

# Harbours Advisory Committee

## 20 September 2023

### PMSC Designated Persons Report

#### For Review and Consultation

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

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

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

Report Author: James Hannon, ABPmer, Ken Buchan, Dorset Council

Title: Designated Person for Dorset Council's Harbours  
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**Report Status:** Public

#### Brief Summary:

It is a requirement to audit Dorset Council's harbours every three years in order to ensure compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. These audits are carried out by an independent suitably qualified Designated Person. To this end, when engaging ABPmer to provide Designated Person services, a programme was established where Bridport Harbour would be audited in 2023, Weymouth Harbour in 2024 and Lyme Regis Harbour in 2025. The PMSC Designated Person Report 2023 details observations made during the most recent operational visit to Bridport (West Bay) Harbour.

Dorset Council as the Statutory Harbour Authority for Bridport Harbour is found to be fully compliant with the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code. The following points of best practice are noted:

- Provision and maintenance of Aids to Navigation is recognised as an area of best practice with a 100% availability statistic across all categories of Aid.

- Hydrographic Survey standard is very high and is recognised as an area of best practice with an ongoing regime of surveys and promulgation of information.
- The Council has a consistent and measurable approach to marine safety.

The PMSC audit identified 12 observations relating to improvement opportunities for management consideration, the detailed findings are presented in the report (Appendix 1).

The Bridport Harbour Master will now consider the observations made and action accordingly.

**Recommendation:**

1. The Harbours Advisory Committee and Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment as Duty Holder note the Designated Person' s report.

**Reason for Recommendation:**

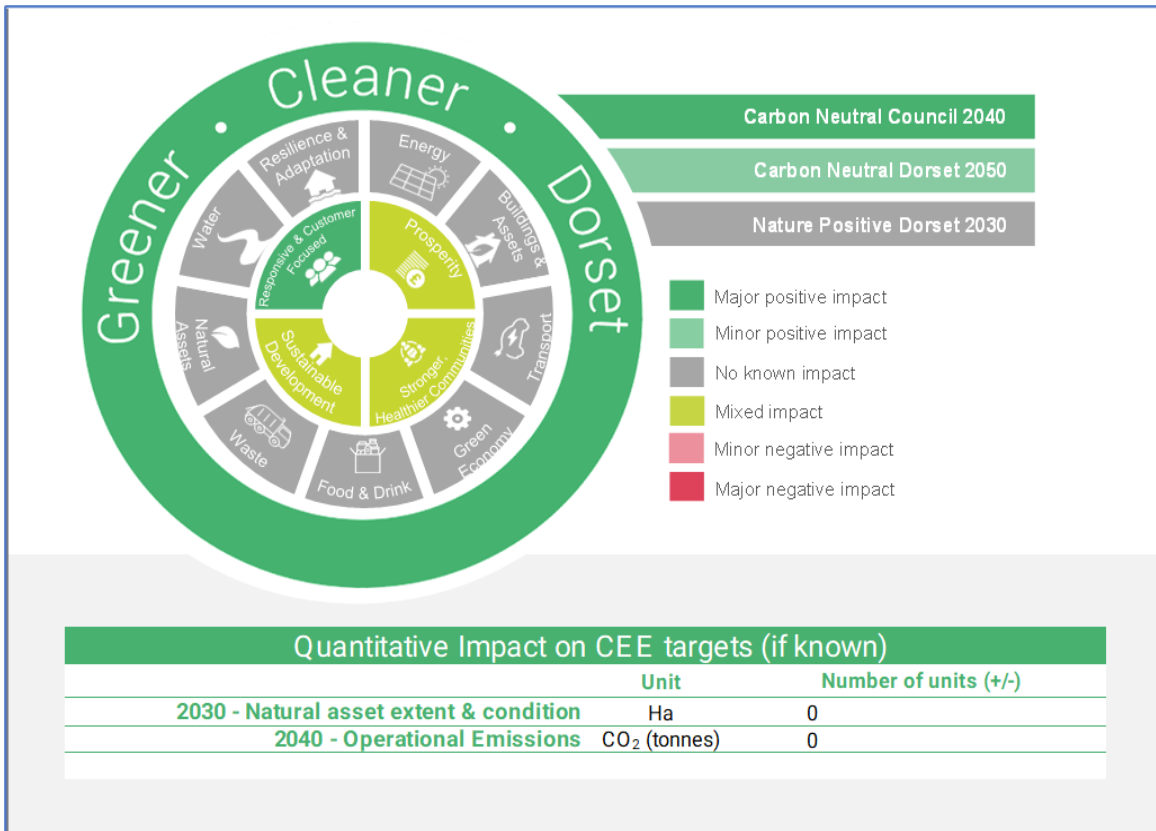
Dorset Council's Harbours are required to comply with the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) and it is important for the Harbour's Advisory Committee and Duty Holder to be aware of any compliance issues and to correct these if required to ensure the ongoing safety of harbour users and, harbour employees.

**2. 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.

**3. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

There are no natural environment, climate & ecological implications linked to the subject of this report. The annual audit of compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code is pro-active in terms of harbour user safety and is therefore responsive and customer focused.



#### 4. 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. The audit has reviewed the risk assessments in place and the wider safety management system of the harbour and has determined that Dorset Council has a consistent and measurable approach to marine safety and that systems that are in place are satisfactory in terms of PMSC compliance.

#### 5. Other Implications

Other implications are covered in the attached audit report.

#### 6. 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

**7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

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

**8. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Dorset Council PMSC Designated Person Report 2023

Appendix 2: Accessible Table showing impacts.

**9. Background Papers**

None

**Appendix 1: PMSC Designated Person Report 2023**