

REPORT OF **Head of Communities and Place**
To: **Full Council**
Subject: **Appledore Fish Dock Ice Machine**
Date: **31st Jan 2022**

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek approval to add the acquisition and installation of a replacement ice machine for Appledore Fish dock to the 21/22 capital programme.

1. INTRODUCTION

The ice machine in the Fish Dock at Appledore needs to be replaced. Not only is highly inefficient but it also malfunctions frequently, causing significant repair costs and reputational damage among the users of the site. Furthermore, users are unhappy that it does not produce flake ice which is the best for the protection of their product.

As part of the MMO Fisheries and Seafood scheme Torridge District Council has been offered grant assistance of 66.6% of project costs, with the local authority required to contribute 33.4%.

2. REPORT

Appledore Fish Dock has been presented with a moment of huge opportunity. The pandemic has created a refreshed connection to quality produce, as demonstrated by the recent success of the recently opened Devon and Cornwall wet fish shop within the Fish Dock.

However, there are currently issues with potential customers both locally and internationally choosing not to purchase from the Appledore Fish Dock as a result of the ice from the current ice machine melting into one solid block over the course of time. The massed ice damages the look and quality of the fish, and also fails to fully encase the entire fish, causing a shortening of shelf life.

An improved ice machine is central to the future sustainability of the Appledore Fish Dock, securing employment at the Fish Dock and also strengthening the wellbeing and competitiveness of local vessels.

The proposed new scaled ice will maintain and protect the quality of the fish- maximizing the potential competitiveness of businesses within the Fish Dock by ensuring that the end purchaser receives the highest quality end product. Where businesses then choose to source ice from other locations there is not only a loss of income but also significant carbon implications as a result of the additional travel miles

The Fish Dock users do not currently utilize the full capacity of the existing 12 year old machine, creating significant inefficiencies. The proposed Geneglance machine has an energy consumption of 3.54 kW per hour, a substantial saving compared to the current Ziegra machine which uses 17.6kW per hour.



The nature of the construction of the site has also provoked significant issues when developing proposals for a new ice machine. Officers have consulted widely and investigated the most suitable replacement machine- the Geneglance F30, which is felt would integrate more effectively and require less significant alterations to be made in order to house it efficiently.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

In accepting the grant from the MMO the council will be obliged to meet the standard grant conditions as set out in the MMO offer letter.

Financial Implications

The total costs of replacing the ice machine as recommended is £33,000. This will be funded by a combination of grant funding from the MMO (£22,000) and Torridge District Council (£11,000 to come from the General Capital Fund).

Human Resources Implications

None

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

The proposed ice machine is more efficient than the machine that it replaces thus there is a beneficial environmental impact associated with this proposal.

Equality/Diversity

N/A

Risk Management

Any additional costs associated with the installation of the new machine will be the responsibility of the Council.

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

The proposal is in compliance with the Council's Strategic Plan, Carbon Plan and the last version of the Northern Devon Economic Strategy.

Ward Member and Lead Member Views

Cllr Hicks, Lead Member for Economy. 21/01/22

This proposal is a good one in that it will provide the fish dock with a more fit for purpose and efficient ice machine at reduced cost to the council. It will also reduce the costs of running the fish dock and help the fish dock users to provide a better product.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The current ice is also considered of an inappropriate nature by the site users. The proposed machine would offer flake ice which would not melt into a solid block as the current ice does. The current provision creates issues with the massed ice not fully protecting the entire produce, damaging some of the product by leaving it exposed to the air. This ice type also limits the attractiveness of the Fish Dock to potential users, in particular fishing vessels looking to stock up on ice.

The proposed ice machine offers significant benefits;

- Spend to save- reducing the ongoing maintenance and disruption that is caused currently by the 12 year old ice machine. As an example, in August 2020 £6741.48 was spent on replacement parts for the ice machine. Over £7000 has been spent on ice machine maintenance and replacement parts again within the last 12 months to December 2021.
- Reduces reputational damage
- Will act to strengthen the appeal of the Fish Dock both to tenants and fishing vessels given the improved nature of the flake ice to protect and present produce.
- Carbon reduction as a result of machine efficiency.

An alternative ice machine was initially proposed, the Scotsman MAR 306. However, the complex nature of engineering required for installation would have come with significant additional installation costs and a considerable risk that the machine would not integrate with the current infrastructure, prompting the need for additional spend.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

The sum of £33,000 is added to the capital programme (21/22) for the replacement ice machine at Appledore Fish Dock.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Date of Consultation – 21/1/22

Officers Consulted – Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Governance, Head of Finance (s151)

Contact Officer: Head of Communities and Place

Background Papers:

