

Boat Hoist Replacement

Overview and Scrutiny Panel	18 June 2024
By	Tony Marmo, Head of Coastal and Public Realm
Cabinet Portfolio Member	Cllr Rick Everitt, Leader of the Council
Key Decision	Yes
Decision classification	Unrestricted
Call in status	Yes
Ward:	Central Harbour

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to invite members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to scrutinise, note and comment upon the proposal for Cabinet to approve officers undertaking the procurement and purchase of a replacement boat hoist for Ramsgate Royal Harbour as part of the £674,000 2024/25 budget in the Maritime Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Programme. The estimated value of the contract will be £300,000.

Recommendation(s):

That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel note and scrutinise the report and consider any representations to Cabinet in advance of its meeting on the 25th June 2024.

That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel note and comment on the two proposed recommendations to Cabinet, as follows:

- a) That Cabinet approves the key decision to award a contract with a value in excess of £250,000 to supply the new boat hoist at the Ramsgate Royal Harbour, following a procurement exercise.
- b) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Environment to agree the final terms and sign the contract with the successful bidder.

1. Summary of Reasons

- 1.1 The existing boat hoist at Ramsgate Royal Harbour is 30 years old and is showing signs of wear. Due to the age of the vehicle keeping it in a suitable operational condition will incur large costs, which are not currently accounted for in the Ramsgate Royal Harbour budget. The existing boat hoist still holds some residual resale value offering a saving on the new vehicle purchase.
- 1.2 The boat hoist is a key asset to Ramsgate Royal Harbour, generating a large amount of income through its use and the boat hardstanding area.

2. Background

- 2.1 Ramsgate Royal Harbour contains berthing for 700 vessels. When berthing at Ramsgate there are a number of services provided to harbour users. The cost of some of these services are accounted for within the annual berthing fees, such as amenities. Other services are provided at additional costs such as electricity, the boat hoist and parking.
- 2.2 As vessels are in water the keel (the bottom of the boat) is always submerged, making it hard to do boat repairs. When work is required on a boat it needs to be lifted out of the water and transported to the boat park. In order to keep Ramsgate Royal Harbour competitive with other marinas a boat hoist on site needs to be available to provide a lift out, wash and transportation service. This is a source of additional income to the Ramsgate Royal Harbour.

3. Relevant Issues

- 3.1 During the last LOLER inspection the boat hoist was downgraded to 32.5tonnes instead of the original 40 tonnes. This shows the gradual decline of the machine. The Ramsgate Royal Harbour long term tenants such as ESL pilotage, RNLI lifeboats and the fishing fleet require the boat hoist to be able to lift more than 32.5 tonnes. Some of the long term tenants have had to go to Dover to have their boats lifted and repaired, before returning to Ramsgate as their main location for mooring. This caused a loss of income for the Ramsgate Royal Harbour.
- 3.2 The boat hoist has an annual income budget of £95,000. This has been exceeded every year for the past 4 years. It is now unlikely that this will be exceeded again this year, due to the downgrade of the maximum tonnage level.
- 3.3 The repairs required to maintain the existing boat hoist and reinstate the original 40 tonne working load would be £67,000. This cost would not be one off and likely be replicated in the following years.
- 3.4 A 2024/25 capital budget of £674k is available in the Maritime Vehicle & Equipment Programme, from which the boat hoist can be purchased. The cost of a new machine is in the region of £260,000 to £300,000.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The alternative option is to continue repairing the existing hoist at an increasing cost until it eventually ceases working all together. At this point we would remove the option of boat lift outs at Ramsgate Royal Harbour. The Council's customers would then use alternative locations such as Sandwich (30 tonne boat hoist) and Dover (50 tonne boat hoist). This option is considered not viable as it does not provide the Council with best value.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There is no statutory or public law duty to consult in relation to this decision.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Finance and Resources

6.1.1 As part of the 2024/25 budget setting process, a capital budget was created for vehicles and equipment within Maritime, included within this budget was an allocation for the Boat Hoist. This report clearly identifies that failure to act would result in the income stream of £95,000 being put at risk and that repair, at circa £67,000 would be a short term solution to a longer term problem, committing us to similar costs in future years. As a result, investment in replacement in line with the agreed budget, is identified as the most cost effective solution to the current problem.

6.2 Legal and Constitutional

6.2.1 In accordance with the provisions set out in Article 6 of the Council's constitution the Overview and Scrutiny Panel may make reports or recommendations to Cabinet in respect of the discharge of any function. Cabinet must then consider and respond to any recommendations made.

6.2.2 The Council has a fiduciary duty to residents to ensure best value and this report notes that the contract will be awarded following a procurement exercise which will consider best value. The award of this contract must comply with the Council's contract standing orders and advice should be sought in this regard from the Council's procurement and legal teams.

6.2.3 This report notes that the budget for this work has been agreed at Full Council. Consequently, in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, this is a matter for Cabinet to decide.

6.2.4 Further advice should be sought from the Council's in-house legal team before agreeing the final terms of any contract award.

6.3 Council Policies and Priorities

6.3.1 *This report relates to the following corporate priorities:*

- To create a thriving place
- To work efficiently for you

6.4 Risk

6.4.1 The main risk to the Council in undertaking the purchase of a new boat hoist is a change over the coming years to customers no longer needing or wanting to lift their boats out at Ramsgate Royal Harbour. This risk is seen as unlikely because the number of users at the Ramsgate Royal Harbour have grown year on year, as has the demand for the use of the boat hoist.

6.5 Climate Change and Biodiversity

6.5.1 Environmental and climate change implications have been reviewed and mitigated as far as practicably possible. A new boat hoist would still be run on diesel however,

being a newer machine it will be much more efficient and therefore much more environmentally friendly with reduced emissions. Research has been carried out and alternative fuel options are not currently available for these machines.

7. Equality, Equity and Diversity Implications

7.1 The Council will be undertaking an open procurement exercise to ensure equality of opportunity is provided to companies to provide a cost effective option for the purchase of the boat hoist.

8. Crime and Disorder Implications and Community impact

8.1 Crime and disorder implications have been reviewed and no implications have been identified

9. Subject History

9.1 Information regarding the history of this issue including decisions on funding has been set out in the body of the report.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None.

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Report Sign Off

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