

Weymouth Harbour - Future Development and Open Port Duty

Appendix One - Risk Summary

For the immediate recommendations:

1. An application be made to the Marine Management Organisation for a Harbour Revision Order in respect of Weymouth Harbour to restrict the Open Port Duty.	Financial	1
	Strategic Priorities and Opportunities	1
2. Delegated authority be given to the Executive Lead for Place Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Services to determine the wording of the Harbour Revision Order based on legal advice and to undertake all procedures for the submission of the Harbour Revision Order to the Marine Management Organisation	Health & Safety	1
	Reputational	2
3. A budget of £40,000 is allocated for the work set out in recommendations i) and ii) from Harbour Reserves.	Criticality of Service	1

Potential risks should the HRO not be pursued:

For Weymouth Harbour

		Best	Worst
Ongoing costs for maintaining infrastructure for large commercial vessels, despite no demand, and limited revenue diversification due to the constraints of the Open Port Duty.	Financial	3	4
Reduced flexibility to pursue new opportunities, limiting the harbour's ability to adapt to changing economic conditions. Failure to modify the Open Port Duty could jeopardize the success of current regeneration projects, impacting the harbour's potential for growth.	Strategic Priorities and Opportunities	3	4
Potential deterioration of underutilized infrastructure, posing safety hazards to harbour users and staff. Continued maintenance of facilities not suited to current demand may divert resources from essential safety upgrades and create an increased risk of accidents or structural failures.	Health & Safety	2	5
Being seen as outdated and inefficient if it continues to maintain infrastructure for large commercial vessels with no demand. Potentially deter investors, commercial partners, tourists, limiting the harbour's appeal and competitiveness sector.	Reputational	2	4
Worst case: Unable to fulfil statutory duties due to excess financial burden/critical failure of infrastructure causes serious injury or death, severe and long lasting reputational damage.	Criticality of Service	2	5

For Dorset Council

		Best	Worst
Increased financial pressure if the Open Port Duty is not amended, as Dorset Council could be required to subsidise the ongoing maintenance of costly, underutilized harbour infrastructure. Additionally, failure to optimise harbour operations may limit economic growth, reducing future revenue streams and increasing the likelihood of the Council having to provide further financial support. Worst case scenario: loss of funding monies.	Financial	3	5
Not addressing the constraints of the Open Port Duty could impede Dorset Council's ability to fully realise strategic regeneration projects at Weymouth Harbour, reducing opportunities for commercial, leisure, and tourism development. This would limit the Council's capacity to capitalise on the harbour's potential as an economic driver for the region. Furthermore, failure to act risks leaving a semi-derelict area that functions only as a car park, thereby damaging the aesthetics and the quality of place in Weymouth.	Strategic Priorities and Opportunities	4	
Dorset Council could face liability risks if ageing or underused infrastructure at the harbour becomes a safety hazard. Failure to prioritise essential health and safety improvements due to resource allocation toward maintaining unnecessary infrastructure could expose the Council to legal and financial consequences.	Health & Safety	2	5
If Dorset Council is unable to deliver on its commitments to use government funding effectively, it could harm its reputation with funding bodies, stakeholders, and the public. This could result in reduced trust in the Council's ability to manage large-scale projects, affecting future investment opportunities. Leaving the Peninsula as an underutilized car park could be seen as a missed opportunity to enhance the area, potentially leading to public criticism and perceptions of poor stewardship, which could further undermine confidence in the Council's ability to drive positive local development.	Reputational	3	4
Dorset Council risks reducing the effectiveness of critical services that support local economic activity. This could weaken the Council's ability to meet regional economic objectives and diminish public confidence in its service delivery.	Criticality of Service	4	

IMPACT KEY

		Financial	Strategic Priorities and Opportunities	Health & Safety	Reputational	Criticality of Service (following Business Impact Assessment)
5	CATASTROPHIC	Over £3 million	Complete failure to deliver on a strategic priority	Fatality; multiple permanent injuries	Receives national / international attention with potential for long term impact on public memory; Total loss in public confidence	Critical Service Level One (i.e. Major risk to public health or safety)
4	MAJOR	£1 million - £3 million	Major impact (positive or negative) on a strategic priority	Major injury or illness leading to long term incapacity/disability; multiple significant injuries	Receives national / international attention with medium term impact on public memory	Critical Service Level Two (i.e. Medium to Major risk to council's reputation / finances)
3	MODERATE	£500,000 - £1 million	Moderate impact (positive or negative) on a strategic priority	Moderate injury or illness requiring professional intervention; RIDDOR reportable; multiple minor injuries	Receives local press attention with medium term impact on public memory	Critical Service Level Three (i.e. Medium risk to public health or safety)
2	MINOR	£100,000 - £500,000	Minor impact (positive or negative) on a strategic priority	Minor injury or illness requiring minimal intervention or treatment	Receives local press attention but with likely short term impact on public memory	Critical Service Level Four (i.e. Low to Medium risk to council's reputation / finances)
1	NEGLECTIBLE	Up to £100,000	Negligible impact (positive or negative) on a strategic priority	None, or minimal injury or illness requiring no intervention or treatment	Minor complaints or rumours	Critical Service Level Five (i.e. Minor risk to public health or safety)