



Proposal:

To limit the number of tug providers operating at the inner-docks of ABP's port of Grimsby ("Port"), being the Alexandra Dock, the Royal Dock and the River Freshney, to one dedicated provider of both a Class A and a Class C tug.

Justification:

The current system whereby a number of towage operators provide ad-hoc towage for the Port has resulted in an unreliable provision of towage for the Port, in particular for customers using the inner-docks.

As a result, the Port has had to cancel a number of shipments due to insufficient towage providers being available, as well as being unable to meet requests for a standby safety tug.

In order to resolve this issue and provide a better and more reliable service for customers, it is proposed that ABP enter into a commercial agreement with one tug provider, who will provide a dedicated Class A and Class C tug service for the inner-docks of the Port.

The Port believes that there is insufficient customer traffic within the inner-docks of the Port to justify having a dedicated provider of tug services, as well as additional ad-hoc providers. Further, endeavouring to provide berth space for both a dedicated provider and ad-hoc providers will place too much pressure on limited common user berthing capacity in the port. As such, ABP will terminate its existing ad-hoc arrangements with other providers of tug services for the inner-docks of the Port, once a dedicated provider has been appointed.

Other tug operators will, however, be free to operate in other areas of the Port.

At the end of a term of [three] years, ABP will initiate a new tender process to select a dedicated tug operator for the inner-dock of the Port for the next [three] year period. All interested tug operators will be free to submit proposals as part of this process.

Proposed Process:

This proposal shall be open for comment for 3 months from the date of publication. When 3 months have elapsed ABP will confirm its decision and the process for selecting the dedicated provider will be published.