



Introduction

Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) aims to maintain a balance in Poole Harbour between commercial, recreational and environmental interests, including the operation of a sustainable, profitable port.

This Sustainability Policy provides a framework to ensure that PHC’s actions align with its long-term stewardship of the Port and Harbour. The policy is intended as an evolving document, with updates in response to emerging legislation, technological advancements and stakeholder needs.

This policy sets out our commitment to environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Environmental Sustainability

Continuous improvement of environmental performance by fulfilling PHC’s responsibilities relating to conservation, regulation and enhancement of Port Harbour and the Port of Poole. PHC will:

- Promote responsibility for the environment within the organisation and communicate and implement this policy at all levels within the workforce
- Reduce baseline carbon emissions within the Port of Poole industrial maritime cluster, in support of the UK Government’s 2050 ‘Net Zero’ target
- Minimise waste through reduction in consumption, re-use and improved recycling
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation/regulation
- Protect and improve biodiversity within Poole Harbour
- Minimise PHC’s adverse impact on the environment by promoting a sustainable development approach to all PHC operations
- Provide appropriate advice and information to all staff, encouraging them to develop new ideas and initiatives
- Provide appropriate resources to meet the commitments of this policy
- Procure responsibly and sustainably
- Promote the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan and remain a leading stakeholder in the Harbour’s ongoing management

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- prepare for, and take prompt action to deal with, any pollution incidents to minimise any adverse impact
- maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) under ISO 14001:2015 to assess the impact of PHC’s activities on the environment, continually improving all mitigation activities and monitor their effectiveness.

Economic Sustainability

PHC will operate its business activities with the aim of achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth. PHC will:

- Balance commercial growth with sustainable initiatives
- Design harbour and port infrastructure projects with a view to delivering long-term customer requirements while maintaining a low environmental footprint.
- Develop the port as a key regional gateway for sustainable freight and passenger operations
- Maximise strategic partnerships with our key partners and stakeholders
- Continue to diversify port activities.
- Prioritise local procurement where possible, enabling opportunities for SMEs
- Supporting the local business community through PHC’s support of organisations such as the Dorset Chamber of Commerce
- Develop local talent and support local maritime industries
- Commit to grow economic benefits in the community through enhanced employment and business opportunities.
- Adopt appropriate IT solutions to optimise operations, reduce costs, and improve service levels
- Work with national and local authorities to align with UK maritime strategies, promoting regional collaboration and green maritime initiatives

Social Sustainability

Positively impacting employees, customers, local community and the supply chain through PHC’s Port and Harbour operations. PHC will:

- Provide a healthy and safe workplace
- Consult with stakeholders on relevant projects involving PHC’s stewardship of Poole Harbour
- Promote transparency, collaboration and equal opportunities
- Operate HR policies which reflect best practice

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Conclusion

PHC is fully committed to promoting sustainability in all of its operations, recognising the interaction between its environmental, economic, and social responsibilities. By prioritising innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement, PHC strives to balance the diverse needs of its stakeholders, safeguarding the Harbour's unique ecosystems and supporting the regional economy.

This Sustainability Policy serves as a framework to ensure that Poole Harbour and the Port of Poole continue to thrive for many generations to come.

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