

**At a meeting of the PORT BOARD held at CAPSTAN HOUSE,
GREENWELL QUAY, SOUTH DOCKS, BARRACK STREET,
SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2016 at 9.00a.m.**

Present:-

Councillor M. Speding in the Chair

Councillors McClennan and Wood together with Mr F. Nicholson and Mr K. Wilson.

In Attendance:-

Matthew Hunt (Port Director), Andrea Winders (Executive Director of Enterprise Development), Paul. Wilson (Assistant Head of Financial Resources), Jonathan Rowson (Assistant Head of Law and Governance), John Rawling (Deputy Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development), and Kate Cuthbert (Principal Governance Services Officer).

Part I

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Mordey and P. Watson.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

20. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on 19 November 2015, Part I were approved as a true record.

UK Drowning Prevention Strategy (2016-2026): Registration of Commitment by Port of Sunderland

The Marine Services Manager submitted a report to seek the Board's approval for the Port of Sunderland to support the aims of the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy (2016-2017).

The Board was advised that on 21st October 2015, the Port of Sunderland was represented at the National Water Safety Conference at Durham, which was organised by RoSPA in partnership with the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF).

The key element of the National Water Safety Conference was the launch of UK Drowning Prevention Strategy (2016-2017), which was to be formally launched in January 2016. The objectives of which were to reduce accidental drowning fatalities in the UK by 50% by 2026 and reduce amongst the highest risk populations, groups and communities. There were on average about 400 drowning related deaths nationwide each year.

The Port of Sunderland was in a position to support the strategy locally by the following means:

- (a) The existing targeted and proactive use of Water Patrols on the River Wear, especially during high levels of seasonal activity;
- (b) Continuing to work in partnership with internal and external stakeholders, including Search and Rescue assets, Emergency Services, relevant Council service areas and external water-based leisure organisations;
- (c) Discouraging inappropriate swimming activity in the River Wear, including by the proportionate application of the Port of Sunderland Byelaws where appropriate;
- (d) Exploring ways of encouraging pleasure boat users to utilise appropriate safety equipment, including the use of lifejackets; and
- (e) Where appropriate, engaging with local and national water safety campaigns and initiatives.

The Board was advised that in practice, the Port was already undertaking many of these measures.

21. RESOLVED that the Board noted and endorsed the contents of the letter attached to the report and agreed for it to be forwarded to the National Water Safety Forum under the signature of the Vice-Chairman of the Port Board.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

22. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) (Paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(Signed) M. SPEDING ,
Vice- Chairman.

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.

