

SERVICE DESCRIPTION FORM

Department: Environmental Services	
Service: Harbours and Dredger	
Income	(£000s)
Customer & client receipts	486
<p>Harbour income from boat berthing fees which are reviewed annually for both recreational and commercial vessels. Also cargo dues, including some fish landings. Income is also generated by external leasing of some harbour properties.</p> <p>The Council is without an operational dredger at present. Historically this has generated income from external dredging contracts with neighbouring harbour authorities. This business will be reinstated with the procurement of a replacement dredger in 2015/16.</p>	
<p>Description:</p> <p>With 2 Harbourmasters and 5 harbour staff the service manages and maintains the Council's 6 harbours. Buckie harbour is commercial. Burghead is semi-commercial (still some fishing activity) and the others at Hopeman, Findochty, Portknockie and Cullen are recreational harbours. As a harbour authority the Council is required to keep the harbours in a safe and operable condition.</p> <p>An officer working group related to the harbours is working on trying to attract Renewable Energy business and employment to Buckie. This would involve accommodating one or more companies to carry out Operations and Maintenance (O&M) work on the 2 offshore windfarm fields proposed for the Moray Firth. ERDF bids for funding have been successful and even if O&M operations do not finally establish in Buckie, the harbour area will benefit from additional business accommodation for small or medium companies with an opportunity for job creation .</p> <p>The dredger service is currently buying in dredging externally on a commercial basis. Previously the Council's own dredger, MV Shearwater, with 5 crew, dredged the Council's own harbours and provided this service on a commercial basis for a number of other harbours in N Scotland. This vessel is no longer operational and a new , smaller vessel, probably with 3 crew, will be in place by 2015/16 to carry out work in Moray and externally. Without regular dredging, many of Moray's harbours would silt up, and in the case of Buckie and Burghead this would result in commercial loss, and possibly loss of local employment.</p>	
<p>Outcomes / impacts:</p> <p>Management of our harbours and support for the industries, particularly in Buckie, which rely on access to the harbour for successful commercial activities, contributes to SOA targets concerning <i>a growing and diverse economy</i>. Similarly, an effective means of harbour dredging is essential to achieving this target. The work with offshore renewable energy companies would significantly contribute to this target if an O&M company chooses to establish in Buckie, with new jobs and additional business opportunities for existing companies.</p>	

Good harbour management and the renewable energy opportunities both support the 'Best Value for Moray' outcome *our economy is strong with a more competitive, more diverse business base.*