

Consideration of SCOTLANDS NATIONAL MARINE PLAN

In consideration of the SNMP, the proposal for a pontoon to serve the West boathouse can be seen as a positive contribution to the immediate locality. The location of the pontoon responds well to the GEN4 policy of providing a safe access to the river for the enjoyment of the natural environment in the city centre at a site that has a long heritage of rowing, for the enjoyment of being on the river as a sport and leisure interest. In particular this proposal will allow increased accessibility to these positive aspects for those with physical limitations.

With respect to the policy GEN7 the proposed pontoon is discrete as a low lying floating structure in the water to suit the low level access required for access to the rowing boats, with a neutral colour of decking and natural timber faced fender. The minimum anchorage of two slender piles is also low key, to the minimum height needed to cope with the maximum and minimum tidal heights. The pontoon is located close to the river bank without being in contact so that the boats are able to float alongside above the natural river mud levels without disturbance or removal of material. The gang-way access from an existing area of hardstanding, bridges over the natural river bank to the landing pontoon and is of minimal size to accommodate single file access to the water while carrying a boat to be launched.

In respect of noise and GEN13 the installation method is minimal with low sound impact driving of two piles in a very short period. There are no other mechanical sounds required for the installation. Once installed, the use will be by rowing boats with oars and the small outboard engine on a safety boat during events, which is the same level of activity and noise that has been an established part of the rowing clubs existence over the last 100years.