



North Devon Council

Report To: Harbour Board

Date: 16th November 2021

Topic: Ilfracombe Harbour Charges Review 2022-2023

Report by: Capt. Georgina Carlo-Paat MBE Ilfracombe Harbour Master

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Harbour Board have delegated authority to recommend changes to Harbour mooring and relevant miscellaneous charges to Full Council and it is considered that there are sufficient grounds to raise Harbour charges for the 2022-2023 season.
- 1.2 Since the new fuel berth was established in 2005 and the percentage charges set there has been no increase to these percentages to reflect the increasing costs of this Harbour facility.
- 1.3 Rising maintenance costs and continuing pressure on the public purse require due consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that all mooring dues and relevant miscellaneous charges are increased by the projected CPI increase of 2.2%
- 2.2. It is recommended that the fuel percentages are increased in line with competitors within the South West and South Wales area. This being a standard rate of 8% for all commercial operators and that the dual level percentage for pleasure craft, as Pleasure users are required to pay HMRC duty on fuel used for propulsion but a reduced charge for fuel used for domestic use, be incorporated into a single price per litre.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The continuing rises in the cost to repair, upgrade and to maintain the Harbour facilities for stakeholders and visitors have been mainly borne by NDC resources. It is felt that users of the Harbour and its facilities should continue to help bear part of these incurred costs.

4. REPORT.

- 4.1. Harbour charges are reviewed annually by the Harbour Board. The CPI forecast for 2022 is an average of 2.2% and this is reflected in the recommendation of charges for the coming financial year.

- 4.2. In 2005 the fuel berth was moved to be more accessible for users and at this time percentages on fuel costs were set. There are at present 5 levels of charging; Heavy (Mainly Trawlers) set at 4% Light (All other commercial vessels) set at 6% Visiting Commercial Vessels set at 8%, Pleasure use Propulsion and Pleasure use Domestic set at 30%. These percentages have not been changed since that time. After a comparison review of all other South West Harbours/Ports and Ports in South Wales that have Diesel facilities it is clear that Ilfracombe is out of sync with its competitors. The majority of Ports are currently charging 25% for all commercial vessels with the exception of Padstow who is charging the Fishing vessels 8% and all other commercial vessels 10%. Ilfracombe is however in line with the other Ports on the Pleasure use charges of 30%, this being the case this report does not recommend changing those charges only to simplify the charging system. By re-evaluating the percentage structure to give a single percentage to all commercial users and to give a single price per litre to pleasure users will set Ilfracombe to present day comparative percentages, streamline the charging process and help contribute to the continuing and increasing costs of providing this facility.
- 4.3. It is recommended that some charges are rounded to enable easier on site collection.
- 4.4. Options Considered :
- 4.3.1 Hold Charges at 2021-22 rates for all charges.
 - 4.3.2 Increase charges in line with the forecasted 2022 CPI figure of 2.2%.
 - 4.3.3 Hold fuel percentages at present rates
 - 4.3.4 Re-evaluate the fuel percentages to streamline the charging process and set to present day percentages.
- 4.4 Reasons for rejecting options :
- 4.4.1 Rejecting 4.3.1, holding charges at 2021-22 rates has been rejected as it fails to take into account the increasing financial burden of Harbour costs and improving services.
 - 4.4.2 Rejecting 4.3.3, holding the fuel percentages at present rates has been rejected as it fails to reflect the increasing costs of this facility mainly borne, at present, by NDC resources.
- 4.5 Consultation: Consultation will be held following approval by the Harbour Board.
- 4.6 Conclusion :
- 4.6.1 The income generated by the Harbour needs to increase to keep pace with inflation and increasing maintenance and service provision costs.
 - 4.6.2 This is not considered to be a key decision.
 - 4.6.3 Following consultation, having received no further comments, I propose that the Charges as proposed in this report, if the board is in accord, be put to Full Council for implementation on the 1st April 2022.



5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The recommendation will increase revenue at or above the rate of inflation and will help Ilfracombe Harbour to keep in touch with its competitors.
- 5.2. There are no manpower implications contained within this report

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

- 6.1. There are no equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

- 7.1. Article 18, Appendix 5, 6, Appendix 3
- 7.2. Delegated power

8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- 9.2. 2021-22 Harbour Charge
- 9.3. Fuel charging comparison of Harbour in the South West and South Wales

10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

- 10.1. The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers:
- 10.2. Capt. Georgina Carlo-Paat MBE Ilfracombe Harbour Master