

Harbours Advisory Committee

29 June 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 Economy and Environment

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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.

Dredging works are now complete to remove the recent inundation of the Harbour entrance and outer harbour by sand being washed in by wind and wave action.

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.

Inspections are scheduled for June-July 2026.

c. Harbour Wall A and B Works.

Remedial work has started on Wall A and is due to be complete by end of May 2026 – this work also will re-seal the footway behind Wall B so the site has increased resilience and is more aesthetically pleasing. Services will also be improved.

The main Wall B construction works are scheduled for Autumn 2026, subject to the licenses being issued. All licensing has been applied for from both the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation.

4.2 Lyme Regis Harbour

a. Dredging

The Coastal Risk Management team are supporting the Harbours team to deliver this work. Nothing to report.

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.

Inspections are scheduled for June-July 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.

We will continue to monitor the site closely with the permanent repair that was scheduled 18-19 May has been postponed due to unfavourable weather until 15-16 June 2026.

d. Lyme Regis Environmental Improvement Scheme Phase 5

We are currently progressing design refinement in consultation with key stakeholders such as Historic England and Natural England. In March, an onsite inspection of the Cobb with key stakeholders was a success and productive dialogue is ongoing. All parties agree that the aim will be to collaboratively identify agreed measures to secure long-term strengthening of the Cobb coupled with a comprehensive maintenance regime.

The project has secured funding from a Community Infrastructure Levy bid. The intention of the CIL bid was to secure sufficient funding to close the project funding gap and enable the scheme to proceed through design finalisation, tendering and delivery within the agreed programme. Subject to the necessary statutory consenting process, construction could begin in Summer 2027, but the programme is currently being updated.

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.

Inspections are scheduled for June-July 2026.

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

Delays experienced and new requirements brought about by the new DEFRA funding rules resulted in a funding shortfall for delivery of the Outline Business Case (OBC). A Local Levy funding application was submitted to address this shortfall and was successful. Works are now being progressed on all elements where sufficient certainty exist to avoid undertaking abortive works.

The Surface Water component of the OBC is being progressed in collaboration with the relevant Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). The outcome of the investigation will inform the OBC and set the basis for the development of surface water interventions.

The OBC is anticipated to be ready for submission by spring 2027, after which Full Business Case development will commence in conjunction with detail design, consenting and contractor procurement. It is envisaged that construction will commence winter 2029.

d. Harbour Walls F&G (Peninsula)

Construction works are progressing well and currently to programme. The sheet piling operations are now completed for both Walls F and G, and continued operations are underway for tie rods and anchor foundations. The concrete capping beams and pedestrian handrails are progressing well and are approximately 50% completed on Wall G.

We intend to apply for a minor planning amendment to the footway and an increase in the landscaped areas adjacent to Wall G which will improve the public outlook to this area. The application is currently being developed.

The programme currently indicates completion in late 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 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.

A design consultant has undertaken a condition survey of Wall E. Following the results of the survey, we will be commissioning a detailed design and specification document for the remedial and replacement section of this wall.

Subject to design proposals and appointment of an appropriate construction contractor, the construction works are anticipated to be completed this financial year ending March 2027.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 n/a

6. Legal considerations

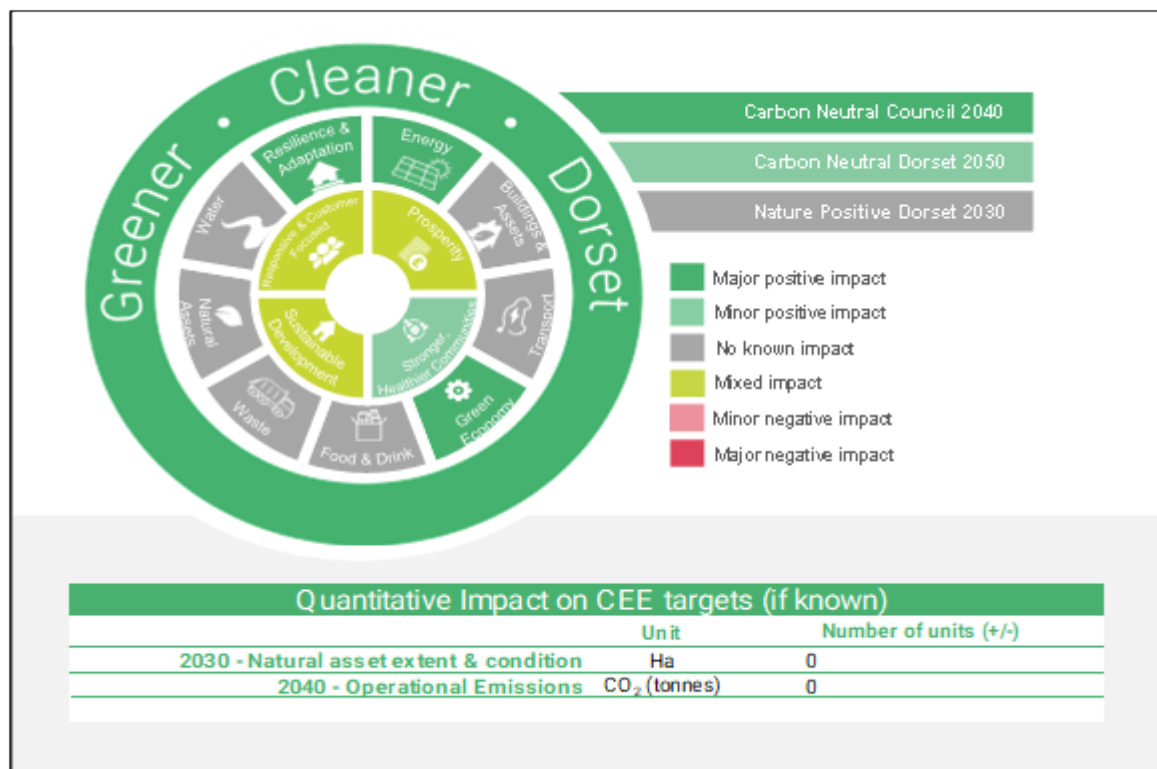
6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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)