



## **North Devon Council**

Report Date: Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Topic: Harbour Charges review 2025/26

Report by: 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 2025-2026 financial year.
- 1.2. Rising maintenance costs and continuing pressure on the public purse require due consideration

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. It is recommended that all mooring dues are increased by 2.2% and relevant miscellaneous charges are increased by 2.2% or held at current rates.

### **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 for September 2024 was 2.2% and this is reflected in the recommendation of charges for the coming financial year.
- 4.2. It is recommended that some charges are rounded to enable easier on site collection.
- 4.3. It is recommended that, with due consideration to the current economic environment, the launch & storage charges are held at the current rates.

#### **4.3. Options Considered:**

- 4.3.1. Hold all Charges at 2024-25 rates.

#### **4.4. Reasons for rejecting options:**

- 4.4.1. Rejecting 4.3.1, holding all charges at 2024-25 rates has been rejected as it fails to take into account the increasing financial burden of Harbour costs and improving services.

#### 4.5. Consultation:

4.5.1. Consultation was held with all Harbour users following the Charges approval by the Harbour Board on 5<sup>th</sup> November, the following responses were received;

4.5.2. From S&P Trawlers- ‘As you would appreciate any increase in charges for us at the moment are not too welcome in the financial environment we are all living in, I appreciate the need to put up the fees but I would like to point out that this has been one of the worst financial years that our companies have ever experienced and profit margins are almost zero at the minute, with high fuel prices and interest rates these are all adding up to make it very difficult to run our business, so any reduction would be helpful on our side.’

From Waverley Excursions – ‘Thanks for that, no issues.’

Multiple positive responses from vessel owners were also received.

#### 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

### 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The recommendation will increase revenue at the forecasted 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. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. Having undertaken the Environmental Assessment Checklist. There are no environmental implications arising from these policy proposals.

### 8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: Positive

8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or: Positive

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: Positive



## 9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Article of Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph:1

9.2. Delegated power?

## 10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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

## 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

11.1. 2024-25 Harbour Charges

## 12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers

Capt. Georgina Carlo-Paat MBE, Ilfracombe Harbour Master