

**Meeting: Harbour Committee**

**Date: 18 March 2019**

**Wards Affected: All**

**Report Title: Water Metering Brixham Harbour**

**Is the decision a key decision? No**

**When does the decision need to be implemented? N/A**

**Executive Lead Contact Details: Non-Executive function**

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## **1. Proposal and Introduction**

- 1.1 This report proposes that the Harbour Authority extends the metered 'pay as you use' system which is currently employed to supply electricity to also include the provision of water. This is both a fairer means of charging customers for resource consumption as well as a means to encourage greater resource conservation.

## **2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitment**

- 2.1 Brixham Harbour currently pays a circa £90,000 per annum for water used on the main site, it is estimated that 75% of this water is used by the harbour users. In previous years Tor Bay Harbour have implemented a set charge to vessels (the charges are grouped depending on size of vessel). This charge has only used where commercial vessels are filling fresh water tanks, it is an inaccurate and ineffective way of capturing the water used with many harbour users not being able to be charged at all.
- 2.2 The option of expanding the MeterMACS system to include the water has been identified as the most cost efficient and effective way of reducing costs, waste and recharging the amounts used by harbour users accurately.
- 2.3 A related issue exists in that the current water supply to the East Quay does not currently comply with the Water Supply Regulations 1999 because there is not a 'break tank'; these introduce an air gap between the taps and the mains water supply to prevent water backing into and contaminating the mains supply.
- 2.4 If approved, this proposal sees the introduction of a metered water supply and installation of 'break tanks' at a cost of £110,000 taken from Harbour Revenue Reserves. It is expected that this cost would be recouped within 2 years from customer recharges.

**3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

- 3.1 That the Harbour Committee authorise the Tor Bay Harbour Master to exercise his delegated powers to allocate £110,000 from Harbour Revenue Reserves to extend the MeterMACS system to introduce water metering at Brixham Harbour.**

**Background Documents**

None

## Section 1: Background Information

### 1. What is the proposal / issue?

- 1.1 This proposal would extend the existing MeterMACS chargeable metered electrical supply control system to additionally include the metered and chargeable supply of water around the Fish Quay in Brixham harbour.
- 1.2 When the MeterMACS system was introduced and customers charged for the electricity that they consumed, the costs to the Harbour Authority were greatly reduced and the overall consumption of electricity around the estate similarly decreased. In effect, customers were incentivised to be more energy efficient. It is envisaged that this would similarly be the result of expanding the system to meter and charge for water use.

### 2. What is the current situation?

- 2.1 The Harbour Authority provides water and electricity through access points around the Fish Quay for the benefit of commercial fishing vessels and other harbour users. While the electricity supply is metered, this is not the case for the water supply, the consumption of which is consequently uncontrolled. In previous years Tor Bay Harbour have implemented a set charge to vessels (the charges are grouped depending on size of vessel). This charge has only been used where commercial vessels are filling fresh water tanks, it is an inaccurate and ineffective way of capturing the water used with many harbour users not being able to be charged at all.
- 2.2 Brixham Harbour currently pays a circa £90,000 per annum for water used on the main site, it is estimated that 75% of this water is used by the harbour users, meaning that potentially £67,500 could be recouped annually.

### 3. What options have been considered?

The following options have been considered:

- **Do nothing.** Tor Bay Harbour Authority continues to be responsible for high water charges and harbour users are not encouraged to be responsible for wasting water.
- **Extend the MeterMACS system to encompass the metered supply of water.** Harbour users would be accurately charged on a 'pay as you use' basis for their water. This would significantly reduce the Harbour Authority's outgoings and encourage water efficiency measures among customers.

4.	<p><b>How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan?</b></p> <p>This project directly contributes to the following Corporate Plan principle of ‘<b>using reducing resources to best effect</b>’. Better cost recovery of utility supplies will not only assist Tor Bay Council finances but will also incentivise reduced resource use.</p>
5.	<p><b>How does this proposal contribute towards the Council’s responsibilities as corporate parents?</b></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
6.	<p><b>How does this proposal tackle deprivation?</b></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
7.	<p><b>How does this proposal tackle inequalities?</b></p> <p>This project will ensure that costs for water use are properly assigned to the consumer rather than shared across all harbour users</p>
8.	<p><b>How does the proposal impact on people with learning disabilities?</b></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
9.	<p><b>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</b></p> <p>This proposal affects all users of water in Brixham harbour. This proposal has been discussed at Harbour Liaison Forum meetings and with commercial fishing representatives. Commercial fishermen were also informed about this proposal by writing.</p>
10.	<p><b>How will you propose to consult?</b></p> <p>Consultation has already taken place as described above.</p>

## Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment

11.	<p><b>What are the financial and legal implications?</b></p> <p><b>Legal</b>  The Council, as the nominated Statutory Harbour Authority in the Tor Bay Harbour Act 1970, has <i>inter alia</i> a duty to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide, conserve, maintain and improve the harbour and services and facilities afforded therein [s6 Tor Bay Harbour Act 1970];</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general duty to exercise its functions with regard to nature conservation and other environmental considerations [s48A Harbours Act 1964].</li> </ul> <p>The key provisions in local legislation regarding to the Authority's works powers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tor Bay Harbour Act 1970: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ S13: works in the harbour;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Financial</b></p> <p>The costs associated with this report will be recouped within 2 years of system installation through more accurate recharging of water consumption.</p>
12.	<p><b>What are the risks?</b></p> <p>If this proposal is not taken forward there is a risk that Harbour Authority costs will continue to rise unchecked.</p>
13.	<p><b>Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012</b></p> <p>Not applicable</p>
14.	<p><b>What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of historic spending norms on utilities</li> <li>• TDA consultation and investigative work feedback;</li> <li>• Inspection reports;</li> <li>• Stakeholder consultation feedback.</li> </ul>
15.	<p><b>What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The expansion of the MeterMACS system is the most cost-efficient and effective means of achieving these ambitions</li> </ul>
16.	<p><b>Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions</b></p> <p>None.</p>