

**Meeting:** Harbour Committee

**Date:** 16 June 2025

**Wards affected:** All wards

**Report Title:** Harbour Masters Safety and Management Report

**When does the decision need to be implemented?**

**Director Contact Details:** Matt Reeks, Interim Director of Tor Bay Harbour Authority  
[matt.reeks@swisco.co.uk](mailto:matt.reeks@swisco.co.uk)

## 1. Purpose of Report

---

- 1.1. To provide Members of the Harbour Committee with an update on the current safety and management considerations of the Harbour

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

---

- 2.1 As required by the Port Marine Safety Code, Members of the Harbour Committee as duty holders are required to be aware of safety and management issues.

## 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

---

- 3.1 That Members of the Harbour committee note the contents of the Harbour Masters report.

## 4. Appendices

---

- 4.1 None.

## 5. Background Documents

---

- 5.1 None.

## Supporting Information

## 6. Safety.

---

- 6.1 There have not been any reported injurious accidents in any of the harbours since the last meeting.

- 6.2 Safety inspections and general safety precautions have been conducted as per policy.
- 6.3 A tenant had an accident which involved the roll over of a forklift truck on the harbour estate and exacerbated the situation by trying to recover with another forklift. Fortunately, there was no injury. The tenant has provided the harbour and HSE with full details and follow up actions to prevent a reoccurrence.
- 6.4 An abandoned fishing vessel that was moored on Western Lady quay sank in the early hours of the morning and impacted two other vessels which were rafted alongside. This resulted in one other vessel sinking and another being damaged and about to sink. The Brixham ops team, HM, Councillor Strang and local fishermen all assisted in recovering the damaged and secondary sunk vessels. This incident highlighted the requirement for improved security and stand by personnel. These points are now being addressed.
- 6.5 A day boat fisherman whilst alongside the landing berth lost control of the derrick which crashed down on the quay. The owner has been requested to respond with details, as yet nothing has been received, the MCA will be contacted if no response.

## 7. Regulatory

---

- 7.1 The Department for Transport (DfT) re- visited Torquay harbour in March to complete an audit of the harbour's port facility security arrangements. The audit identified a failing that had previously been identified regarding expiration of one Officers counter terrorism security certificate, this has been applied for and awaiting re-issue. The annual exercise had also lapsed but in conjunction with Dartmouth Harbour an exercise was undertaken in April and now signed off. The DfT have re-validated the Tor Bay Harbour Security Plan.
- 7.2 Recruitment for a new Harbour Master is underway, recruitment for an additional Deputy Harbour Master is now also underway
- 7.3 The MCA counter pollution department agreed to sign off the 3 yearly ports OPRC pollution exercise which involves our Tier 2 responder deploying major spill control equipment. This was in response to the port having to respond to a significant diesel spill in the inner harbour, where our Tier 2 responder attended.
- 7.4 The current Port Master Plan (2019 to 2024) is still to be updated for the next five-year period.
- 7.5 No statutory Harbour approvals or requests have been requested.

## 8. Engagement and Consultation

---

- 8.1 The quarterly Brixham and Torquay/Paignton liaison forums were held in May. The Brixham meeting was held in The Brixham Yacht Club and the Torquay meeting in the Torquay harbour office meeting room. Both meetings were well attended, however for the Brixham meeting it was rather disappointing that none of the commercial operators in the harbour attended. Although they have been invited.
- 8.2 Main points of discussion in Brixham were as per operational report. The Northern Arm plan; breakwater pontoon, harbour patrols, town pontoon barriers and control of access. The Torquay forum mainly focused on events, patrols and water activities.

## 9. Asset and Plant

---

- 9.1 A new maintenance and repair contract is now in place for the bridge and cill in Torquay Harbour. There are still serious issues with the hydraulic and electrical systems and the new contractor has been asked to provide a quote for a full refurbishment and replacement programme.
- 9.2 Signal 2 (Brixham work boat) has had a major overhaul and is now fully operational, although some minor points are necessary to obtain work boat coding.
- 9.3 Romeo 4 (old Oscar 4) was planned for reintroduction into the fleet late April, however due to a delay beyond our control on the re tubing works, all being well it will be ready for use in July.
- 9.4 Both Brixham trucks have required major repairs mainly due to their age, costs are being sought for replacements as the repairs are becoming uneconomical.

## 10. Forthcoming Actions

---

- 10.1 All three harbours are operating satisfactorily. General maintenance is being undertaken and where possible the continuous drive for clearing away rubbish especially in Brixham.
- 10.2 The clearing of abandoned vessels in Brixham inner harbour has been very successful, including the removal for scrappage of several including the sunken fishing vessel on western Lady quay.
- 10.3 The Brixham outer harbour maintenance contract is now ready to be awarded as is the inner harbour mooring chains replacement.
- 10.4 The "Versa Dock" pontoon for the Brixham breakwater has been ordered and should be ready for use by the end of June.

- 10.5 Two new replacement administration staff have been appointed and have slotted into the team brilliantly, this has taken significant pressure off admin. Two new Harbour assistants will be appointed in June.
- 10.6 Notices will be issued to any vehicles parked in breach of Byelaws in any Harbour advising the owner of the offence.
- 10.7 Plans have been finalised for new barrier systems at all three Harbours and work will commence in July.
- 10.8 SWISCo have now installed 16 new Solar Compacting bins around Brixham Harbour and will shortly commence work on bench replacement and the installation of festoon lighting.
- 10.9 The “Northern Arm” proposal remains live and further meetings on this subject are being held.

## 11. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old. 55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. 27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.	There is no differential impact.		
Carers	At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.	There is no differential impact.		
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by	There is no differential impact.		

	a physical or mental health condition or illness.			
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	There is no differential impact.		
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	There is no differential impact.		
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	There is no differential impact.		

Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	There is no differential impact.		
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	There is no differential impact.		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	There is no differential impact.		
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	There is no differential impact.		
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay,	There is no differential impact.		

	5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.			
<b>Additional considerations</b>				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		There is no differential impact.		
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		There is no differential impact.		
Human Rights impacts		There is no differential impact.		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council, and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.	There is no differential impact.		



## 12. Cumulative Council Impact

---

12.1. None.

## 13. Cumulative Community Impacts

---

13.1. None.