

Harbours Advisory Committee

8 December 2022

Approval of the Harbours Marine Safety Plan and update on Port Marine Safety Code Audit Actions

For Recommendation to the Portfolio Holder

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

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

At Harbours Committee on 28 September 2022 the PMSC Designated Person (DP) Report 2022 detailed observations made during the most recent operational visits to Lyme Regis (including a review of Bridport) and Weymouth. The reports outlined issues at Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours which led to the conclusion that Dorset Council was not compliant with the code at that time. 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 led to this conclusion.

The audit recommended 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 and that the plan should be time framed and monitored at the regular Harbours Committee meetings, and progress against the plan publicly reported. A plan has been developed and is presented in Appendix 7 for Duty Holder approval.

The Committee report also presented a timetable to address the issues highlighted in the audit report which was subsequently approved by the Committee. This paper provides an update on progress against this timetable.

Table 1: Progress with audit checklist

Task	Progress	Notes
Audit and list existing documents	Completed	
Update Operational plan and Marine Safety Management Systems	Mostly Complete	With recent changes to Harbour governance relevant text in the updated plans needs to be checked by democratic/legal services
Develop Marine Safety Plan for Committee Approval	Completed	Draft presented for approval today
Review and update all risk assessments where required including navigational risk assessments	Completed	
Establish risk registers for Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours	Completed	
Complete incident, accident and defect reporting, investigation and action list	Completed	System of reporting now in place through Harbour websites which link to back-office action lists
Examine General Directions requirements (HRO dependent)	Will start when HROs for Bridport and Lyme Regis approved	
Committee training requirements and records available for audit	Completed	A record is kept by Democratic Services at DC and can be made available for audit purposes
Incorporate links to relevant county and regional emergency plans	Completed	

Establish record of past and planned emergency response exercises	To be introduced	Harbour staff also receiving required emergency response training (e.g., Oil Spill response)
Publish dredge and survey results	Complete	
Review of pilotage service at Bridport Harbour	Programmed for 2023	Will request an independent review early next year for committee consideration.
Review and risk assess bunkering activities at Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours	To be investigated in Jan/Feb 2023	
Update delegations and powers in the Operational Plans for Bridport and Lyme Regis	Mostly Complete	Requires review by democratic/legal services

Good progress has been made in addressing the recommended actions with those not constrained by other dependencies (such as HRO approval) being mostly completed. Recent governance changes are reflected in the updated Operational Plans and Marine Safety Management Systems but require some review by democratic/legal services. The pilotage review for Bridport will require specialist input and we anticipate this being carried out in the first quarter of 2023. The review and risk assessment of activities related to bunkering will require more detailed investigation, and this will happen early in 2023.

Recommendation:

1. That subject to any suggested changes from the Harbours Advisory Committee, the Portfolio Holder for Highway, Travel, and the Environment approve the Marine Safety Plan.
2. To note the progress on the actions related to the Port Marine Safety Code audit.

Reason for Recommendation: Harbour operations have been reviewed and assessed throughout the period by the Designated Person which highlighted some compliance issues. This included the requirement of a Marine Safety Plan and a list of other issues requiring attention. These issues were outlined and timetabled for action at

Harbours Committee on 28 September 2022. This report presents a draft Marine Safety Plan for consideration and progress towards delivering other actions. By addressing these issues, we can ensure Dorset Council's harbours are compliant with the Port Marine Safety Code.

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 have been reviewed and updated if required.

6. Other Implications

None

7. Risk Assessment

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

Current Risk: Low
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 Harbours Marine Safety Plan 2023 – 2025

10. Background Papers

Dorset Council PMSC Designated Person Report 2022