



Meeting: Harbour Committee

Date: 17 December 2018


Wards Affected: All wards in Torbay

Report Title: Tor Bay Harbour Authority Environmental Policy Statement

Executive Lead Contact Details: Non-Executive Function

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Adam Parnell

Tor Bay Harbour Master

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Purpose

- 1.1 To review and endorse the Tor Bay Harbour Authority Environmental Policy Statement. Our customers and employees will benefit from a clear and concise Environmental Policy Statement that demonstrates compliance with environmental best practice and is regularly reviewed by the Harbour Committee.

Proposed Decision

- 2.1 **That the Environmental Policy Statement be approved.**

3. Summary

- 3.1 In addition to their operational duties, ports and harbours have extensive environmental responsibilities. A harbour's commercial and recreational activities must co-exist with sound environmental practice.
- 3.2 The Authority is required to exercise its functions with regard to nature conservation and other environmental considerations (s48A Harbours Act 1964) and to protect – or at least minimise – environmental damage (Environmental Protection Act 1990). Included within the Authority's Port Masterplan are two objectives to:
 - Manage the harbour in a sustainable manner by supporting a variety of maritime activities including fishing, shipping, marine related businesses, heritage, eco-tourism and marine recreation; and,
 - Balance the responsible stewardship of the marine environment with appropriate socio-economic development and use of Tor Bay.
- 3.3 To assist the Harbour Committee to fulfil these objectives it is appropriate to periodically review its Environmental Policy Statement.

Supporting Information

4. Position

- 4.1 Tor Bay Harbour contains, or is adjacent to, many environmentally protected areas *inter alia* including:
- Special Area of Conservation;
 - Special Protection Area;
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
 - Marine Conservation Zone;
 - Marine Nature Reserves;
 - Local Nature Reserves;
 - South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
 - Berry Head Nature Reserve;
 - Torbay UNESCO Geopark.
- 4.2 It is therefore essential that Tor Bay Harbour Authority has a fit for purpose Environmental Policy Statement. Keeping such a policy under regular review reflects national best practice.
- 4.3 An Environmental Policy Statement is a necessary component of any future Environmental Management System. It is important that the Harbour Authority helps to maintain a healthy and safe environment for harbour users, employees and the local community alike.

5. Possibilities and Options

- 5.1 To continue to operate without review or endorsement of existing Environmental Policy Statement.

6. Preferred Solution/Option

- 6.1 To approve the Environmental Policy Statement at Appendix 1.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 As an Environmental Policy Statement already exists no further consultation has been sought.

8. Risks

- 8.1 There are no risks associated with this decision.

Appendices

1. Environmental Policy Statement December 2018