

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 13 DECEMBER 2019**

**ARBROATH HARBOUR – WINTER REPORT**

**REPORT BY THE SERVICE LEADER – ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides details of operations at the Harbour since the previous meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee (AHJCC), outlines plans for future programmes of works, and discusses contemporary matters of relevance to Harbour activities.

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to note and approve the contents of this report.

**2 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**2.1 Financial Update**

2.1.1 As per Appendix 1, it is anticipated that for 2019/20 the revenue budget shall be £58,000 underspend, primarily due to greater than budgeted income receipts.

**2.2 Harbour Reserve Fund**

2.2.1 Arbroath Harbour Reserve Fund estimated account balance for 31 March 2020 is c. £160k after 2019/20 net payment (after NESFLAG grant) of contribution to pontoons and chill room works.

**2.3 Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response**

2.3.1 With reference to item 4(a)(ii) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 31 August 2019, there have been no significant oil spills in the Harbour in the intervening period.

2.3.2 The Harbour staff oil spill response certificates remain up to date. The Harbour Master and Senior Harbour Assistant at MCA Level 4/5 Oil Spill Response Manager's Certificate, one Harbour Assistant at MCA Level 2 – Sorbents & Equipment while another Harbour Assistant holds the MCA Level 1 First Response – Sorbents Certificate. It is proposed to have all Harbour Assistants trained to MCA Level 2 – Sorbents & Equipment at the next available training opportunity early in 2020.

2.3.3 The Council continues to retain the services of Briggs Environmental Services Ltd. to deal with the higher-level pollution incidents should they occur.

**2.4 Scottish Ports Meeting**

2.4.1 With reference to item 4(a)(iii) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 31 August 2019, the date of the last Scottish Ports Committee meeting was 13 November 2019 in Edinburgh which the Harbour Master attended. This meeting tied in with the Annual Scottish Parliamentary Maritime Reception at the Scottish Parliament that evening, hosted by Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity, Michael Matheson MSP, as well as the Scottish Local Authority Ports Group meeting at the Scottish Government's offices the following day on 14 November 2019. Both of which were also attended by the Harbour Master.

2.4.2 Subjects covered between the meetings included ports legislation and governance, finance, strategic port master planning and presentations from Transport Scotland, Crown Estate Scotland and Scottish Enterprise. The minute of the meeting has not yet been produced but once it has, it will be available in the Harbour office for members of this Committee to view if required.

- 2.4.3 The next meeting of the Scottish Ports will be early in 2020. The date and venue are yet to be decided. It is anticipated the Harbour Master will be attending to represent Angus Council and Arbroath Harbour.

## **2.5 Pontoon Berths**

- 2.5.1 With reference to item 4(a)(iv) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 31 August 2019, four winter berths have been taken up by boats on the pontoons to fill some of the vacated berths between the months of October 2019 and March 2020. These berths on the pontoons became available when several boats were lifted out for storage in Mackay Boatbuilders' yard over the winter months.
- 2.5.2 The waiting list for an annual pontoon berth remains at 29 names and as in previous years all names on the list will be contacted in January 2020 to ask if they wish to remain on the list.

## **2.6 Compounded Berths**

- 2.6.1 With reference to item 4(a)(v) of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 31 August 2019, one new compounded berth for 2019/2020 has been granted to the commercial fishing boat *Ashley*.
- 2.6.2 The number of compounded berths taken up in the Harbour is now 45. This is made up of commercial fishing boats (31), fare paying passenger boats (5) and pleasure boats (9).

## **2.7 Staffing**

- 2.7.1 With reference to item 4(a)(vii) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 31 March 2019, the contract for the temporary Harbour Assistant who started working at the Harbour on 7 May 2019 has been extended to 31 December 2019, awaiting approval to make the post permanent. Maintaining this additional member of staff will continue to ensure that the required level of staffing at the Harbour is in place and the personnel are able to deal with the demands of providing an expected level of service for the Harbour users which was explained in detail in the previous report to this Committee.

# **3 ENGINEERING MATTERS**

## **3.1 Inner Harbour Gates**

- 3.1.1 With reference to item 4(b)(i) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 31 August 2019, there have been no operational problems with the Harbour gates during the intervening period.
- 3.1.2 The opening and closing times of the gates moved to the winter schedule on 1 October 2019. These times will continue to be routinely posted outside the Harbour Office and on the security gate leading onto the pontoons, generally one month in advance. These times up to and including March 2020 are also posted on the Arbroath Harbour page of the Council's website.

## **3.2 Maintenance Dredging Operations**

- 3.2.1 With reference to item 4b(ii) of the minute of this Committee on 31 August 2019, the next dredging operation is scheduled for January/February 2021. It is proposed to dredge both the Inner and Outer Harbours as well as the navigational channel.
- 3.2.2 Before the procurement process for a dredging contract can begin, samples of the silt from the Inner and Outer Harbours and navigation channel will be sent for analysis. A Best Practicable Environmental Option Report for the dredging and disposal will also be submitted to Marine Scotland as well as a detailed application for a new 3 year licence for the Act of Dredging and Sea Disposal of Dredged Spoil. Crown Estate Scotland consent will also be sought.
- 3.2.3 Work on all the above has already began and the Harbour Master is working closely with Marine Scotland to ensure that the timetable of all the requirements can be met.

### **3.3 Outer Harbour Pontoons**

- 3.3.1 With reference to item 4b(iii) of the minute of this Committee on 31 August 2019, the outstanding items of work including the fenders around the ends of the pontoon fingers, a new push button entry system to replace the one that has been damaged, a larger steel plate fixed to the door to stop unauthorised access from the Quay, and steel spikes to prohibit climbing on to the ramp from the Quay have all now been installed.
- 3.3.2 Other than the Harbour staff, only Harbour users who have a berth on the new pontoons have a key to access the pontoons. The Harbour Master has written to all the users who have a berth on the pontoons asking that they ensure that the access door is kept closed at all times to avoid any unauthorised access. There have been several alleged incidents reported to the Harbour Master where it appears there has been unauthorised access to boats on the pontoons, which has resulted in the theft of personal items and some boats being tampered with. This may have been as a result of the access door being wedged open on occasion all day and night.

### **3.4 Ballast Quay**

- 3.4.1 With reference to item 4(c)(ii) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 31 August 2019, work has now been completed on the reconstruction of the Ballast Quay wall.
- 3.4.2 New tie rails, ladders and a concrete surface has also been included on the Quay as part of the repair work to reconstruct the section of wall which collapsed.
- 3.4.3 Now that the work is complete, working fishing gear which was previously stored on the ballast quay can now be returned. This now means that the parking spaces opposite the RNLI station which were being used as temporary storage for the fishing gear will now be returned as available Harbour parking in the next few weeks.
- 3.4.4 The Harbour Master would like to thank the Harbour users for their co-operation while the work to rebuild the wall has been on going.

### **3.5 Slipway Repairs and Pointing of Walls**

- 3.5.1 While the contractor Delson Contracts was on site repairing the Ballast Quay wall, additional works to repair sections of the concrete surfacing of patent slipway around the low water mark have been undertaken. Pointing of some sections of the quay walls in the Harbour have also been undertaken by Delson Contracts, including the section of Outer Wall at the entrance to the Harbour along the navigation channel and along the wall at the Outer Harbour side of the Black Shed quay.

## **4 PROGRAMME OF WORKS**

- 4.1 With reference to item 4(b)(iv) of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 31 August 2019, the current and future programme of projects has been updated below. These proposals will be delivered if within available budget, including external funding sources.

<b>Project/ Nature of Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget / (Cost) 2019/20 £000's</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Annual Dredging</b>		
Revenue budget	73	See paragraph 2.1.1 (£27,000 carry over and £46,000 annual budget).
Dredging costs	(0)	See paragraph 3.2, to be carried forward to 2020/21.
<b>Harbour Infrastructure Improvements</b>	(55)*	
Ice making facility	(50)*	On-hold
WiFi & payment card reader	(5)*	Priority project
<b>Signal Tower Camera</b>	(3)*	See paragraph 5.5
<b>Vehicular Barriers</b>	(18)	See paragraph 5.2 & Report 323/19.
	13	AHJCC Reserve Fund
	3	Car Park Reserve Fund contribution
	2	Residents contribution
<b>Pontoons in Outer Harbour</b>		2018/19 Project, see paragraph 3.3
<b>Walk-In Refrigeration Unit</b>	(15)	See paragraph 5.1
EMFF external funding	10	
Harbour Reserve Fund contribution	5	
<b>Ballast Quay Reconstruction</b>	(458)	See paragraphs 3.4 & 3.5
Additional capital funding	458	

\*subject to identification of budget to fund

## **5 OTHER ITEMS**

### **5.1 Chill Room**

5.1.1 With reference to item 4b(iv) of the minute of this Committee on 31 August 2019, the installation of walk-in chill room in the fishmarket has now been completed and is fully operational. All fishermen and fish merchants have keys to access the chill room at any time and the entrance door is covered by the CCTV cameras in the fishmarket.

### **5.2 Vehicular Barriers**

5.2.1 With reference to item 4b(iv) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 31 August 2019 and the approval of the recommendations in Report 324/19 at the Communities Committee of 24 September 2019, the contract to install the two vehicular barriers has been awarded to Security Solutions (Northern) Ltd. Roads and Transportation staff are currently liaising with SSE to identify the locations and work required regarding the electrical connections.

5.2.2 As highlighted in the last report to this Committee and Report 324/19, the proposed location for a barrier at Old Shorehead/Marketgate is across an adopted road. It will therefore be necessary for the Council to promote a Prohibition of Driving Order before the barrier can be installed at this location.

### **5.3 NESFLAG**

5.3.1 With reference to item 4(c)(i) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 31 August 2019, the last NESFLAG meeting was at the Signal Tower Museum in Arbroath on 16 October 2019 which the Harbour Master attended.

5.3.2 Given the location of the meeting, the Harbour Master was able to take the opportunity to give the NESFLAG group a tour of the Harbour highlighting the new pontoons in the Outer Harbour and the walk-in chill room, each having received a combined total of £64,479 of NESFLAG funding.

- 5.3.3 The group were also shown round the completed 'Spotlight on Arbroath's Fishing' exhibition at the Signal Tower Museum which had received £39,829 of NESFLAG funding.

#### **5.4 Police Scotland CCTV Camera**

- 5.4.1 The CCTV camera at the Outer Harbour is not working and Police Scotland have confirmed that the camera is unlikely to be fixed anytime soon. The whole CCTV system in the town of Arbroath is due for upgrade/renewal next year and in light of this all repairs are on hold at the moment.

#### **5.5 Webcam at Signal Tower Museum**

- 5.5.1 The webcam on the Signal Tower Museum is broken and has been offline for most of this year.

- 5.5.2 It was hosted on the Visit Angus website, with the aim of showcasing the Harbour area and attracting visitors to Arbroath. Although the webcam facility generates visits to the website, these visitors are not then browsing the rest of the website, and so are unlikely to be visitors with an interest in finding out more about Arbroath or Angus as a destination. Instead it would appear to be Harbour users who use the webcam to check the weather/sea conditions as well as periodically checking on their boats. As such, it is not fulfilling the requirements of the Visit Angus campaign.

- 5.5.3 To purchase a new webcam and set up an agreement with NW Systems would cost approximately £2,000 to purchase the hardware, £348 a year host hosting fees plus any charges that Angus Alive may charge for electricity and internet connection. There may also be additional costs for installing the webcam. Economic Development do not currently have budget for this so will not be procuring the replacement of the webcam.

- 5.5.4 However, if it is felt by Harbour users that it is important to reinstate the webcam, and if there is an available budget from elsewhere to reinstate it, Economic Development would continue to host the webcam on the Visit Angus website.

#### **5.6 Cathodic Protection**

- 5.6.1 In 2009 cathodic protection was installed on the steelwork in and around the harbour including the sheet piling in the inner harbour and oil quay as well as the dock gates and patent slipway.

- 5.6.2 At various intervals since 2009 inspections have been carried out of the cathodic protection and in November 2019 Stork Ltd. carried out the latest dip cell survey of all the sacrificial anodes. The report of their findings is pending and any developments will be reported at future meetings of this Committee.

### **6 RISK**

- 6.1 The risks associated with the various matters addressed within this report are outlined within the associated sections 2 to 5 of this report.

### **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Any financial implications arising directly or indirectly from this report will be subject to approvals at the relevant council committees in due course. Operational matters will be funded from the Roads and Transportation revenue budget.

- 7.2 The rental incomes accruing from property lets for Harbour premises continue to be managed by the Depute Chief Executive on behalf of the Council through the Director of Infrastructure.

**WALTER SCOTT  
SERVICE LEADER – ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

#### **NOTE:**

The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

Report 324/19 Provision of Vehicular Barriers at Arbroath Harbour - Communities Committee, 24 September 2019

**ROADS & TRANSPORTATION/WS/BF**

**Estimated revenue budget outturn as at 31st March 2020**

<u>ARBR OATH HARBOUR</u>	<u>Revised Budget 2019/20 £000's</u>	<u>Actual to @ 30/11/2019 £000's</u>	<u>Estimated Outturn 2019/20 £000's</u>	<u>Outturn v. Budget %</u>	<u>- Outturn v. Budget Variance £000's</u>	<u>Actual 2018/19 £000's</u>
<b><u>Expenditure:</u></b>						
Staff Costs	150	105	155	103%	5	145
Property Costs	49	7	45	92%	(4)	45
Supplies & Services	191	136	185	97%	(6)	260
Third Party Payments	39	2	31	79%	(8)	13
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>463</b>
<b>GROSS INCOME</b>	<b>(310)</b>	<b>(264)</b>	<b>(355)</b>	<b>115%</b>	<b>(45)</b>	<b>(355)</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE 2019/20</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>(58)</b>	<b>108</b>

**notes 2019/20:**Supplies & Services

Outturn - Dredging budget of £46k, no spend in 2019/20. 2018/19 dredging spend £72k. Carry forward 2020/21 to be requested c. £46k.

Note: Additional dredging budget of c. £27k remains in "balances" for 2020/21 use also.

Outturn - General S&S budget of £18k, assume spend £28k.

Outturn - Plus additional fuel purchase £30k - fully offset by additional income.

Third party Payments

Outturn - Accounts for c. £11k contribution in 2019/20 to Arbroath Harbour Reserve Fund.

Outturn - Accounts for estimated misc. £20k works costs, against budget of £28k.

Income

1/ Outturn - Accounts for greater than budgeted: fuel recharge +£30k and fish landing dues +£15k - similar to 2018/19 levels