Meeting	Aberdyfi Harbour Advisory Committee
Date:	17 November 2026 10:00-12:00
Author:	Senior Harbour Officer or Service Manager
Service:	Maritime Service, Department of Economy and Community
Title:	Update on Service Management Matters

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The Committee's role is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to harbour management, safety and development and receive members' comments on matters relating to Porthmadog Harbour

1.2. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on management issues related to the harbour, inviting feedback or comments from committee members.

2. REPORTING ON SERVICE MANAGEMENT MATTERS

2.1. The summary below is presented in relation to the performance of the Service. The data below is collated as part of the Maritime Service's performance management and monitoring arrangements.

2.1.a. **Mooring Agreements**

Harbour	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Porthmadog	109	106	112
Barmouth	78	81	86
Aberdyfi	79	83	86
TOTAL	266	270	284

2.2. As can be seen, the 2026/27 season figures show an increase in the number of mooring holders across each of the harbours. In previous years, customer numbers have fluctuated between harbours, partly as a result of vessel owners relocating their vessels within Gwynedd. However, the overall average increase of approximately 4% suggests a broader increase in demand for moorings across Gwynedd's harbours. This increase is likely to reflect a combination of factors, including prolonged periods of favourable weather, the range and quality of services and facilities available at Gwynedd harbours, competitive mooring fees, and a general increase in visitors to the area.

2.3. The number of personal watercraft (jet-skis) and powerboat registrations during the 2025/26 season decreased by 147, from 2,509 in the previous season to 2,362. This year's figure of 2,361 indicates that registration numbers have remained broadly consistent with the previous season. It should again be noted that income generated from vessel registrations is not included in the Harbour's forecast budget below.

2.4. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the continued contribution of the harbour staff, who provide a professional and welcoming service to both new and existing customers. Staff are readily available to offer advice, guidance and practical assistance on a wide range of matters relating to the harbour. Their local knowledge, experience and understanding of the harbour environment are invaluable, particularly when responding to unexpected situations or assisting customers and harbour users.

2.5. Staff regularly go above and beyond their normal duties, providing support when circumstances require it, including outside normal working hours. Their continued commitment and professional approach contribute significantly to the safe and effective operation of the harbour and to a positive experience for those who use and visit the area.

2.6. Harbours and the coastline can present a challenging environment for those who use them, and the experience and local knowledge of harbour staff can therefore provide a valuable source of information and guidance for harbour and beach users.

2.7. Feedback from customers, visitors and harbour users is regularly encouraged through the QR code feedback survey signs located across the harbours and beaches. Both positive and negative feedback is welcomed, as it provides valuable information to help us identify areas for improvement and ensure that the services provided continue to meet the needs and expectations of our customers and users.

2.8. The table below provides the combined customer satisfaction results across all Cyngor Gwynedd harbours:

	2024/25	**2025/26**	**2026/27**
Excellent	60%	68%	52%
Very Good	24%	24%	18%
Satisfactory	16%	4%	18%
Poor	0%	2%	12%
Very Poor	0%	0%	0%
Unknown	0%	2%	0%

2.9. The latest figures show that 70% of respondents rated their experience as either Excellent or Very Good. This compares with 84% reported to the Committee in March. However, it should be noted that the latest results cover the period from April to September only and therefore represent a snapshot of feedback received during that period. The overall satisfaction figure may change as further responses are received ahead of the March 2027 Committee meeting.

2.9.a. Examples of feedback received from customers and visitors to the harbour:

"Clean and plenty of seating"

"Great scenery and beach but prices for food are simply extortionate. If you travel with children, you need to remortgage the house. Accommodation was nice but also more expensive than London"

"Ladders need to be improved and it's tough to get off the boats"

"Highly recommended" *"More crabs"*

"You're asked to scan a QR code but the signal is so bad, it would be helpful to have W-IFI in Barmouth. But the staff are helpful"

"We come to Ferry and old train. The card and info are behind the building so a bit difficult to find. A map for locations would be handy"

"Great work around the harbour"

3. Harbour Safety

3.1. The Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) sets out the national standard for port marine safety. Throughout what has been a particularly busy season, staff have continued to monitor and inspect harbour infrastructure and plan future maintenance and improvement works. Much of the operational maintenance is programmed for the winter months, when activity and footfall within the harbours are generally lower. This planned approach to inspection, maintenance and improvement supports the continued safe operation and development of our harbours and ongoing compliance with the PMSC.

3.2. The winter period also provides an opportunity for staff to undertake training and professional development. Maintaining appropriate skills and competencies is essential to ensure that staff are suitably trained to carry out the wide range of duties required by the Service. Given the varied nature of their roles and responsibilities, relevant training opportunities are continually considered. These can range from IT and emerging technologies, including the use of AI, to climate change awareness, species identification and boat handling. The broad scope of work undertaken by the Maritime Service provides staff with opportunities to continue developing their knowledge and skills throughout their careers.

3.3. The 2026 season has been exceptionally busy for the Maritime Service, with significant activity along the coastline. During the season, Aberdyfi Harbour staff have responded to a range of incidents, including engine failures, people experiencing difficulties in and on the water, as well as assisting HM Coastguard when requested.

3.4. Incidents involving vessels will inevitably arise from time to time, and the Harbour Authority would like to take this opportunity to remind vessel owners of the importance of ensuring that their vessels and personal protective equipment (PPE) are appropriately maintained and suitable for their intended use. On some occasions, vessels have experienced mechanical difficulties which may have been identified through appropriate maintenance, pre-departure checks and sea trials before undertaking a passage.

3.5. While the Harbour Authority continues to prioritise safety within the harbour limits and provides advice and assistance to mariners where appropriate, responsibility for the condition, maintenance and suitability of individual vessels and their associated safety equipment remains with the vessel owner.

3.6. Accidents and incidents can occur in a range of sea states and weather conditions. We wish all harbour and coastal users safe and enjoyable passages and encourage vessel owners to regularly inspect and maintain their vessels and associated safety equipment to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

3.7. As part of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), records are maintained of serious incidents and accidents. These records provide valuable information for learning and staff training and may also support incident reporting requirements involving the MCA, HM Coastguard, the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB), Trinity House and the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), as well as pollution reporting (POLREP), where appropriate.

3.8. It is encouraging to report that no incident during the reporting period required the involvement of the MAIB, and that no significant pollution was recorded as a result

of a vessel casualty. Nevertheless, information relating to all relevant incidents is gathered and shared with the MCA where appropriate. Updates continue to be provided as further information becomes available and until each incident has been satisfactorily resolved.

3.9. As reported at previous Committee meetings, Trinity House, as the General Lighthouse Authority, regularly audits and inspects our records and systems relating to the maintenance of Aids to Navigation within our harbours and along the coastline. As a Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA), the Council also fulfils the role of Local Lighthouse Authority (LLA) within its relevant areas of responsibility. The Service therefore maintains and monitors its Aids to Navigation to support the safe passage of mariners using our harbours.

3.10. The latest Trinity House inspection was undertaken in early October. At the time of preparing this report, the formal findings had not yet been received. During the visit, the movement of buoyage in response to shifting sandbanks throughout the year was discussed. Appropriate records had been maintained, and Notices to Mariners had been issued and updated as required. One outstanding issue relating to Aids to Navigation in Aberdyfi was identified at the time of the inspection, which has now been addressed.

3.11. We continue to welcome information and feedback from mariners, harbour users, visitors and relevant authorities regarding any navigational hazard, change in channel conditions or movement of buoyage that may require investigation or action.

4. Resources and Budget

4.1. A forecasted summary of the budget for Aberdyfi harbour is included below.

ABERDOVEY HARBOUR	Financial Performance for the Period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 - August 2026 Review		
	BUDGET / TARGETS FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/26 TO 31/3/27	INCOME & EXPENDITURE FORECASTED 1/4/26TO 31/3/27	OVER (UNDER)
Employees	80,420	83,338	2,918
Buildings	27,920	16,921	(10,999)
Transport	710	1,100	390
Supplies & Services	8,730	14,689	5,959
One - Off Expenditure - Financed from Reserves	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	**117,780**	**116,048**	(1,732)
Income	(50,800)	(58,949)	(8,149)
Contribution from Reserves Tow	0	0	0
Total Net	**66,980**	**57,099**	(9,881)

5. Other Key Issues

During a period covered by this report, it may also be reported that:

6. Throughout the season, Harbour Officers provided regular support to the Beach Team in responding to a wide range of beach-related incidents and emergency situations. An extended period of favourable weather resulted in exceptionally high visitor numbers and increased public use of beaches and coastal areas, placing additional demands on frontline staff. During this busy period, officers delivered first-aid assistance on numerous occasions and responded to a number of more serious incidents, helping to maintain public safety across the coast.

7. Both Harbour Staff and the Beach Team responded professionally, diligently and swiftly to incidents and requests for assistance. Importantly, staff also maintained a proactive presence, identifying potential hazards and advising beach users where necessary to help prevent incidents from occurring. Close cooperation was maintained with partner organisations and the emergency services, including the local Coastguard Team, RNLI and Police. The Service would like to thank all staff and partner organisations for their professionalism, commitment and continued efforts to keep the harbour and surrounding coastline safe.

7.1. Regular visits by Border Force to the Harbour Offices throughout the year help maintain effective communication between harbour staff and the authority, enabling relevant information and developments along the coastline to be shared where appropriate. More recently, representatives from Border Force were invited to attend a Maritime Service meeting to provide staff with a presentation on matters to be aware of and circumstances where information should be reported to Border Force. The presentation also included ‘Project Kraken’, a public awareness initiative relating

to the reporting of suspicious activity around the UK coastline. Project Kraken information is displayed at our harbours, and the presentation provided staff with further information to support their awareness and understanding of the initiative.

7.2. The Maritime Service has recently submitted funding applications through the Welsh Fisheries Fund and the Local Growth Fund. At the time of writing, the outcome of both applications was awaited. If successful, the funding would support the continued development of our harbours, including improvements to facilities for customers and visitors.

7.3. The procurement process for the construction of the new Harbour Office has commenced and is being led by the Council's Property Service. The contract opportunity has been advertised through Sell2Wales. At the time of writing, the Service is awaiting a further update and programme briefing from the Property Service regarding the outcome of the tender process and the anticipated next stages of the project. The development of a new Harbour Office represents an important investment in the harbour's infrastructure and will provide improved facilities to support both operational activities and service delivery in the future.

7.4. The timber jetty underwent a comprehensive refurbishment programme during March and April this year. The works have significantly improved the appearance and overall condition of the structure, while also enhancing safety for harbour users and members of the public. The investment has helped preserve an important harbour asset, reduced ongoing maintenance requirements and enabled staff resources to be directed towards other operational priorities, while ensuring the jetty remains a safe, functional and attractive feature within the harbour.



7.5. Discussions are ongoing regarding the future use of *MV Dwyfor*, the Maritime Service workboat. Due to ongoing maintenance and coding requirements, the Service requested that the vessel's certification be suspended by the YDSA while these matters are being considered.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. The Committee is asked to note and accept the contents of the report.

Meeting	Aberdyfi Harbour Advisory Committee
Date:	17 November 2026
Author:	Harbour Master Wil Stockford
Service:	Maritime Service, Department of Economy and Community,
Title:	Update on Operational Matters

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Committee's role is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, protection and development of the Harbour and to receive members' comments on matters relating to Aberdyfi Harbour

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on operational issues related to the harbour, inviting feedback or comments from committee members.

2. REPORTING ON OPERATIONAL ISSUES

2.1 The summary below is presented from the perspective of the performance of the Service.

Navigation Matters

2.2 The Service is pleased to report that the navigable channel at Aberdyfi remained stable throughout the 2026 season. The harbour bar maintained a favourable depth at low water, providing vessels with a greater tidal window and allowing more time at sea.

At the time of writing, staff continue to monitor the channel entrance closely, as there are indications that the channel may be beginning to migrate northwards. Should any adjustments to the Aids to Navigation become necessary, Notices to Mariners will be issued and made available through the Harbour Office and on the Cyngor Gwynedd website.

2.3 At the time of writing there is 1 Notice to Mariners in force for the approach to the River Dyfi.

07/26 Bar Buoy No1 Off Station
Local Notices to Mariners

Please follow the above link to view the notices.

2.4 Once the local contractor is available, all Aids to Navigation (AtoN) will be reinstated to their designated positions when weather and tidal conditions permit the works to be carried out safely.

a) Specific issues have arisen

3 Harbour staff responded to a number of significant first-aid incidents throughout the season, providing assistance to members of the public who sustained injuries within the harbour, on the beach and on the water. Owing to their presence within the harbour environment and their experience in managing emergency situations, staff are regularly called upon to support a wide range of incidents. All harbour staff, including seasonal Beach Wardens, hold a minimum level of First Aid training. Details of all first-aid incidents are recorded, with lessons learned reviewed and shared across the service to support continuous improvement and the effective management of future incidents.

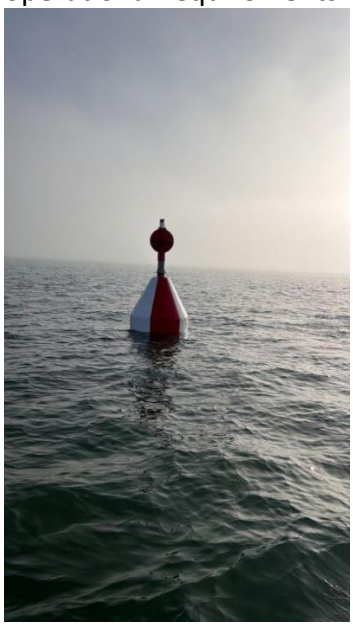
b) Maintenance

4 Work has been completed on Aids to Navigation (AtoN) No. 1, including a full strip-down, inspection and rebuild of the structure. These works will help extend the service life of the asset, improve reliability and reduce future maintenance requirements.

4.1 Reactive work included the removal and burial of carcasses along the foreshore. The service request that any reports of carcasses on the foreshore be accompanied by accurate location information such as, What3Words or National Grid Reference.

4.2 Harbour staff have installed a new entrance barrier to replace the previous structure, which had deteriorated due to age and exposure to the marine environment. The replacement barrier provides a more robust and secure means of controlling vehicle access to the harbour area, improving both operational management and public safety.

4.3 Feedback on the newly installed Fairway Buoy has been positive throughout the season. Despite its smaller size, the buoy has performed well and has continued to provide a clear and effective navigational mark for harbour users. The buoy has remained reliable in a range of weather and sea conditions, and no significant operational issues have been reported. Harbour staff will continue to monitor its performance throughout the winter period to ensure it remains fit for purpose and to inform any future maintenance or operational requirements.



4.4 The Harbour Powercat has been extensively utilised throughout the season following a full service and maintenance programme completed at the beginning of the year. The vessel has provided valuable support for a range of operational activities, including harbour management, inspections, maintenance work and incident response.

4.5 The quad bike has once again proved to be a valuable operational asset to the Service throughout the season. Its versatility and ability to access areas that may be difficult to reach by conventional vehicles have enabled staff to respond efficiently to a wide range of operational requirements, including patrols, maintenance activities, incident response and support for beach management operations.

c) Events

- Aberdyfi Yacht Club has enjoyed another successful season of sailing events and competitions, making a valuable contribution to the harbour community and the wider estuary. It has been particularly encouraging to see high levels of participation and recreational use throughout the season, with large numbers of people taking to the water to enjoy sailing and other water-based activities. The continued popularity of these activities reflects the importance of the estuary as a recreational asset and contributes positively to the vibrancy and attractiveness of the harbour area.

- Aberdyfi also hosted a number of successful running and open-water swimming events during the year, with participants and spectators making good use of the harbour and surrounding area. It has been particularly encouraging to see such strong support for these local events, with high levels of participation demonstrating the continued popularity of outdoor recreation within the estuary.

- Rideout 2026 took place in June and involved approximately 100 personal watercraft travelling from Morfa Bychan Beach (Black Rock Sands), near Porthmadog, to Aberdyfi and returning. Organised by Colwyn PWC Riders, the event aimed to raise funds for local charities while promoting the safe and responsible use of personal watercraft. Participants were escorted by the RNLI at various points along the route to help ensure a safe passage. The riders conducted themselves responsibly on their arrival at Aberdyfi and throughout the event. No issues were reported, and the activity did not result in any disruption to harbour operations.

- We have been fortunate to experience an excellent season of favourable weather, which has contributed significantly to the success of events held in and around the harbour. The favourable conditions helped attract strong participation levels across all events and enabled large numbers of spectators and visitors to enjoy both the harbour environment and the wider village amenities, providing a positive benefit to local businesses and the visitor economy.

- The Maritime Service welcomes organisers wishing to hold events within the harbour and estuary area and remains committed to supporting the continued growth of such activities. To assist with planning and ensure events can be delivered safely and efficiently, organisers are encouraged to contact the Maritime Service at the earliest opportunity when considering new events. Advice, guidance and practical support will be provided throughout the planning process to help ensure events are delivered successfully and with minimal impact on other harbour users.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Committee is asked to identify and accept the contents of the report.