

**Salcombe Harbour Board – 7 July 2008****STRUCTURE OF HARBOUR DUES****Report of Head of Service Salcombe Harbour****Statutory Powers: Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954**

**Financial Implications:** The extent of the financial implications will not be known until the Harbour Dues Charges for 2009/10 are set later in the year. Accordingly at this stage there are no direct financial implications.

**Purpose**

To appraise Members of the findings and proposals of the Harbour Board Working Group's review of the structure of Harbour Dues.

The Harbour Board's activities support the South Hams objectives for good jobs (CP2), retention of the district's character (CP3), an accessible council (CP5) and value for money (CP6).

**Recommendations**

**That the Harbour Board RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL that the Harbour Dues structure be modified as detailed in paragraph 5 and 6 of this report.**

**Background**

1. Harbour dues are collected from users to pay for the discharge of the Harbour Authorities statutory functions.
2. A Harbour Board Working Group led by Cllr Hicks was established to review the way harbour dues are levied and to ensure that the harbour dues are reasonable. This report establishes the findings of that Working Group. No financial rates have been decided or discussed. Rates will be considered in the normal way when the budget is set for 2009/10 in September 2008.
3. The current arrangements for Harbour Dues are:

**Section A**

Every vessel which uses the waters of the estuary is liable to pay statutory harbour dues at a daily, weekly, or annual rate. The annual rates for craft registered by Council Tax payers in the South Hams and moored within the estuary may not be reduced or divided. Harbour dues apply to a particular vessel and cannot be transferred or count towards the dues of a replacement vessel. Tenders 3.65 m and above are subject to harbour dues unless they can be hoisted on board the parent vessel when that vessel proceeds to sea. Tenders 3.65 m and under used only between shore and parent craft and properly marked T/T (name of parent craft) are exempt harbour dues. Any payment made at a daily or weekly visitors rates will not count towards annual rates and refunds or part refunds on annual rates will not be given.

## Category of Harbour Dues

### Part 1

Harbour Dues payable by all vessels moored/launched within the estuary and registered at the Harbour Office.

Up to and including 4.5 metres in length per annum

Over 4.5 metres in length per annum

High powered craft under 9 metres with engine or engines of 40 shaft horse power and over with planning or semi-planing hulls – one and a half times the dues

Up to and including 4.5 metres in length per annum

Over 4.5 metres in length per annum

### Part 2

Dues payable by any craft launched into the estuary/harbour for any period up to 24 hours to a maximum of 3 days

Visiting sailboards, canoes and dinghies without an engine per annum

Vessels up to 4.5 metres in length with engine per annum

### Part 3

For yachts, motor cruisers and other visiting vessels entering the harbour:

Daily harbour dues

Weekly harbour dues

Part day

All charges apply to the overall length of the vessel (excluding bowsprit).

### Section B

For Commercial passenger vessels:

For every ship or vessel which shall enter the harbour  
Per metre or part thereof

Additionally, per passenger landed

### Section C

For Merchant Vessels:

For every ship or vessel which shall enter the harbour

Under 100 tonnes

Of and over 100 tonnes

### Section D

For houseboats, yachts and motor cruisers used as houseboats:

Up to and including 4.5 metres in length per annum

Over 4.5 metres in length per annum

### Section E

For Tugs which shall enter or use the harbour:

Per day or part thereof

### Section F

For laying up merchant vessels

### Section G

On goods shipped, unshipped or transhipped within the harbour:

Per tonne

No rates or charges are payable on shellfish

4. The Working Group's brief was to attempt to simplify the harbour dues structure and that any proposal should raise a similar level of income to that currently being raised. In their deliberations the Working Group considered a wide variety of different options and concluded that the current structure had developed as it is for some very good reasons and that to fundamentally change this structure would disadvantage different groups of harbour users unfairly.

### **Proposal**

5. The proposal tabled by the Working Group is that the structure of the existing harbours dues would continue but the classification of a "Tender" should be removed. Therefore all craft using the estuary would be liable for harbour dues.

6. To accommodate the abolition of the “Tender” classification a new category would be introduced for craft of up to 3.5 metres with engines not exceeding 6 shaft horse power.
7. The Working Group will continue to work towards setting the rates of harbour dues for presentation at the September Harbour Board. They will also assist with the re-design of the Boat Registration and Renewal Forms to ensure that the necessary data is available in subsequent years to inform the rate at which harbour dues are set.

### **Risk Assessment**

Risk/Opportunity	Issues / Obstacles	Benefits
The Harbour Authority must raise sufficient funds from the levy of Harbour Dues to ensure the Statutory functions and fulfilled.	The current system of raising dues has a number of different categories and has been questioned as to its relevance.	Following a complete review of the structure of the Harbour Dues the working group are well placed to justify the current system and propose changes to ensure that the principal of user pays and that no groups of harbour users is disadvantaged.
There are no human rights issues within this report.		

### **Conclusion**

8. The current system for the levy of harbour dues satisfies most of the requirements considered necessary to raise harbour dues to enable the Harbour Authority to discharge its statutory functions and therefore only minor changes are considered necessary.

Ian Gibson  
Head of Service Salcombe Harbour

Salcombe Harbour Board  
 7 July 2008

### **Background Documents:**

South Hams District Council Salcombe Harbour Board Charges 2008/09.