



# Bristol City Docks review project



# Vision

- We want Bristol City Docks to be...
    - A commercial success
    - Safe and welcoming for all
    - A place for innovation and creativity
    - A world class tourist destination
  - We are undertaking a review on how the docks operate to make improvements that will contribute to the city aspirations for the whole harbour area.
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# Bristol City Docks

- Bristol City Docks is a “Competent Harbour Authority” which is **owned** by Central Government (under the Department for Transport) and **managed** by the Local Authority - therefore classed as a “Municipal Port”.
  - The Primary Legislation for running a port is contained within the Harbour, Docks and Piers Act 1847.
    - This act gives powers to the harbour authority to manage and improve facilities and bylaws, and the power to charge for services.
    - It also sets out statutory rights about what “a harbour authority has to do”, to include conservancy duties, pilotage duties and rights to navigation.
  - The City Docks also has a “designation” as a “right to navigation” which states we have to allow free passage of vessels through our water.
  - Other relevant legislation includes Bristol Dock Acts, Corporation Acts and Harbour Revision Orders 1848-1997, and the local byelaws which were last updated in 2009.
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# Trust Port status

- Bristol City Council have received requests a number of times from the DfT for an update on the progress towards being moved to a “Trust Port” status.
  - The move in this direction recognises that Trust Ports have better financial performance than LA managed ports and is something that is an aspiration of the DfT.
  - At present this would not be possible as the operation of the port is not cost neutral.
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# Information about the docks

- Bristol is primarily a “leisure harbour”
  - There are 280 leisure licences that have been issued, these are renewed annually.
  - There are 22 commercial and residential leases (Commercial = restaurants, bars, a hostel).
  - There are lots of other organisations that also use the docks – VCS, not for profit, clubs, groups and commercial organisations.
  - There is a pricing structure in place for the chargeable usage/services within the docks.
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# Examples of organisations who use the docks

- VCS groups, charities and education:
    - All Aboard, Scouts, Sea Scouts, Disability Charities, Schools, Colleges, Universities, Young Bristol, Adventurous Activities, Pride of Bristol Association, Matthew Trust.
  - Clubs and societies
    - Bristol Canoe Club, Bristol Rowing Club, Baltic Wharf Sailing Club, Bristol Gig Club, Clevedon Gig Club, Clifton Gig Club, Bristol Social Rowing Club, Bristol Canoe Polo Club, Sea Cadets.
  - Commercial organisations
    - Bristol Ferry Boat Company, No7 Ferries, Bristol Packet Trips, Bristol Stand Up Paddleboard Company, Blueprint water safety, Bristol Maritime Academy (RYA Training) SW Maritime Academy RYA Training, Motive Marine, Bristol Marina, Underfall Yard, Pooles Wharf Marina, Beese's Tea Garden ferry, Channel Yacht Sales.
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# Fees and charges

- See attached spreadsheet for an overview of the fees and charges related to the docks.
  - Where possible, these have been benchmarked to other docks / ports / harbours.
  - The initial work shows that Bristol is considerably cheaper than many other areas.
  - In order to become cost-neutral to the city, the pricing structure would have to change.
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# Proposed areas to review

Workstream	Detail	Public engagement / consultation
<b>Fees and charges</b> <b>Objective – to ensure the income covers the cost of running the harbour including repairs and maintenance.</b>	Complete benchmarking and propose updated fees and charges. Consider whether any activities should use tender process. Explore other income opportunities	<b>Who:</b> Targeted group of harbour/docks users e.g. ferries, leisure boats etc <b>How:</b> Engagement at Harbourside forum and recreational users group. Consultation survey and feedback.
<b>Policy and engagement</b> <b>Objective: to ensure the policies and laws are in place and are correctly applied to ensure effective operation of the docks.</b>	Review byelaws and consider any updates	<b>Who:</b> Wider group of harbour users and businesses <b>How:</b> working group, via forums, use the survey?
<b>Harbour operating model and business plan</b> <b>Objective: to articulate strategic direction and alignment to City aspirations</b>	Alignment with harbour assets projects Agree and implement operating model and business plan that complements city initiatives	<b>Who:</b> Harbour users, businesses and other Bristol residents <b>How:</b> forums, use survey?, feedback, public engagement?
<b>Service transformation</b> <b>Objective: to deliver out comes of the review.</b>	Internal staff teams	<b>Who:</b> internal staff teams <b>How:</b> internal comms channels



# Timescales

- December 2018 – complete benchmarking and background work.
  - January 2019 – develop options for engagement and consultation.
  - Feb – Apr 2019 – engagement and consultation
  - May/Jun 2019 – cabinet report for decisions and investment
  - From Jun 2019 - implementation
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