

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO :	Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	25 th September 2014
SUBJECT :	Charter/Pleasure Boat Fees 2014/15
PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):	Cllr Aled M Jones Cllr Hywel E Jones
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1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

R1- To submit the favoured option for decision by the Executive Committee.

R2- New charging policy to be backdated to 1st April 2014.

R3 – Option 3 is the favoured option; i.e. option of a single annual payment of £840 or a lower annual payment of £420 with a passenger surcharge/levy of 26p/passenger applied. The charter boat operator to choose either option.

2.0 REASONS

2.1 Apart from the annual fees for commercial pleasure boat operators (sightseeing/fishing/adventure trips) all other maritime fees and charges (berthing, mooring, registration and launching etc) have now been adopted by the Authority to be backdated from 1st April 2014. Bills for mooring/berthing fees have now been issued with income coming in to the maritime budget in Q2.

2.2 This element of the maritime fees and charges has proved controversial hence this report to Scrutiny Committee. Operators in Amlwch Port and those using the pier in Beaumaris have been most vocal. All the local Members have been drawn into this debate in one way or another. Operators also use St George's Pier, Menai Bridge and one charter boat vessel operates from the Fish Dock, Holyhead.

2.3 The background to this controversy over maritime fees and charges lies in Amlwch Port where historic anomalies in mooring/berthing fees together with

charges for licenced passenger vessels (charter boats) were apparent. To bring these fees into line meant a hefty increase in annual charges for charter boat owners in Amlwch Port. **Appendix 1** shows a five year analysis of fees in Amlwch Port. The 2013/14 charter boat fees were never adopted and remain “in dispute” with the operators. However, it has been made clear to the Amlwch Port Users Group that the fees for 2013/14 will be collected. A recent Internal Audit report has also identified this anomaly which will be rectified in the bills issued to Amlwch Port operators following adoption of the 2014/15 charter boat fees (this report).

- 2.4 **Appendix 2** is a SWOT analysis of all four of our maritime ports/harbours where we are the statutory Port Authority. A maritime facilities review is also currently underway by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd (“URS”) and the final report is imminent. A publicly available port prospectus will be produced as part of this commission which will outline our maritime assets and facilities at the four facilities. The full report will also outline the structural nature and condition of the four facilities. The SWOT analysis shows that each facility is very different to each another and it is practically impossible to compare like with like.

3.0 TOURISM

- 3.1 Tourism on Anglesey is heavily dependent on the weather. Similarly, charter boat operators are heavily dependent on good weather to take trips to sea. Beaumaris as a tourist destination is in a different league to Amlwch even though new investment in the Port such as the Copper Kingdom Heritage Centre and the Sail Loft café are increasing the appeal of Amlwch as a tourist destination in its own right in the north of Anglesey. Operators from the pier in Beaumaris benefit from high passenger numbers together with 24 hour tidal access compared to the tidal Amlwch harbour.
- 3.2 Only a handful of charter boat owners make a living from this activity on the Island. However, they are proving to be a very vocal minority! The attraction of having such operators in the destination is clear to all and should be encouraged. It should not be forgotten that the £2.6m investment in the refurbishment of Beaumaris pier and pontoon was predicated on an increased opportunity of more operators working from the pier thus increasing the number of jobs created by the investment. Neither Amlwch Port, Menai Bridge nor the Fish Dock have seen such capital investment and improvement in their facilities. This is part of the URS study.

4.0 CHARGING OPTIONS

- 4.1 **Appendix 3** puts forward 6 options for scrutiny. Options included are annual flat-rate charges together with a paying passenger surcharge/levy – the so-called “tourist tax”. Each option is analysed and is presented for discussion. These are

difficult times for local government finances with all income generating opportunities needing to be explored. However, we need to be careful in setting these charges as to lose operators could affect Anglesey's popularity as a tourist destination with its myriad of attractions and activities on offer to the visitor. The Destination Management Plan 2012-16 clearly identifies the importance of the Island's coastline and associated activities in making Anglesey a popular destination in increasingly competitive times. We need to encourage a diverse tourist offer and having economically viable charter boat operators is important to tourism on Anglesey.

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Date: 17th September 2014

APPENDIX 1- Five year analysis of fees in Amlwch Port.

APPENDIX 2- SWOT analysis of all four of our maritime ports/harbours where we are the statutory Port Authority

APPENDIX 3 – Six recommendations/options.

APPENDIX 1

Amlwch Port Mooring Fees
2009/10 to 2013/14



APPENDIX 2

	AMLWCH	
Access from sea	24h 18h <15h	Pens Watch tower basin Inner harbour
Access (embarking/disembarking passengers)	18 of 24h	Via steps in watch tower basin
Bunkers	Yes	On site/ or by bowser or road tanker
Shelter	Fair/good	Very poor in Northerly winds, serge conditions within harbour. Safety issues boarding vessels in serge conditions (for limited time as vessels take to ground)
Parking	Limited	40/50 (free)
Footfall	Limited	Has increased since opening of copper kingdom, but still very limited
Distance to angling grounds	1nm	
Additional costs for berthing/mooring	£200	Ropes and fenders
Maintenance berth/ facilities	Maintenance berth available	21 days free storage on quay at pens.

	BEAUMARIS	
Access from sea	24h	
Access (embarking/disembarking passengers)	24h	Pontoon or stone steps at HW
Bunkers	No	
Shelter	Fair/good	Very poor in NE to SE winds Severe safety issues getting to vessels on moorings in bad weather
Parking	None	800 spaces in 3 car parks within quarter of a mile
Footfall	High	Very high during season
Distance to angling grounds	9nm	
Additional costs for berthing/mooring	£2,500/annum £200	Mooring maintenance costs Ropes and fenders
Maintenance berth/ facilities.	No maintenance berth available	

	HOLYHEAD	
Access from sea	24h	Permission required from port control
Access	24h	Via pontoons
Bunkers	Yes	On site/ or by bowser or road tanker
Shelter	Fair/good	Poor in NE, mod in NW
Parking	Limited	20/25 (free)
Footfall	None	
Distance to angling grounds	3nm	
Additional costs for berthing/mooring	£200	Ropes and fenders
Maintenance berth/ facilities.	No maintenance berth available	

NOTE: the fish dock is not in use at present.

	MENAI BRIDGE	
Access from sea	24h	
Access (embarking/disembarking passengers)	20 of 24h	Pontoon on inside of pier. Access limited on outside due to Prince Madog
Bunkers	No	Bunkers available through private company at Porth Daniel
Shelter	Fair/good	Very poor in NE winds
Parking	Limited	10/12 permit required 200 spaces in 3 car parks within quarter of a mile
Footfall	Limited	Has increased since the opening of "Dylan's"
Distance to angling grounds	13nm	
Additional costs for berthing/mooring	£200	Ropes and fenders
Maintenance berth/ facilities.	No maintenance berth available	

	MOEL Y DON	
Access from sea	18 of 24h	Stone jetty
Access (embarking/disembarking passengers)	18 of 24h	Stone jetty
Bunkers	No	By bowser or road tanker
Shelter	Fair	Very poor in NE or SW winds
Parking	Limited	10/12 permit required
Footfall	Limited	
Distance to angling grounds	13nm	
Additional costs for berthing/mooring	£200	Ropes and fenders
Maintenance berth/ facilities.	No maintenance berth available	

APPENDIX 3

	CRITERIA			Achieve IoACC Income	Simple to Administer	Equal charges to All	Options for User	Summary
OPTIONS		Cost	Cost Inc VAT					
Option 1 -13/14								Prices 2013/14
Licensed pleasure boats per annum		£644.52	£773.42	YES	YES	NO	YES	
Subsequent boats, /boat (same company)		£320.08	£384.10					
Licensed pleasure boat summer only (April/Sept)		£469.01	£562.81					
Surcharge /paying passenger (Beaumaris only)		£ 0.21	£ 0.25					
Licensed craft /trip		£ 20.83	£ 25.00					
Option 2 – 5%								+5% (as per council instructions)
Licensed pleasure boats per annum		£697.75	£837.30	YES	YES	NO	YES	This is the target for income and so should be used as the baseline.
Subsequent boats, /boat (same company)		£336.08	£403.30					
Licensed pleasure boat summer only (April/Sept)		£492.46	£590.95					
Surcharge /paying passenger (Beaumaris only)		£ 0.22	£ 0.26					
Licensed craft /trip		£21.87	£ 26.24					

Option 3 – Higher rate / Lower Surcharge Licensed pleasure boats per annum Subsequent boats, /boat (same company) Licenced pleasure boat summer only (April/Sept) Licensed pleasure boat per annum Surcharge /paying passenger Licenced craft /trip	£700.00 £336.08 £492.46 £350.00 +surcharge £ 0.22 £ 21.87	£840.00 * £403.30 * £590.95 * £420.00 +surcharge £ 0.26 £ 26.24 *	YES	YES	YES	YES	flat rate on all marked* Surcharge on lower rate only. (however passenger No must be sent in monthly, any late or incorrect information will result in the full charge being levied)
Option 4 – Lower rate / Higher Surcharge Licensed pleasure boats per annum Subsequent boats, /boat (same company) Licenced pleasure boat summer only (April/Sept) Surcharge /paying passenger (all ports) Licenced craft /trip	£500.00 £280.00 £400.00 £ 0.30 £ 30.00	£600.00 £336.00 £480.00 £ 0.36 £ 36.00	YES	YES	YES	YES	Lower standard charges and increase the surcharge to all This would be dependent on successful season to reach targets.
Option 5 – Low Rate Only Licensed pleasure boats per annum Subsequent boats, /boat (same company) Licenced pleasure boat summer only (April/Sept) Licenced craft /trip	£500.00 £280.00 £400.00 £ 21.87	£600.00 £336.00 £480.00 £ 26.24	NO	YES	YES	YES	Lower rate and no surcharge

Option 6 – No Charge							
Licensed pleasure boats per annum							No charges at all
Subsequent boats, /boat (same company)	£0.00						
Licensed pleasure boat summer only (April/Sept)	£0.00						
Surcharge /paying passenger	£0.00						
Licensed craft /trip			NO	YES	YES	NO	