



Resident and Visitor Services: Beach Services

Current Service

This service supports 15 amenity beaches. The season starts in April and closes in September, during which time 8 of these beaches are permanently staffed. Currently the beach staff are responsible for the following:

- Beach huts provided on seasonal and short lets basis, the staff assist in the maintenance of beach huts, services such as water supplies, storage over the winter and taking of bookings. The staff manage 1070 beach huts in Torbay.
- Putting out and taking payment for deck chairs/sun loungers/ short let beach huts not booked in advance. The beach service staff rent out approximately 27,000 beach hut chairs and sun lounges.
- Beach safety supervision including, first aid services, lost children, beach safety inspections, reacting to emergency incidents involving the public, removal of beach waste and hazards and storm response. On average the beach service deal with approximately 650 first aid issues and 75 lost children incidents.
- Monitoring sea conditions with the provision of the safety flags to advise swimmers of conditions throughout the day, and measuring water quality and displaying this for public information purposes. During the season over 500 warning flags are flown on the beaches.
- Enforcement of the dog bans and use of hazardous equipment like inflatables
- Beach staff also assist with the supervision on the beaches and promenades of events.

The Proposal

Budget Savings Breakdown

Beach Services

112,000 Reducing season (Less Agency Staff Required) or reducing number of serviced beaches

20,000 Reduced maintenance (Contractors)

10,000 Reduced maintenance (Property/Cliff)

20,000 Additional income (Beach Hut lettings)

10,000 Additional income (Beach Hut Winter Storage)

172,000

The total net budget for providing all the beaches and associated amenities is £164,000 for 2012/13 due to the high level of income generated from this service area. There is a significant reliance on income in the Resort Services Department and therefore care must be taken not to damage these services when considering the savings options. The total budget for Agency Staffing on the beaches is £241,400.

The majority of the costs are apportioned to the period between July and September each year. In the summer of 2012 there were savings of around £50,000 as the weather conditions meant that many of the staff were not required due to reduction in public attendance at the beaches.

The current service provides adequate levels of staffing on the beaches between 1st May to 30th September depending on weather and demand, with a skeleton service provided from May each year to help service the beach hut users. The Blue Flag criteria require the beaches to be staffed at these core times. Therefore to reduce staffing period on the beaches would mean that Torbay may no longer be able to apply or receive the Blue Flag Award for any of its beaches.

It is proposed to look at a number of options to meet the £112,000 staff saving, these are:

1. Reduce the staffing on the key amenity beaches for a period of between 8/10 weeks to cover the summer only.
2. Having weekend cover only between May Bank Holiday and mid July, then offer a full service only for the six weeks of the holiday period reverting back to weekend cover for September.
3. Reduce the number of beaches that are managed. Option to take out 4 of the main managed beaches. This would enable those beaches that remain managed with a Blue Flag status.
4. Do not have any permanently managed beaches and have roving teams that visit each beach up to 3 times per day.

Further work is being done to consider the options based on the above, the level of savings able to be achieved and understanding the ability of the Resort Service to recruit suitable short term contracted staff for these reduced periods.

The reductions proposed in maintenance and cliff works will impact the amount of reactive maintenance that can be achieved. In this instance only Health and Safety works will be undertaken from 2013/14 to meet these saving targets.

The increase in beach hut income will be a result of increasing the number and standard of beach huts available to customers on selected beaches.

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