

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE

28 NOVEMBER 1995

ARBROATH HARBOUR - OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS AND CHARGES
FOR 1996/97

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT

Tayside Regional Council have recently reviewed the charges for Arbroath Harbour for 1996/97. This report gives an overview of the operations of Arbroath Harbour and outlines the proposed charges for information purposes.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that :

- (i) the Committee note the details on the operations carried out within Arbroath Harbour.
- (ii) the Committee note the proposed charges for Arbroath Harbour for the 1996/97 financial year.
- (iii) the Committee note that the operation of Arbroath Harbour is likely to result in a deficit of approximately £100,000 to Angus Council in the 1996/97 financial year.

2. INTRODUCTION

- (i) Within the boundaries of Arbroath Harbour a number of activities take place which are of vital importance to the economic wellbeing of the local community. Angus Council will be responsible for the provision and management of these operations post April 1996. Typical areas of service responsibility include:
 - the provision of a harbourmaster (and staff) to manage all operations within the harbour.
 - charges levied for landing of fish
 - charges levied for use of slipway and for boat repair/maintenance
 - charges levied for fishing boats, pleasure craft and visiting boats, yachts etc.
 - dredging of the harbour annually and other essential maintenance costs

- provision of access roads, boating and mooring facilities

Primarily charges are made for the use of the facilities of the harbour.

On an annual basis the charges levied at Arbroath Harbour are reviewed. This exercise was recently undertaken by Tayside Regional Council and details were submitted to the Arbroath Harbour Committee on 24 November 1995.

It should be noted that the harbour currently operates at a deficit and various environmental and harbour improvement measures are currently being investigated with a view to 'boosting' the current operations of the harbour and looking into new areas of opportunity. Such proposals are at this moment under discussion between Tayside Regional Council, Halcrow Fox (Consulting Engineers advising on various options for the Harbour), Angus Council (in light of its future responsibilities) and local interested parties. These include the Arbroath Fish Processors' Association, local boatbuilders/repairers, owners of small boat passenger vessels and representatives from the various employers and employees involved in operations with the Harbour area. A report recommending preferred proposals is forthcoming and a substantial bid has been included in the next year's financial plan for implementation of the necessary works, should monies be available.

3. DETAILS

- (i) The attached Tayside Regional Council Arbroath Harbour Committee Report which was agreed on 24 November 1995 gives details of all the proposed charges for the Harbour in the 1996/97 financial year.
- (ii) At the Harbour Committee on 24 November a number of pressing issues were raised which will require consideration in the short term. These included :
 - issues of security within the harbour area
 - the urgent need for improved facilities for passenger access to vessels including disabled persons
 - questions about whether current dredging works were sufficient
 - CCTV

The proposed report by Halcrow Fox outlined in the introduction will require to address these issues

- (iii) The Arbroath Harbour Byelaws are also currently being extensively reviewed. This process is addressing all of the activities and operations which will take place within the harbour area. Areas considered include :
 - (a) Entry into, exit from and navigation within the harbour area and the use of harbour waters
 - (b) Berthing and mooring
 - (c) Cargoes, ballasting, vehicle loads and materials brought on to harbour premises

- (d) Fish market and fish loadings
- (e) Goods and road traffic
- (f) Health, Safety and Amenity

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- (i) In the 1994/95 financial year Arbroath Harbour operated at a deficit of some £97,000. In 1993/94 there was approximately an £88,000 operating deficit.
- (ii) The slightly increased charges will clearly not have a marked effect on improving the operating deficit. However, they will serve to provide some additional income to the Harbour.
- (iii) It must be noted, however, that Arbroath Harbour is a focal point for tourists and visitors to the town and therefore brings in an unquantifiable amount of revenue to the Angus area whilst helping promote the economic wellbeing of Arbroath.

5. CONSULTATION

The Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Dr Bob McLellan
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

Note: The following background papers, as defined by section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing this report :-

Arbroath Harbour Committee - 24 November 1995 - Report No. 1578/95

Tayside Regional Council - Roads and Transport DepartmentARBROATH HARBOUR COMMITTEE - 24 NOVEMBER 1995Report by: Director of Roads and Transport Report No. 1578/95Subject: REVIEW OF CHARGES 1996/97 - ARBROATH HARBOUR

ABSTRACT - This report reviews current charges and recommends revised charges for the 1996/97 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked

- i) to approve the proposed charges as detailed in the appendix to this report;
- ii) to refer the report to the Angus Unitary Authority for its consideration.

REFERENCES

Under the terms of Standing Order No 59, the Director is required to review at intervals of no less than one year, the charges levied for which he is responsible and, where a review of charges is to be effective from the beginning of a financial year, to report to the Roads and Transport Committee in the preceding January.

BACKGROUND

Fishing activity has declined significantly during the current financial year and consequently income levels accruing to the Harbour Authority are below budget expectations. However, it is recognised that across the board increases in harbour charges will do little to improve this situation.

Most vessels which spend their time working from Arbroath continue to take up the compound charge concession. In view of the scale of this concession it is considered that a 7% increase is not unreasonable.

Charges for angling and excursions is still a matter of some discontent particularly for the larger vessels. In view of the additional expenses being incurred by owners of these vessels to meet passenger safety requirements, it is proposed to raise the smaller vessel rate by only 3% and to impose no increase on the larger vessel rate.

A review of slipway and related charges at other competing ports has been undertaken. Whilst Arbroath is amongst the most competitive slipways particularly for vessels under 70' it appears less competitive with the likes of MacDuff and Buckie for work taking some days on vessels over 70'. This will be a factor in attracting larger vessels to Arbroath.

However, it should be noted that the standard slipway charge levied by the Council is only one element of the cost incurred by the vessel. It is considered therefore that the proposed revised charges are reasonable.

It is proposed that the security levy imposed on all harbour related charges including rental of premises be determined following further investigation of security surveillance options including CCTV.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The revenue implications of these revisions will be dependent primarily upon fishing activity. It is estimated that annual income may increase by around £5,000 per annum.

CONSULTATION

The Director of Finance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

T J DONECHY

DIRECTOR OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT

(For further information, contact G A M Fraser, Ext 3414)

NOTE

No background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

APPENDIX

CURRENT SLIPWAY CHARGES

PORT	UNDER 70'		OVER 70'	
	ONE DAY	ONE WEEK (5 DAYS)	ONE DAY	ONE WEEK (5 DAYS)
Arbroath (5)	£160 (1) (£170)	£260 (£290)	- (£268)	- (£448)
MacDuff	£139	£262	£157	£280
Buckie	£360	£360	£360	£360
Peterhead	£195 (2) (£130)	£555 (£370)	£195	£555
Aberdeen	£300	£1100	£300	£1100
St Monans	£278 (3) (£420)	£374 (£580)	£420	£580
Eyemouth	£350 (4) (£400)	£430 (£480)	£400	£480
(1) -	Outside boats			
(2) -	Boats that can share slipway			
(3) -	Boats over 50'			
(4) -	Boats over 50'			
(5) -	Includes boatbuilders slipping charge to enable comparison with other ports.			

ARBROATH HARBOUR

SCHEDULE A

RATES AND DUTIES LEVIABLE ON VESSELS
AT PORT AND HARBOUR OF ARBROATH

1 APRIL 1996 - 31 MARCH 1997

(Figures in brackets are current charges)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Charge</u>		
1 Fishing boats - Compounded Charge	£150	(£140)	per annum or part thereof
2 Pleasure craft (for personal use) Compounded Charge	£150	(£140)	per annum or part thereof
3 Craft employed carrying up to 12 fare-paying passengers - Compounded Charge	£325	(£315)	per annum or part thereof
4 Craft employed carrying over 12 fare-paying passengers - Compounded Charge	£600	(£600)	per annum or part thereof
5 Visiting fishing boats, yachts, pleasure craft etc and all vessels not granted the Compound Charge	£7.50 £14 £22	(£7.00) (£13.50) (£20.00)	up to 24 hours, or up to 48 hours, or up to 1 week

Notes

- 1 All vessels entering the harbour which have not previously been granted the compounded charge, will be charged in accordance with item 5 above. It will be at the discretion of the Council as to whether the Compounded Charge is granted. It should be noted that the term "per annum" applies to the period from 1 April in any year to 31 March in the following year.
- 2 VAT is added to the above charges for vessels under 15 tonnes.

APPENDIX

ARBROATH HARBOUR

SCHEDULE B

SUNDRY CHARGES LEVIABLE ON VESSELS AND IN RESPECT OF SERVICES
AT PORT AND HARBOUR OF ARBROATH

1 APRIL 1996 - 31 MARCH 1997

(Figures in brackets are current charges)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Charge</u>	
1 Fish dues on all sales	3p	(3p) in the pound (£)
2 Fish box charges	5p	(5p) per box
3* Slipway charges - Locally registered boats:		
First day or part thereof	£35	(£35)
Thereafter	£30	(£25) per day or part thereof
4* Slipway charges - Outside registered boats:		
First day or part thereof	£50	(£45)
Thereafter	£35	(£30) per day or part thereof
5* Boats fitting out, doing repairs or lying up	£20	(£18) per week or part thereof
6* Use of hose and water (for Slipway use)	£15	(£13) per usage
7 Use of power points ** located in Fish Market	£5 £10	(£5) per day or part thereof (£10) per weekend*** or part thereof

Notes

- 1 Slipway charges for vessels which require the use of both cradles (either because of length or weight) will be 50% above the stated charges.
- * 2 VAT is added to the charges for vessels under 15 tonnes.
- ** 3 A returnable deposit of £10 may be levied.
- *** 4 A weekend is defined as being between the hours of 1600 Friday to 0900 Monday.

