



## SPRING STATEMENT FOR STAKEHOLDERS 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Following the March Board Meeting of **Newlyn Pier & Harbour Commissioners (NPHC)**, there will be no increase in costs for Harbour users from 1<sup>st</sup> April for at least the first quarter of the 2021/2022 financial year.

Although a previous uplift in NPHC's tariff of charges had been planned to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, this was postponed as a result of the first Covid-19-related national lockdown. These charges will therefore remain at 2019 levels until the Commissioners' next planned review.

In spite of NPHC's income having been severely affected by the negative impacts of Brexit on the local fishing industry and Covid-19 on the restaurant trade – which has also resulted in a reduction of staffing levels within the Harbour team – the Commissioners have assisted tenants by agreeing to delay the payment of rents over the last year in order to support local businesses through these challenging economic times until national and local government assistance had been delivered.

Whilst the Coronavirus pandemic has delayed the implementation of the new fuel facility and planned designation of berths, these remain priority projects to be delivered in the short term.

In the medium term, NPHC have capitalised on all opportunities to bid for any final tranches of European funding and have been awarded grants specifically for infrastructure upgrades to reflect the increased presence of UK Government Agencies and support programmes during this unprecedented period of transition. To that end, the former offices of the auctioneer, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and Newline Chandlery will be refurbished to provide a modern, fit for purpose working environment for Port Health (which issues export certificates for the local fishery) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

This regeneration project will also enable the Commissioners to provide conference facilities for organisations such as the Sea Fit programme, Border Force, Port Health and Seafood Cornwall training, in return for a modest contribution to Harbour revenue.

The UK Government's levelling up agenda and new grant scheme for the local fishery present the Commissioners with an ideal opportunity to address some of the requirements raised by the fishing industry, both large and small.

In the longer term, NPHC's has recently published conceptual plans relating to the potential development of Sandy Cove. These concepts are the culmination of a collaboration between the Advisory Board, the Board of Commissioners and local stakeholders that clearly sets out

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our combined vision for the future, with plenty of time built in for comments and further consultation. This iterative process ensures that fully-informed bids for development funding streams can be submitted as soon as relevant opportunities arise.

For the new financial year, the Commissioners have budgeted conservatively as it is felt that the rebooting of both European and UK markets for our resource is likely to take further time and patience, even though the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme is helping to restore trading confidence.

NPHC's policy for the first quarter of this financial year is therefore to undertake essential maintenance, retain safe levels of staffing and support core customers.

To reflect the fluidity of trading conditions as lockdown measures are gradually eased and NPHC's obligations as a Trust Port to monitor income and expenditure on a regular basis, the review of Newlyn Harbour's charges will remain quarterly. Any planned changes will be communicated to Harbour users in good time.

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