

Newport Harbour Commissioners

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2017

LEGAL STATUS

The Newport Harbour Commissioners is a body created by Statute as enshrined in the Newport (South Wales) Harbour Acts and Orders 1836 to 2003. The Commissioner's area of jurisdiction, as defined in the Newport (Monmouthshire) Harbour Act 1890, is as follows:

“Those parts of the Bristol Channel and Rivers Usk and Ebbw which lie between an imaginary line drawn in a S.79°W. true direction from Goldcliff until it meets the shore of the Bristol Channel eastward of the Peterstone Wentlooge Church and the bridge over the River Usk at Newbridge and the bridge carrying the South Wales Railway of the Great Western Railway Company over the River Ebbw and the banks and shores of such parts of the said channel and rivers and any works on such banks and shores and all streams, pools, creeks, havens, bays and inlets within those limits”.

The key responsibilities of the Commissioners are as follows:

A) Safety and navigation

- Regulation of navigation within statutory Harbour limits
- Provision of a pilotage service
- Local lighthouse authority establishing and maintaining lights and marks
- Removal of wrecks
- Hydrographic surveying of Harbour area

B) Enforcement

- To make and enforce byelaws relating to the conduct of vessels
- To act upon observations of contracted Marine staff and stakeholders to ensure compliance with byelaws

C) Pollution

- Development of Harbour oil spill contingency plans Environmental
- Management Duties under Habitats Directive to review consents

D) Other

- Prepare Ports Contingency Plans
- Comply with Guide for Good Governance for Trust Ports

An annual detailed review of the Commissioner's compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code is undertaken by the Designated Person, an independent expert on the Code. The last review took place in autumn 2016, and no major deviances from the Code were reported.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The financial position of the Commissioners is satisfactory. The annual income rose to £200,235 for the year ended 31 March 2017, an increase of nearly 36%. This was due to a full year of dues being charged at £0.065 per gross tonne and an increase in the volume of shipping in the area. Total reserves disclosed in the Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017 totalled £179,017.

The Commissioners continue to keep the level of Harbour Dues under constant review.

KEY MATTERS ARISING DURING THE YEAR

Local Issues

- The dredged Channel has remained in a good condition throughout the year
- No significant issues have occurred with the channel buoys or shore lights and beacons
Two buoys have now been replaced (in 17/18) as planned.
- Work continues to update the present Service Level Agreement between Associated British Ports and the Newport Harbour Commissioners that covers the provision of Pilotage Services and Harbour Master Duties.
- Constructive dialogue with the Commissioner's stakeholders continued throughout the period, including ABP and the River berth operators.
- The Designated Person carried out a detailed audit of NHC's Port Marine Safety Code compliance. The results of this review were very positive.
- Late in 2016, a full hydrographic study of the main body of the River Usk was undertaken. Volumetric comparison of the survey, compared to previous surveys, showed that the middle and upper reaches of the river bed are generally stable with only a minimum net accretion in the main river channel.

Matters of national importance

M4 Relief Road

As at today's date, the Public Enquiry into the proposed new M4 continues. The Commissioners have confirmed their position, and continue to object to the proposed scheme due to its effect on the River and their stakeholders. The Commissioner's support the variation to the Black Route proposed by ABP in their objections. The Commissioners believe that constructing a motorway across a major infrastructure asset would have a serious impact on the local economy.

Tidal Lagoon

It seems unlikely that a Tidal Lagoon will be constructed near Newport Harbour in the foreseeable future, but the Commissioners will keep this matter under constant review.

NOVEMBER 2017