



Meeting: Harbour Committee

Date: 17 December 2018


Wards Affected: All wards in Torbay

Report Title: Tor Bay Harbour Authority Local Port Services Policy Statement

Executive Lead Contact Details: Non-Executive Function

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Adam Parnell

Tor Bay Harbour Master

 **Telephone: 01803 292429**

 **Email: adam.parnell@torbay.gov.uk**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To review and endorse the Tor Bay Harbour Authority Local Port Services (LPS) Policy Statement. Our customers and employees will benefit from a clear and concise LPS Policy Statement that demonstrates compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) and is regularly reviewed by the Harbour Committee.

2. Proposed Decision

- 2.1 That the Local Port Services Policy Statement be approved.

3. Summary

- 3.1 The Guide to Good Practice (GtGP) on Port Marine Operations indicates that Harbour Authorities have the power to establish Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) or LPS to mitigate risk, enhance vessel safety and to protect the environment.
 - 3.2 The requirement to manage navigation varies by port. The GtGP deals only with general principles, recognising that while a VTS is essential in some cases it is not appropriate in others, the decision being informed by a formal risk assessment of navigational risk. In Tor Bay harbour our formal risk assessments indicate that a VTS is not required and an LPS is instead sufficient.
 - 3.3 As a Statutory Harbour Authority, the Tor Bay Harbour Authority should review its VTS/LPS on a regular basis; the existing LPS was last reviewed December 2016.
-

Supporting Information

4. Position

- 4.1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has issued a Marine Guidance Note 401 *Vessel Traffic Services and Local Port Services in the United Kingdom* which provides guidance on determining the need to establish a VTS or LPS, and defines the responsibilities of those Authorities concerned with providing such services.
- 4.2 Having conducted a formal risk assessment for Tor Bay Harbour it was determined that an LPS, not a VTS, was sufficient to meet the Authorities obligations and responsibilities.
- 4.3 Implementing a LPS permits the identification and monitoring of vessels, longer term planning of vessel movements and the provision of navigational information and assistance. It also assists in the prevention of pollution, the co-ordination of pollution response, and the protection of the marine environment.
- 4.4 The requirements of a LPS are:
- (i) Equipped appropriate to task;
 - (ii) Staffed and trained appropriate to task; and,
 - (iii) Does not require to be authorised by the MCA.
- 4.5 In order to be effective an LPS must be kept under review to ensure that changes in in operations, operational methods, personnel and the available technology are optimally employed.

5. Possibilities and Options

- 5.1 To take no action and continue to operate without review or endorsement of existing LPS Policy Statement.

6. Preferred Solution/Option

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

7. Consultation

- 7.1 As LPS are already in operation no further consultation has been sought.

8. Risks

- 8.1 The adoption of a clear and updated LPS Policy Statement will enhance the Harbour Authority's reputation for accountability.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Local Port Services Policy Statement December 2018