



Minutes of the Harbour Committee

14 March 2011

-: Present :-

Councillor Horne (Chairman)

Councillors Addis (Vice-Chair), Carter (C), Ellery, Faulkner (J), McPhail, Manning and Richards

(Also in attendance: Councillors Hytche and Oliver)

585. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bent and External Advisor Gordon Jennings.

586. Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Harbour Committee held on 8 February 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

587. Treasury Management Briefing

Members received a briefing from the Principal Accountant as requested by the Harbour Committee on 6 December 2011. He informed the Committee that the Harbour reserves were held within the Council's overall reserves and therefore benefit from a share of the overall revenue return from investments. He further informed the Committee that investment counterparties were robustly evaluated against prescribed criteria taking into account a number of risk factors. He explained that a 1.3% return was expected this year which represented over £1 million revenue return for the authority, with a 1.2% return budgeted for 2011/2012 financial year.

588. Review of Delegated Powers

Members received Report 53/2011 which reviewed the powers delegated to the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority. Members requested the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority to clarify whether the 'responsibility delegated by' should read Cabinet or Council.

Resolved:

That, having reviewed the powers delegated to the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority, as set out in Appendix 1, the Harbour Committee finds no reason to refer any proposed changes to the Council for determination.

589. Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan 2011/12

Members considered Report 54/2011 which provided Members with the opportunity to comment upon the Business Plan for 2011/12 which looked at the future prospects of the harbour and how it would meet the requirements of stakeholders. The Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority advised Members that the Business Plan had been presented and discussed at the Harbour Liaison Forums. Members noted that the Business Plan listed 'too many sites designated for protection in the natural and physical environment' as a threat and requested a briefing be provided on Marine Conservation Zones at a forthcoming Harbour Committee.

Resolved:

That

- i) the draft Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan 2011/12 as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 54/2011 be approved; and
- ii) subject to the views of the Harbour Committee, the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority and the Harbour Committee Chairman agree the final detail of the Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan 2011/12, and sign the Acceptance Statement in Section 9.

590. Tor Bay Harbour – Operational Moorings and Facilities Policy

The Committee considered Report 55/2011 which sought to amend the operational moorings and facilities policy. The Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority advised Members that the policy ensured 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.

Resolved:

That the document set out in Appendix 1 to Report 55/2011 be adopted as the Tor Bay Harbour Operational Moorings and Facilities Policy – Version 5.

591. Torquay/Paignton and Brixham Harbour Liaison Forums

The Committee noted the minutes of the Torquay/Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum held on 1 March 2011 and the Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum held on 2 March 2011.

Members noted that the Transportation Working Party would be meeting on 18 March 2011 to discuss the use of the Beacon Quay Car Park.

592. Tor Bay Harbour Authority Budget Monitoring 2010/11

Members noted Report 57/2011 which provided projections for income and expenditure for the year 2010/11 compared with approved budgets. The Executive Head Tor Bay Harbour Authority advised the Committee that both harbour accounts was projected to

make an operational surplus following increases in income streams and cost savings over various expenditure headings.

Members congratulated the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority and his team for ensuring the harbour accounts finish the financial year with a surplus budget.

593. Harbour Committee Work Programme

The Committee noted the Harbour Committee Work Programme for 2011/2012.

594. Performance Report Marine Services

Members noted Report 59/2011 which set out the performance of Marine Services. The Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority informed Members that the team were meeting the majority of targets, with the exception of staff absence which he believed was indicative of the cold weather during the winter.

The Committee noted and congratulated the Tor Bay Harbour Authority team on the reduction of the number of reportable accidents which had reduced by 50%.

595. Annual Review of the Tor Bay Harbour Authority Asset Management Plan

The Committee considered Report 60/2011 which advised Members of the assets currently managed by the Tor Bay Harbour Authority business unit on behalf of Torbay Council. The Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority advised the Committee that many of the assets were critical to the safe operation of the harbour and other assets were essential in terms of the revenue contribution they make to the Harbour Authorities ring-fenced budget. He further advised that it was best practice for a Harbour Authority to produce an Asset Management Plan and it assists the Harbour Committee to provide strategic direction in relation to those assets within Tor Bay Harbour and the harbour estate.

Resolved:

That the Tor Bay Harbour Authority Asset Management Plan set out in Appendix 1 to Report 60/2011 be approved.

596. Consultation on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Proposals for Modernising the Coastguard 2010

Members received Report 61/2011 which advised that the Coastguard's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at Brixham was under threat of closure. Report 61/2011 explained that on 16 December 2010 the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) launched a consultation document entitled 'Protecting Our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century – Consultation on Proposals for Modernising the Coastguard 2010', the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour advised that the consultation deadline had been extended from 24 March 2011 to 5 May 2011.

The Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour informed Members that he had prepared a response to the consultation document which was set out in Appendix 2 to Report 61/2011.

Resolved:

That

- i) the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority, in consultation with the Chairman of the Harbour Committee, respond to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's consultation on the proposals for modernising the Coastguard;
- ii) the Harbour Committee note the draft consultation response set out in Appendix 2 to Report 61/2011 and make any additional recommendations to the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority and/or the Chairman of the Harbour Committee.

597. Marine fuel Station Options at Torquay Harbour

Members considered exempt Report 62/2011 which aimed to provide the Harbour Committee with sufficient information to enable them to evaluate the current arrangements and consider the strategic position of marine fuel station options.

Resolved:

That

- i) it is agreed that the Harbour Authority should seek to operate its own marine fuel station;
- ii) the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority be authorised to advise the existing tenant of the marine fuel station at Torquay harbour, that the Council will require the demised premises for its own use at the end of the current lease term;
- iii) the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority, in consultation with the Chairman of the Harbour Committee, be authorised to accept the surrender of the existing lease or to buy back the lease, if such an opportunity is presented and the terms are considered favourable, having taken appropriate valuation advice from the Torbay Development Agency;
- iv) the principle of a floating fuel station, owned and operated by the Council as the harbour authority be supported; and
- v) the Executive Head of Tor Bay Harbour Authority present a further report to the Harbour Committee detailing the business case for a floating fuel station.

(Note: Prior to consideration of the item in Minute 597 the press and public were formally excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).)

Chairman
