonable. The existing operational policy statement serves as a management tool and it was accepted that it will need to be amended from time to time by the Harbour Committee. It therefore does not form part of the strategic policy framework set by Torbay Council.
- 3.5 There are no significant risks associated with the recommendation in this report. However, the absence of such a policy may attract criticism, especially if the Harbour Masters are expected to take operational decisions in the absence of clear guidelines.

**For more detailed information on this proposal please refer to the Supporting Information.**

**Kevin Mowat**  
**Director of Marine Services**

## **Supporting information to Report 327/2007**

### **A1. Introduction and history**

- A1.1 The Tor Bay Harbour Operational Moorings and Facilities Policy was adopted by the Harbour Committee in June 2007.
- A1.2 The 'Disabled Access' section has been amended to provide further clarity and to reflect the latest advice contained within the Code of Practice for the Design, Construction and Operation of Coastal and Inland Marinas and Yacht Harbours, recently republished by the British Marine Federation.
- A1.3 The 'Facilities Allocation' section covers the subject of waiting lists. These lists for facilities have existed for many years and local boat owners have been given preference when vacancies have arisen. Although the new policy makes it clear how this system works and sets out the order of priority for facility allocation, it does not reflect the arrangements agreed with Marina Developments Ltd in respect of the new Town Dock. This section has therefore been amended to incorporate the priority of berth allocation for the Town Dock.

### **A2. Risk assessment of preferred option**

#### **A2.1 Outline of significant key risks**

- A2.1.1 There are no key risks associated with taking this decision.
- A2.1.2 The adoption of a clearly stated moorings and facilities policy will enhance the Council's reputation for transparency and accountability in respect of its delivery of Marine Services.

#### **A2.2 Remaining risks**

- A2.2.1 There are no remaining risks.

### **A3 Other Options**

- A3.1 To take no action and continue with the existing Tor Bay Harbour Operational Moorings and Facilities Policy, which was adopted in June 2007.

### **A4 Summary of resource implications**

- A4.1 There are no resource implications.

### **A5 What impact will there be on equalities, environmental sustainability and crime and disorder?**

- A5.1 Adoption of a clearly stated moorings and facilities policy should promote equality of opportunity for people to access services provided by the Harbour Authority. Furthermore it should reduce or eliminate any unlawful discrimination, direct or indirect, regarding the allocation and use of moorings and facilities.

## **A6 Consultation and Customer Focus**

- A6.1 The moorings and facilities policy includes existing and well-established policy or terms and conditions of use. However, these latest amendments are to be tabled at the next Harbour Liaison Forums and have been discussed with staff within Marine Services.

## **A7 Are there any implications for other Business Units?**

- A7.1 There should be no impact for other Business Units.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Tor Bay Harbour Mooring/Berthing/Boat Park & Facilities Operational Policy

### **Documents available in members' rooms**

None

### **Background Papers:**

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

A Code of Practice for the Design, Construction and Operation of Coastal and Inland Marinas and Yacht Harbours – British Marine Federation