

Harbours Advisory Committee

4 March 2026

Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Engineering Update

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member:

Cllr J Andrews, Place Services

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director:

J Britton, Executive Director for Place Services

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Statutory Authority: n/a

Report status: Public [Choose an item.](#)

Executive summary (maximum of 500 words)

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update and consult with Harbours Committee on the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) engineering activities being undertaken within all three Dorset Council Harbours.
2. **Recommendation(s)**
 - 2.1 Review report and comment.
3. **Reason for the recommendation(s)**
 - 3.1 Update and consult with Harbours Advisory Committee.

4. The report

4.1 Bridport Harbour (West Bay)

a. Dredging

The Coastal Risk Management team are supporting the Harbours team to deliver this work.

Trial Implementation of new Water Injection Dredging techniques are ongoing and are being monitored.

Recent inundation of the Bridport Harbour entrance and outer harbour by sand being washed in by wind and wave action requires an urgent response which is underway.

b. Inspections and Repairs

Defects identified are programmed within the Coastal Risk Management team's maintenance and repairs work list. Repair works are prioritised as part of the overall repair needs, that are financed from the constrained revenue budget. Health & Safety repairs will take priority within the current repair programme.

Any remaining programmed repairs for this financial year have been scheduled with Dorset Council Highways and are expected to be completed by end of March 2026.

We are supporting with the storm response assisting the harbour team with removal of the shingle bar blocking the harbour entrance.

c. Harbour Wall A and B Works.

The project is currently on schedule to start work on Wall A in the Spring and Wall B in Autumn, subject to the licenses being issued. All licensing has been applied for from both the Environment Agency and the MMO. If consented in time, the works undertaken in Spring 2026 will re-seal the footway behind Wall B, so the site has increased resilience and is more aesthetically pleasing.

4.2 Lyme Regis Harbour

a. Dredging

The Coastal Risk Management team are supporting the Harbours team to deliver this work.

Trial Implementation of new Water Injection Dredging techniques are ongoing and are being monitored.

b. Inspections and repairs

Defects identified are programmed within the Coastal Risk Management team's maintenance and repairs work list. Repair works are prioritised as part of the overall repair needs, that are financed from the constrained revenue budget. Health & Safety repairs will take priority within the current repair programme.

Any remaining programmed repairs for this financial year have been scheduled with Dorset Council Highways and are expected to be completed by end of March 2026.

c. The Cobb Repairs.

A large void at the toe of the seaward wall has been identified. This significant defect is located within a hard-to-reach section and is deemed to need repair before the proposed Lyme Regis Environmental Improvement Phase 5 scheme commences construction.

With preventative measures in place, we will continue to monitor the site closely but are optimistic that the rock bags will provide sufficient protection against further damage over the coming months.

The permanent repair is rescheduled for a suitable low tide week commencing 16/03/2026.

d. Lyme Regis Environmental Improvement Scheme Phase 5

The project team has recently received further pre-application advice from Historic England (HE) on the proposed outline design indicating their reluctance to support the design in its present form. In response, we have arranged an onsite inspection of the Cobb at a suitable spring low tide in March with the key stakeholders, HE and Natural England in attendance. The aim will be to collaboratively identify agreed imperative measures to secure long-term strengthening of the Cobb coupled with a comprehensive maintenance regime.

A very successful and encouraging public engagement session was held on 27 November 2025, where residents and stakeholders had the opportunity to view the current outline design and share their feedback.

Funding discussions are ongoing, and the project is hopeful of securing additional funding from Community Infrastructure Levy. Subject to the necessary funding approval by Dorset Council Cabinet and the statutory consenting process, construction could begin in summer 2027.

4.3 Weymouth Harbour

a. Dredging

Nothing to note.

b. Inspections and repairs.

Defects identified are programmed within the Coastal Risk Management team's maintenance and repairs work list. Repair works are prioritised as part of the overall repair needs, that are financed from the constrained revenue budget. Health & Safety repairs will take priority within the current repair programme.

Any remaining programmed repairs for this financial year have been scheduled with Dorset Council Highways and are expected to be completed by end of March 2026.

c. Weymouth Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Scheme Phase 1

The EA is currently still developing the updated appraisal guidance in response to the new Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Funding Policy as released by DEFRA. The latest indication is that the new guidance will be released shortly prior to the start of implementation in April 2026.

The scheme will be subject to the new funding rules, as such the delivery of the Outline Business Case (OBC) will be delayed as it will be required to comply with the new appraisal guidance to be eligible for Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid funding.

Technical works on the OBC are still being progressed while the arrival of the new appraisal guidance is being awaited. The surface water investigation is being progressed in collaboration with the relevant Risk Management Authorities and may also be influenced by the new funding guidance.

The OBC is anticipated to be ready for submission by winter 2026, dependent upon the requirements of the new guidance.

d. Harbour Walls F&G (Peninsula)

After some early delays due to Natural England requirements and Marine Management Organisation (MMO) licence determination, construction is proceeding well with work on the marine and anchor wall sheet piling for Wall G almost complete and sheet piling on Wall F already underway.

All Planning consents are now in place and landscaping work can commence on programme.

The programme indicates completion in September 2026.

e. Harbour Wall E (Harbour Compound)

Weymouth harbour wall E is a sheet piled wall located on the north of the harbour mouth adjacent to the former ferry berthing and continues past Weymouth pavilion and around to the pleasure pier at the end of the peninsula. There are areas of localised deterioration and heavy corrosion of the sheet piled wall.

As part of the initial design stages, Dorset Council's design consultant has been commissioned to undertake a condition survey of Wall E; this survey was undertaken in February. Following the results of the survey, we have commissioned a detailed design and specification document for the remedial and replacement section of this wall.

Following completion of the detailed design and contract documentation, the construction works are anticipated to be completed in the financial year ending March 2027.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 n/a

6. Legal considerations

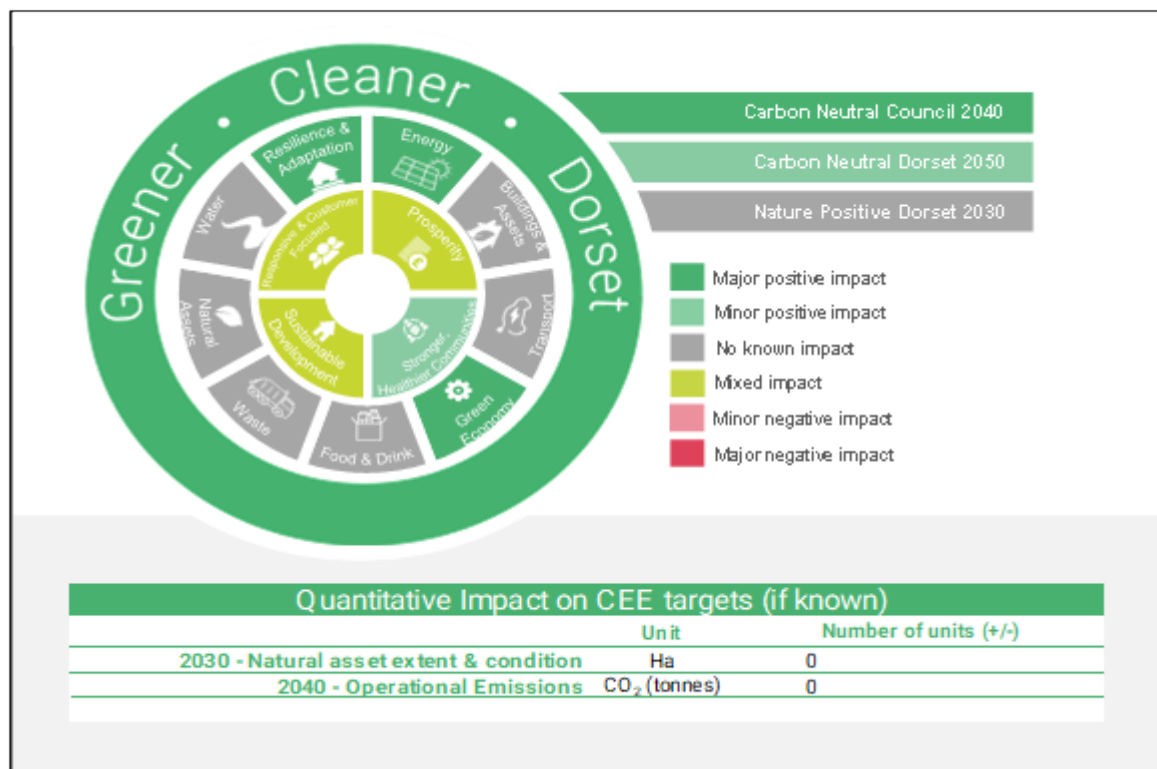
6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7. Financial implications

7.1 The financial implications of capital projects are detailed within the individual business cases which are reviewed as part of Dorset Councils capital programme approval process. Revenue maintenance activities are managed within the constraints of the allotted Dorset Council revenue budgets.

8. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

8.1



8.2 The regular maintenance and repair to engineering assets is beneficial to their remaining life expectancy and therefore has a lower impact upon the climate than replacement schemes. Where future replacement schemes are required, the climate impact will be described in more detail within each respective cabinet paper.

9. Well-being and health implications

9.1 Repair and renewal of harbour infrastructure aids commercial and recreational activity that is both marine and land-based.

10. Other implications

10.1 n/a

11. Risk implications

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

12. Equalities

- 12.1 An EQiA is completed for all relevant engineering work that may impact upon people. Therefore, an EQiA was not completed for this committee paper. This approach was agreed with a council equalities officer.

- 13. **Appendices**

- 13.1 Weymouth Harbour Wall Location Map
- 13.2 Bridport Harbour Walls A&B Location Map
- 13.3 Climate Decision Wheel Output

- 14. **Background papers**

- 14.1 n/a

- 15. **Report sign-off**

- 15.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)