

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 18th March 2019

Report Title: Lifeguard service 2018 review

Report By: Kevin Boorman

Purpose of Report

To update the charity committee on the 2018 lifeguard service in Hastings

Recommendation(s)

That the charity committee notes the excellent lifeguard service provided by the RNLI on the town's beaches in 2018, and thanks the RNLI for the service they provided.

Reasons for Recommendations

To acknowledge the excellent service the RNLI lifeguards provided in 2018

Introduction

1. During the 2016 summer season the lifeguard service was operated in-house by Hastings Borough Council and the Foreshore Trust. Following a number of organisational changes in early 2017, the council and trust resolved to enter into a one season agreement with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution ('RNLI') and for the operation to be reviewed at the end of that year's operation.
2. During 2017, lifeguards attended 88 different incidents, of these 7 required serious medical intervention.
3. As a result of the success of the pilot, at the charity committee meeting on 11th December 2017 the committee agreed unanimously to enter into a three year contract with the RNLI to provide the Hastings lifeguard service. A number of 'tweaks' were made to the service following the pilot, including earlier starts at all three sites – Pelham, Pier, and Marina.

2018 season review

4. A copy of the draft 2018 lifeguards service monitoring report 2018 is attached; please note that the data is subject to RNLI verification, but we are advised that it is unlikely to change significantly.
5. It is worth noting that, in 2018 on our beaches the lifeguards rescued two people, assisted fifteen, performed major first aid on four casualties and minor first aid on 55. In addition some 12 796 members of the public were spoken to on 'preventative actions' (an action described as 'an action conducted by the lifeguard team to prevent persons coming into contact with harm including; PA announcement, moving flags, displaying safety signage, educating beach users').
6. All of the RNLI's key performance indicators were met, and no complaints were received about the service, either by the RNLI or by HBC.
7. It is also worth acknowledging that the RNLI intend expanding their programme of talking to students in schools, and other groups and associations.

Financial information

8. The cost of HBC providing an 'in-house' lifeguarding service in 2016 was c£54 000, which did not include supervision or management; on a 'like for like' basis the RNLI provided the service for £27 183 in 2017, including training, supervision and management, although because of service enhancements the actual cost of operation was £36 600 on 2017, and £38 100 in 2018, because of further service enhancements (starting the season earlier). The estimated cost for 2019 is £38 900, an increase purely for inflation. It should be noted that, three years on, and with service enhancements and no management/supervision costs this is still less than 75% of the 2016 costs when the service was provided in-house.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the charity committee notes the excellent lifeguard service provided by the RNLI on the town's beaches in 2018, and thanks the RNLI for the service they provided.

Wards Affected

All

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	
Risk Management	X
Environmental Issues	X
Economic/Financial Implications	X
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	
Local People's Views	
Anti-Poverty	

Additional Information

RNLI service review 2018 attached.

Officer to Contact

Kevin Boorman
kboorman@hastings.gov.uk
Hastings (01424) 451123
