



## Increased budget for future projects

**Aberdeen Harbour Board have approved a £65 million capital expenditure and exceptional maintenance budget for the next five years as part of a programme to sustain and further develop activity at the port.**

The figure for 2009-13 is £8 million higher than the budget for the current period. The Board's Chief Executive, Colin Parker, commented: *"The rise reflects the expanded scope of prioritised projects which are wide-ranging, will benefit current port users and help attract new business. The planned spend also demonstrates our commitment to, and confidence in, the long-term future of the port through and beyond the oil era."*

The plan includes the major redevelopment of Torry Quay to provide modern facilities and improved configuration better suited to the larger oil support vessels using the harbour. Currently at the feasibility and consultation stage, it will require Board and planning approval.

The package of projects also lists the continuing redevelopment of Point Law peninsula; deepening and strengthening of Commercial Quay East; widening the navigation channel and replacement of the survey craft.

The investment in the future is backed by increases in the main port charges for 2009 - a one penny per gross tonne in Vessel Dues, an average of 3% across all Goods and Passenger Dues; and a 5% increase on other ancillary services. It only the second time main charges have been increased in 11 years - the last was in 2001 and, in the last 20 years, these have increased by only 17%, against 164% for inflation.

### Harbour Board Chairman to retire

Aberdeen Harbour Board Chairman, David Paton OBE, is to retire from office at the end of December after 24 years as a Board member. He was appointed in 1984, becoming Vice Chairman in 1991 and Chairman three years later.

David said: *"It has been a tremendous period in which to be involved with the Board. We have made multi-million £ investments - usually proactively - to provide the many and varied users with the required facilities and services. At the same time, we have held charges at a fraction of inflation to ensure the port's competitiveness."*

*"While we are proud of being Britain's oldest business, we have created a world class port and have also been very mindful of the community with, for example, support for the city's award-winning Maritime Museum."*

He added: *"Port users are to be congratulated and Board staff highly commended on their contribution to the harbour's success."*

A Harbour Board dinner this month in honour of David was also attended by representatives of the business community and various organisations reflecting his interests.

Colin Parker, the Board's Chief Executive, said: *"David has given invaluable service to the Board during a time of major developments and an increase in traffic to record levels. He retires with a clear strategy in place to take the port forward."*

A new Chairman will be appointed by the Board in January.

### Gulf of Mexico service

The third call at Aberdeen by a new monthly transshipment service providing a connection with Gulf of Mexico ports is due before the end of the year. It was introduced following an agreement between Chipolbrok America, Inc., Houston, and the Houston office of Rulewave, a partner of Aberdeen-based shipping agency, Euroline Shipping Company.

At Antwerp, two-way cargoes of oilfield equipment are transferred between a Chipolbrok vessel and Rulewave's long-established North Sea service which calls at Aberdeen. It is the only service providing a regular connection between the Gulf and Aberdeen.

Euroline Managing Director, Mike Packer, said: *"It's a green route - with environmental benefits and significant savings on hundreds of road miles each time on oil-related cargoes which have, in the past, occurred when cargoes for the North Sea are shipped through ports in England."*

The Harbour Board are encouraging freight forwarders, the oil industry and others to take full advantage of the service.

### Busy nine months

Aberdeen Harbour handled 18.58 million gross tonnes of shipping between January and September, up from 17.86 million gross tonnes in the first three-quarters of last year and including a record 589,523 gross tonnes of shipping in a single week in September.

Figures show 3.81 million tonnes of imports and exports were handled to end September, compared with 3.79 million tonnes on the same timescale in 2007.

Positive trends included the ongoing high level of activity in the offshore oil and gas industry and the general cargo sector. Sustained growth in cargoes introduced in recent years included the export of logs, up more than 6,500 tonnes at over 34,700 tonnes, and scrap metal, which increased by almost 25,000 tonnes at almost 76,000 tonnes.

# New Board members

**Two new members have been appointed to the Harbour Board, with a third vacancy filled through a re-appointment, effective 1 January, 2009, for three years. Joining the Board are:**

Chris Lloyd, a Chartered Accountant, until recently Managing Director responsible for European operations within ASCO Group and, since 2006, the Chairman and Chief Executive of his own group of companies offering waste solutions and environmental services to the oil and gas sector.

Chris is also a Board member of Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce and was previously a member of the UK Oil and Gas Supply Chain Committee.

David Young is a former Chartered Surveyor and is currently involved as a team member of Knight Frank LLP's planning and development section. David previously spent 25 years in the Estates Departments of Grampian Regional Council and Aberdeenshire Council, latterly as Commercial Development Manager. During this time he served on the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum Land Task Force.

In 2003, David was elected to the Board of Grampian Housing Association where he was more recently Board Chairman. He is also a Board member of housing organisations Kirkgate Developments and Devanha Limited.

Anne Scott has been reappointed for a second term and during her time on the Board has been an active member of the Board's Audit Committee.

## Meaningful discussions sought on windfarm hazard

The Harbour Board have restated their strong support for renewable energy, but warned again that the inshore location of the proposed windfarm in Aberdeen Bay makes it a serious risk to the safety of shipping.

Speaking to an international workshop in Aberdeen on *How to reconcile territorial cohesion with reducing the cause of climate change*, the Board's Chief Executive, Colin Parker, emphasised that the windfarm would be a new navigational hazard which would eliminate the safe, sheltered anchorage in the bay; obstruct busy shipping routes; obscure navigation aids, vessels and approaches; interfere with radar; reduce sea-room; and prevent the long established safe navigation of vessels using the port and anchorage.

*"The maritime community using Aberdeen Harbour are entitled to meaningful consultation – this has not been carried out or offered in the future," he said. "Maritime safety should not be compromised by the apparent desire to have symbolic turbines visible from a beachfront visitor centre.*

*"Aberdeen Harbour is keen to engage in meaningful discussions to identify an appropriate safe location for any turbines which need to be located in the area."*

Conference delegates visited the port for an insight into its operation and witnessed the close proximity of the proposed wind farm on the ship's bridge simulator. Colin's presentation can be accessed on the Board's website – [www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk](http://www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk)

## Point Law Progress

With Point Law peninsula already handling more than 1,000,000 tonnes of cargo annually, the ongoing redevelopment to provide further facilities and space is now well advanced, with the next phase to include the realignment of Clyde Street and the surfacing of adjacent areas to provide much needed additional operational space.

A further phase of the development relates to the demolition of buildings on the peninsula and the surfacing of the area to provide additional operational space for both the BP and Team Marine oil-related support bases.

A multi-user transit shed, extending to 1,800 square metres with offices, has been constructed on the peninsula with the development including an area of quayside for deliveries and short-term road trailer storage.

Captain Ray Shaw, Operations Director and Harbour Master, commented: *"The shed enables port users to receive smaller items of equipment from suppliers for consolidating into containers for shipment and the reverse process for cargoes returning from offshore. This operation previously occurred remotely from the harbour and involved additional transportation and security costs for the operators."*

## Season's Greetings

Members, management and staff at Aberdeen Harbour Board wish all readers of Quaynotes a Merry Christmas and prosperous 2009.

The Board's offices at 16 Regent Quay will be closed on 25 & 26 December and 1 & 2 January.

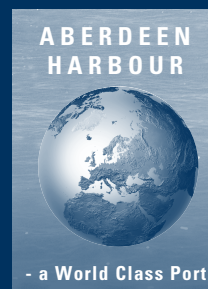
## Expanded base for Total

Total E&P UK has expanded its logistics support facility at Aberdeen Harbour in a move to a new marine base at Albert Quay, on Point Law peninsula, with two berths totalling 200 metres and 14,000 square metres of back-up space.

Leased from the Harbour Board initially to 2014, it provides almost three times the capacity of the company's previous single berth base at Torry Quay where the oil and gas field operator's logistics had been located since the late 1970s.

Total E&P Warehouse & Team Leader, Ali Dear, explained: *"The new facility is better equipped for running a shipping operation, with the main benefit in the increased capacity, allowing two vessels to be worked simultaneously. The larger Albert Quay base will mean a much more efficient and safer service and increased flexibility."*

The Board describe Total's expansion as another excellent example of the continuing evolution of improved facilities to meet port users' changing requirements.



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