



NEWS RELEASE

FURTHER DATES ADDED AS DRAFT PORT MASTER PLAN GOES ON TOUR

Poole Harbour Commissioners is pleased to announce further opportunities to view the recently launched draft Poole Master Plan, which sets out the long-term future of the commercial port and the Harbour as a whole. Permanent displays and tours of exhibition boards summarising the plan will be on show at venues throughout Poole this Autumn and Winter.

The exhibition has already been staged twice at the Dolphin Shopping Centre, during last month's Windfest event in Sandbanks and the PSP Southampton Boat Show; with new dates continually being added as part of the 20-week consultation exercise. Poole Harbour Commissioners is also meeting with a range of stakeholders including the RNLI, boatyard and mooring contractors, passenger boat operators, the Poole Maritime Trust and Natural England.

The feedback will be reviewed by Poole Harbour Commissioners ahead of releasing the final plan in the first quarter of 2012.

A display banner is already on show at Poole Central Library until Monday October 24 before moving on to the Poole Tourism Information Centre for the half-term week. The next opportunity to view the display boards will be at the Dolphin Shopping Centre between 9am and 5pm on Monday October 31, where Poole Harbour Commissioners will also be available to answer any queries. On Thursday November 3 (between 11am and 3pm) and Friday November 4 (between 3pm and 7pm) there will be 'drop in and discuss' sessions held in the North Lounge of the PHC Passenger Terminal on New Harbour Road South.

Poole Harbour Commissioners Chairman, Richard Lacey, said: "Following the launch of the draft plan in September we've already met with a number of stakeholders, groups and organisations and over the next few months we hope we'll engage with many more. If there are any groups who would like to speak to us we would very much like them to get in touch.

"We're delighted with the extent of response so far and would urge people to continue to respond via the microsite at www.phc.co.uk/masterplan as well as our new Facebook page."

-ends-

October 2011

Notes to Editors:

- The Department for Transport government asked all major ports to prepare a master plan to explain their medium to long term strategic plans.
- The Consultation period runs for 20 weeks from 5th September to 31st January 2012
- As well as providing a background to Poole Harbour Commissioners and the master plan process, it will set out the existing status of the Harbour and the Port of Poole. The plan also explores current activities and explains the major environmental issues and sensitivities of the Harbour.
- The results of the plan will be analysed and a final master plan will be compiled in early 2012. This document will be regularly reviewed in the future.
- The master plan is not a planning application - any major project that Poole Harbour Commissioners want to progress will require a planning application , after the completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment. (EIA)
- Anyone can obtain literature summarising the key points of the plan from Poole Harbour Commissioners' head office in Poole. The full draft plan will also be available to download from the PHC website www.phc.co.uk with a comments form for feedback.
- The plan will explore: How the port expects to develop, where changes are likely to be required, when developments are likely to be brought forward and how the plan will integrate into other planning policies
- Poole Harbour Commissioners remain committed to protecting the special natural features of the Harbour. The organisation is committed to maintaining the delicate balance between careful environmental stewardship, the vibrant Poole Harbour leisure activity and the diverse commercial operations of the harbour.
- Poole Harbour Commissioners, as a trust port, receive no public funding either from central or local government. In order to finance all of their statutory and environmental duties the Commissioners need to generate revenue from its commercial activities and harbour dues.

Press enquiries to:

Rachael Hicks, Liz Lean PR 01202 70182 e: rachael@lizleanpr.co.uk