PLA Navigational SMS

NAVIGATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL REPORT

NAP Date: 20.05.08  Owner: HM(SMS)  NAP Ref: 28  NAP Title: Review of continued need for Northfleet Radar, Upper Light & CCTV

Panel Members:

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The Navigational Advisory Panel is asked to:

1. Review the current utility and need of:
   - Northfleet Radar and Northfleet CCTV as established risk control measures in the management of navigational safety; and
   - Northfleet Upper Light as an aid to navigation.

2. If it proposed that there remains a continued need for all or any of the three; demonstrate that need and identify alternative location(s) (whether on the La Farge site or elsewhere) and/or replacements for the units.

The Panel noted and agreed the TOR without comment.

Findings:

The Panel considered the current utility and need, in navigational safety management terms, of the three risk control measures and after some detailed discussion agreed the following:

1. **Northfleet Radar** – The radar provides an important link between and redundancy for Gravesend and Broadness radars. It was originally installed to monitor the entrance to Tilbury Dock and to monitor small vessel movements in Northfleet Hope. It also provides some resilience to the failure or disruption of Broadness or Gravesend radars. Notwithstanding the introduction of AIS, the Panel agreed there was still a substantial case to retain Northfleet radar at or close to its current position. In addition, there are several real and potential developments in the future, which will require the system resilience that Northfleet radar provides i.e. the potential re-development of the PCC building, the provision of wind turbines at Tilbury and the raising/improvement of Broadness radar.

   In summary, whilst the value of Northfleet radar as a risk control measure may not be as high as previously, it remains a key part of the VTS package (operationally and in terms of business continuity) and should be retained.

2. **CCTV** – Whilst CCTV has only limited value in terms of VTS management, it has value and if the radar is retained, CCTV should be included on the mast.

3. **Northfleet Upper Light** – It was quickly agreed by all, without question, that Northfleet Upper Light is essential to navigational safety in the area and must be retained.
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<th>Detail / Terms of Reference</th>
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| 3. The Navigational Advisory Panel is asked to submit its findings and recommendations to the PLA’s Navigational Management Team. | **Alternative Location:**
On the basis that both the radar and Upper Light must be retained, it was agreed that, given the planned development of the existing berth, a new 50m tower was required to hold both units. The CCTV should also be added.

After considering the berth plans, the Panel agreed that the PLA preferred position would be close behind the sea defence wall at the upper-most end of La Farge jetty. (A short distance westward and towards the River from the existing site). This location (with the proposed 50m height of eye) would keep the line of sight clear of ships alongside the re-developed La Farge jetty and at Northfleet Terminal, and of the proposed ‘Fast Track’ road.

**Recommendations:**

1. It is essential that both Northfleet radar and Northfleet Upper Light are retained; and with the necessary mast, it makes sense to retain CCTV.
2. The preferred location for a new 50m mast is at the upper end of La Farge (Blue Circle) jetty, just inside the sea wall. (See attached chartlet).
3. La Farge are advised of the PLA’s position, following this formal review, with a view to agreeing the new mast location as soon as possible.

| Panel Chairman: | Julian Parkes | Signature: | Date: | 20.05.08 |