

Meeting: Harbour Committee

Date: 21 December 2020

Wards Affected: All wards in Torbay

Report Title: Port Marine Safety Code and Health & Safety matters

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented?

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Not a Cabinet Function

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Adam Parnell, Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority
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1. Proposal and Introduction

1.1 This is a standing Harbour Committee agenda item to update the Committee on PMSC and Health and Safety matters and topical issues.

2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitments

2.1 Torbay Council, as the Statutory Harbour Authority, adheres to the requirements of the PMSC (the national standard for port safety) to "improve safety for those who use or work in ports, their ships, passengers and cargoes, and the environment".

2.2 The Harbour Committee is the nominated *Duty Holder* and the Devon Audit Partnership are the appointed *Designated Person*.

2.3 Since the last Harbour Committee meeting, the Designated Person has completed a PMSC Compliance Audit, which is the subject of a separate report.

2.4 A 100% review of all Standard Operating Procedures has completed, and a new 'tool-box talk' regime introduced, based on the construction industry's "*CITB Toolbox Talks*" publication (also known as GT700). Additionally, the Harbour Authority has introduced a standard dynamic risk assessment tool for use by all staff, which is known as a "*Place of Work Safety Assessment*" or POWSA.

2.5 **PMSC incidents:** There are 3 of note:

- In early October a heavily-modified ex-MFV that had been used as floating storage broke free of its mooring in Brixham and grounded before being recovered. There was no pollution or infrastructure damage.
- In early November a recreational vessel sank at its mooring but was subsequently refloated. There was no infrastructure damage or pollution.
- In late November an open water swimmer sadly drowned off Torre Abbey sands.

- 2.6 **Health and Safety incidents:** There are 3 slip, trip and fall incidents: 2 at Torquay and one at Paignton, all by members of the public. None were 'lost time' incidents.
- 2.7 **Health and Safety Officer:** The recruitment of a dedicated Health and Safety Officer for the harbour authority is under way and we expect the successful applicant to be in post by March 2021.
- 2.8 **Maritime Support Officer:** The Harbour Authority is engaging with Devon and Cornwall police re the possibility of hosting a full time officer who will inter alia work to reduce ASB and other issues, thus directly contributing to improved safety outcomes.
- 2.8 This proposal does not commit the Harbour Authority to expenditure not already approved.
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3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the report is noted.

Appendices

None

Background Documents

The Port Marine Safety Code – November 2016 (DfT & MCA)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/564723/port-marine-safety-code.pdf

A Guide to Good Practice on Port Marine Operations – April 2018 (DfT & MCA)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-good-practice-on-port-marine-operations>

Health and Safety Policy - April 2019 (Torbay Council)

<https://sheasure.net/TorbaySMS/Portal/TorbayCouncilPortalzzR23492wHT713D/ModuleDetail/6785346#/information>