

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>10 MARCH 2026</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>PORTHCAWL HARBOUR ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26</b>
<b>Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER REGENREATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING  CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>HEAD OF PUBLIC REALM</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b>The purpose of this information report is to present to Cabinet the Porthcawl Harbour Annual Report, 2025-26. The reports sets out the context for the Porthcawl Harbour, its main activities and its governance.</b>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this information report is to present to Cabinet the Porthcawl Harbour Annual Report, 2025-26.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Porthcawl Harbour is situated on the Bristol Channel which is famous for its large tidal range and strong currents making it a hazardous area to navigate. The Bristol Channel has a large amount of commercial activity and, very often, ships navigating their way up to Bristol Docks can be seen laden with containers, cars and raw materials for distribution across the UK.
- 2.2 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) are granted powers to assist in the operation, maintenance and development of Porthcawl Harbour. The Council is identified as being the Harbour Authority with the undertakings associated with the Harbour being vested in the Council.
- 2.3 Porthcawl Harbour is home to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's (RNLI) busiest inshore lifeboat station in Wales and consequently a very active branch of National Coastwatch Institute (NCI). Both charities are dedicated to working with BCBC to improve water safety across the coastline of Bridgend County Borough.
- 2.4 Porthcawl Harbour is also home to Porthcawl Marina and the Marina Basin. Since opening in 2013, the Marina has performed well in terms of generating income and has a healthy demand for moorings with a consistent waiting list of around 50 people.

### **3. Current situation/ proposal**

- 3.1 The governance aspects of Porthcawl Harbour are overseen by the Porthcawl Harbour Board. This is supported by an Operational Group.
- 3.2 The Porthcawl Harbour Board is chaired by the Corporate Director Communities. Members of the Board include senior officers from the Communities Directorate and Finance Department as well as the Harbourmaster. The Board meets once a year. At its last meeting the Board approved the Harbour Annual Report, 2025-26, which is attached at **Appendix 1** for information.
- 3.3 The Operational Group exists to ensure the safe and effective operation of the marina facility and advise the Harbour Board on matters of importance. The group is chaired by the Harbourmaster and includes Bridgend County Borough Council officers from relevant departments as well as representatives from RNLI, NCI and Absolute Property Management. The Operational Group meets twice a year.

### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

- 5.1 The Harbour Annual Plan demonstrates work towards the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is evidenced through the 5 ways of working as follows:
- Long-term: The strategic objectives and foundations for delivery focus on long-term management and operation of the Harbour.
  - Prevention: The changing nature of the Harbour area and its users is monitored and managed.
  - Integration: The Annual Report demonstrates that implementation integrates with current and future operations.
  - Collaboration: The process for developing and implementing activity covered by the Annual Report is carried out in close partnership with relevant internal and external stakeholders.
  - Involvement: The Harbour governance integrates the Harbour Board and The Harbour Operational Group.

### **6. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 6.1 No impact resulting from this report.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

7.1 No impact resulting from this report.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 The detailed accounting and auditing requirements relating to Harbour authorities are set out in the Harbours Act 1964. In accordance with this Act, statutory Harbour undertakings (such as local authorities that are also harbour authorities) are required to prepare an annual statement of accounts relating to Harbour activities. This requirement is not met by the preparation of accounts that covers matters in addition to Harbour activities. Consequently, the inclusion of Harbour activities within a local authority's statement of accounts will not satisfy the Act and a standalone annual statement of accounts relating solely to Harbour activities, drawn from the local authority's accounting records, is required.

8.2 Harbour authority Auditors are requested to provide the following information:

- confirmation as to whether or not their audited bodies are Harbour authorities;
- confirmation as to whether or not their audited bodies currently prepare Harbour authority accounts;
- annual income and expenditure for the Harbour authority functions (where available); and confirmation as to whether or not the Harbour authority accounts are audited.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the contents of this report.

## **Background documents**

None.