

Report To: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 16th March 2020

Report Title: Lifeguard service 2019 review

Report By: Kevin Boorman, Marketing and Major Projects Manager

Key Decision: No

Classification: Open

Purpose of Report

To update the charity committee on the 2019 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 2019, including the saving of four lives, and thanks the RNLI for the service they provided

Reasons for Recommendations

To acknowledge the excellent service the RNLI lifeguards provided in 2019.

Introduction

1. Until the 2016 summer season our 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. 2019 was therefore the second full year of the three year contract.

2019 season review

4. A copy of the 2019 lifeguard service monitoring report is attached.
5. It is worth noting that, in 2019 on our beaches the lifeguards saved four lives, rescued seven people, assisted sixteen, performed major first aid on five casualties and minor first aid on 22. This is the first time that the RNLI lifeguards' intervention has been classified as 'saving lives' at Hastings, and is the most serious form of intervention: - without the action of the lifeguards, four people would have drowned. In addition some 14 230 members of the public were engaged with 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, £38 100 in 2018, because of further service enhancements (starting the season earlier), and £39 100 in 2019. The estimated cost for 2020 is £39 900 [ESTIMATE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION], an increase purely for inflation. It should be noted that, four 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 2019, including the saving of four lives, and thanks the RNLI for the service they provided.

Wards Affected

All

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score: 43.2

Have you used relevant project tools?: N

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

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

Additional Information

Appendix 1: RNLI Lifeguard service monitoring report Hastings 2019

Officer to Contact

Kevin Boorman
KBoorman@hastings.gov.uk
01424 451123