

## ITEM

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Salcombe Harbour Board - 27 January 2004

### REVIEW OF CHARGES

**Report of the Chief Finance and Administration Officer and Chief Environment & Development Officer**

**Statutory Powers: Local Government Act 1972, Section 151  
Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954 (Section 22-36)**

**Financial Implications: Potential income generation of £14,800 through an average increase in charges of 2.8% in line with inflation.**

### Purpose

This report has been prepared to enable Members to set the Harbour charges for 2004/2005.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Council be RECOMMENDED that:**

- i. the proposed charges in Appendix B be approved for implementation from 1st April 2004**
- ii. accounts above £1,610 that are paid by noon on Wednesday 30 April 2004 qualify for a 5% discount**

### Introduction

1. This report follows the Board's consideration of the revenue budget for 2004/2005 at the December meeting. Charges have now been reviewed by the Harbour Master in accordance with Minute SH14 /03, which required an average increase in charges of 2.8%. The revised charges will generate additional income of £14,800 and will absorb budget pressures.

### Proposed Charges

2. Appendix A provides a comparison between the current year's charges and those proposed for 2004/2005. Appendix B to the report sets out the proposed charges in the approved format.
3. The overall average increase is 2.8%. Where necessary, certain over the counter charges have been rounded to the nearest 5p or 10p for ease of administration and cash collection.
4. For Members' information, the proposed increase in charges for a visiting ten-metre yacht equates to an additional 50p per night at anchor and £1.00 per night to moor.

5. Current policy allows for a 5% discount on accounts totalling more than £1,570 which are paid by noon on Wednesday 30 April 2004. It is recommended that this discount continues to be offered and that the threshold is raised in line with the average increase in charges to £1,610.
6. It can be confirmed that the proposed fees take account of the charging arrangements for commercial vessels working in the harbour.

### **Risk Assessment**

7. Members are aware that the Salcombe Harbour budget is prepared on a break-even basis, and the charges are set within this criteria. Should actual circumstances differ from expectations, a deficit may occur. These include:
  - the level of inflation, assumed to be at government levels of 2.5%;
  - the level of harbour use, which depends on the general economic climate;
  - weather patterns;
  - holiday trends.
8. These risks are reduced through continual budget monitoring, which ensures that variances are identified on a timely basis, and remedial action taken where necessary.

### **Human Rights Act**

9. The human rights issues arising from this report have been balanced with the wider community interest.

### **Conclusion**

10. The proposed increase in charges will allow the Board to meet budget pressures faced in the forthcoming year.

Paul Bartlett  
Senior Accountant

Stephen Tooke  
Harbour Master

Mark Seymour  
Chief Finance and Administration Officer

Alan Robinson  
Chief Environment & Development Officer

Salcombe Harbour Board  
27 January 2004

**Background documents:**  
Financial Services Working papers