



Title of meeting:	Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting
Date of meeting:	18 March 2016
Subject:	Developing Watersport in Portsmouth 2016 - 2020
Report by:	Stephen Baily, Director of Children's Services
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the strategy "Developing Watersport in Portsmouth" and to begin implementation of the associated action plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport:**
- (a) approves the document, *Developing Watersport in Portsmouth*, at Appendix 1**

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 Portsmouth's growth and character have been influenced by its geographical location and relationship to the sea. Home to the Royal Navy since the 17th century and located predominantly on an island, the city retains a strong maritime heritage distinguished by its historic, diverse and vibrant waterfront. The city has a rich natural environment with internationally protected harbours and other nationally and locally protected sites. The seafront is the main focus for leisure activity by the sea, and is home to many of the city's historic buildings and streets. There are over 6 million visits per year to the seafront.
- 3.2 The seafront brings great benefit to the people of the city and its visitor economy, and a strategy is in place to develop the area further for leisure and tourism, including by attracting world class events. There is more to the Portsmouth waterfront than Southsea, though. On the eastern coast, the internationally designated harbours are unique areas for people to enjoy. To the west, the Naval Base and Commercial Port give way to the shore line at Tipner, leading up past Hilsea Lido to Port Creek, and leading towards Port Solent & Horsea Island in the northwest corner of the city on the northern reaches of Portsmouth Harbour.

This abundance of waterfront opens up unique opportunities for the city. It means that Portsmouth can offer varied and attractive lifestyle choices to residents; can appeal to visitors looking for a range of experiences; and presents advantages for businesses and investors.

- 3.3 These facilities support hundreds of individuals actively participating in sports or sports administration, to ensure that there is a vibrancy in the city. However, we know that there are improvements that could be made to the existing facilities that would improve access and participation.
- 3.4 There are already many events that build on what exists and add to the identity of Portsmouth as a Great Waterfront City, including regattas for various local watersport clubs, and events celebrating children and young people, such as the Beach Olympics. In 2015, these were augmented by the America's Cup World Series events in Portsmouth, a world class sailing regatta that brought an international profile for the city. In 2016, the city will host the second of these events, cementing what we hope will be a long-lasting association with the oldest trophy in international sporting competition.
- 3.5 The city therefore already has a thriving watersport and coastal recreation community and some excellent facilities. The challenge now is to work within the national and local policy contexts to build on this foundation and harness the energy that exists to take the watersport opportunity and ensure there is a significant impact for residents, visitors and business.

4. Developing a strategy for watersport in Portsmouth

- 4.1 To do this, we have consulted with a wide range of partners to develop a high level strategy for watersport in the city, building on the strengths and areas of development that have been highlighted. Four key themes have been highlighted:
- Ensuring participation in watersports and coastal recreation is as safe, easy and inclusive as possible
 - Taking and making opportunities to make the most of facilities and assets across the city to improve the watersports and coastal recreation offer in Portsmouth
 - Building on the watersports and coastal recreation opportunity to promote the Great Waterfront City
 - Using the opportunity presented by watersport and coastal recreation to enhance the education and skills offer of Portsmouth
- 4.2 For each of these workstrands, a programme of actions has been suggested to support development, and this action plan is incorporated at the end of the document.

4.3 It is the expectation that by recognising the importance of watersport to a city like Portsmouth, with its unique characteristics, we can shape our work to capitalise on the potential offered by watersport to support a range of objectives for the city related to jobs and skills, the economy (including the visitor economy) and the image of the city.

4. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

4.1 A preliminary EIA was completed for the document and concluded that there will be no negative impact on any of the protected characteristics arising from the strategy. Any individual projects arising from the strategy will be subject to impact assessments in their own right. The preliminary EIA is attached as Appendix 2.

5. Legal implications

5.1 The strategy articulates how the local authority will deploy its resources and structure its working in support of achieving a range of objectives related to watersports. This is not a statutory function of the authority.

5.2 The Cabinet Member has the authority to approve the recommendations proposed.

6. Director of Finance Comments

6.1 Any proposals that are going to be taken forward as a result of the consideration of this strategy will be assessed from an operational and financial perspective. Any proposals that have financial implications will be appraised and any required funding will need to be identified. Currently there is no dedicated funding set aside for the implementation of proposals contained within "Developing Watersport in Portsmouth".

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Signed by:
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture and City Development

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Developing Watersport in Portsmouth 2016 - 2020
Appendix 2 - Watersport preliminary EIA

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on 18th March 2016.

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Signed by
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport