

OPTIONS FOR FUTURE – RIB ENFORCER

Background

Members had previously agreed to keep in service the Authority's older 6.4 metre enforcement RIB 'Enforcer' after the new 7.8 metres enforcement RIB 'David Rowe' was commissioned. The identified costs of keeping Enforcer in service were predicted to be low as insurance and general maintenance costs were low and storage was in the compound at the Authority's offices in Brixham. The benefits of keeping a second RIB in service were that the Authority had its own means of patrolling at sea in the event the main vessel David Rowe was out of service for any length of time. The Authority has experience of hiring in a temporary replacement enforcement RIB and understand the considerable costs involved. The smaller and older RIB could be used to undertake some of the estuary and shallow water works and messier jobs such as hauling fishing gear.

Developments

In January 2019, officers were put on notice that the area where Enforcer was being stored at the offices in Brixham was being re allocated to another company. The Authority's lease for the Brixham offices does include space for one vessel and trailer. Although David Rowe is moored on Brixham Marina from time to time, its trailer is also stored in the office compound.

Officers are aware that in order for Enforcer to stay in service for much longer, more than a year or so, a full rewire of the vessel is needed and the batteries need to be relocated to the console area from their current location at the stern of the vessel. An estimate for these works by one engineering company was £30,000.

The EA operate a 6.5 metre RIB 'Endeavour' from their offices based in Alverdiscott. The vessel is not used a great deal by the EA and personnel changes next year means the EA's use of the vessel may reduce further. The ACO has been speaking to the EA's area manager and Defra fleet services to explore the option further. Initial indications are that the agreement could work well for both organisations with IFCA officers undertaking some EA related work, such as water sample collections along with IFCA enforcement work. Having an enforcement vessel in North Devon will make patrolling the area easier and will increase enforcement coverage. Financing the agreement has not been discussed in detail but it is not likely to be too onerous on the IFCA and may well be similar to the costs already incurred with operating Enforcer. A proposed costing schedule should be available by the meeting on 13th June

Options

The Authority have four options;

- 1) Identify a suitable alternative storage space for 'Enforcer' – officers have already made preliminary enquiries and storage will cost around £1,250 per annum.
- 2) In addition to 1 above, agree to undertake the necessary rewiring work to extend the working life of the vessel.
- 3) Enter into an agreement with the EA to use their RIB 'Endeavour' based in Alverdiscott.
- 4) In addition to 3 above sell Enforcer – the sale should realise around £20,000.

Recommendation

The Authority agrees in principle to support Option 4.