

# Harbours Committee

## 28 September 2022

### PMSC Designated Persons Report

#### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr R Bryan, Highways, Travel and Environment

**Local Councillor(s):** All Councillors

**Executive Director:** J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: William Heaps, Marico Marine, Ken Buchan, Dorset Council

Title: Designated Person for Dorset Council's Harbours

Head of Environment & Wellbeing

Tel: +44 (0) 2380 811133  
01305 225132

Email: [william.heaps@maricogroup.com](mailto:william.heaps@maricogroup.com)  
[Ken.buchan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Ken.buchan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**Report Status:** Public

#### Brief Summary:

The PMSC Designated Person Report 2022 details observations made during the most recent operational visits to Lyme Regis (including a review of Bridport) and Weymouth.

Were Weymouth to be considered alone, it is the DP's opinion that the harbour could be declared fully compliant with the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code. However, the requirements to fully review the Marine Safety Management System (documented procedures) along with the need to update navigational risk assessments (among other observations) at both Bridport and Lyme Regis suggests that these two locations are not fully compliant with the requirements of the PMSC.

It is concluded that, overall, Dorset Council could not confirm PMSC compliance as required until the Bridport and Lyme Regis MSMS and NRA updates are completed.

The audit recommends that the Harbours Committee, as Duty Holder, urgently develops a Marine Safety Plan (as required by the Code) identifying and prioritising the necessary improvements to achieve full PMSC compliance. The plan should be time framed and monitored at the regular Harbours Committee meetings, and progress against the plan publicly reported.

The DP is confident that compliance can be achieved in a relatively short time period, by means of adapting the good practices in place at Weymouth to the two smaller ports, and that the Council will be able to confirm renewed compliance when next required to do so by the MCA (anticipated to be in March 2024).

Since receipt of the report in July a audit has been done on existing documents and any gaps and updates that are required identified. Operational Plans and Safety management Systems for both Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours are being updated and all risk assessments reviewed. A Safety Management Plan is being drafted and will be presented to the Harbours Committee in December. A timetable to address the issues highlighted in the audit report is presented for approval.

**Recommendation:**

1. That the Harbours Committee accepts the Designated Person's report and that the report is sent to Full Council for information.
2. That Harbours Committee approve the programme timetable to address any outstanding issues highlighted by the audit report.

**Reason for Recommendation:** Harbour operations have been reviewed and assessed throughout the period by the Designated Person this has highlighted some compliance issues. A plan is in place and has started to be delivered to ensure compliance at Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours by the end of the year.

**3. Financial Implications**

There are financial considerations with the ongoing work in the harbour which includes ensuring compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. These are managed through the routine Committee budget setting and monitoring processes.

**4. Climate Implications**

There are no climate implications linked to the subject of this report. However, the Harbours aim to meet the targets of the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. Adopted by Dorset Council in July 2021, the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy sets out a framework for action to become a carbon neutral Council and the direction of travel needed for a County-wide approach. Harbours have an important role in helping to deliver some of the goals set out within the strategy and will aim to reduce their carbon footprint in line with that of other Council Services.

**5. Well-being and Health Implications**

Risk assessments that support the ongoing health and well-being of harbour users and harbour employees are in place for numerous activities that occur within our harbours. As part of the response to this audit these risk assessments are in the process of being reviewed and updated if required.

**6. Other Implications**

Other implications are covered in the attached audit report.

**7. Risk Assessment**

- a. HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Medium

Residual Risk: Low

**8. Equalities Impact Assessment**

There are no equalities impact issues resulting from the subject of this report.

**9. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Dorset Council PMSC Designated Person Report 2022

Appendix 2: Timetable to address issues outlined in the Designated Person's PMSC Audit

**10. Background Papers**

None