

C TFW

**Records of the Finance Department
of the Hull Corporation
Relating to the Supply of Water**

1918-1965

Historical Background:

The origins of government in Kingston upon Hull began with the King appointing a mayor to govern the town, but in 1331 his powers were transferred to a mayor elected by the burgesses. In 1440 the town was separated from Yorkshire as an independent county with its own sheriff, and the burgesses were empowered to elect twelve aldermen to assist the mayor and to serve as magistrates for the new county (Oxley, 1973, p.3). This system of government remained in force in the town until 1835.

The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 (5 & 6 Wm. IV., c.76), sometimes known as the Municipal Reform Act, was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that reformed local government in the incorporated boroughs of England and Wales (Warren, 1948, p.21). In Kingston upon Hull the revolution accomplished by the Municipal Reform Act of 1835 was to give political power to a different set of voters, namely those inhabitants who fulfilled a property qualification (Oxley, 1973, p.8).

The only new function given to the reformed corporation was the administration of the police force and despite the financial position of the corporation being strengthened by the granting of wider powers to levy rates, these powers were little used. Fifteen years elapsed before the political changes of 1835 were matched by major changes of function.

The replacement of the old Improvement Commissioners with the new Board of Health in 1851 and with the Boards' attack on the problem of providing a really healthy environment for the people of Kingston upon Hull saw the beginning of major changes to the town, both structurally and in the services provided by the Corporation.

The finance department of the Hull Corporation played a major role in the improvements to the town, as well as in the general functions of the corporation, as it possessed the responsibility for providing the funds to finance such functions and for recording income and expenditure for the many departments and functions of the Hull Corporation.

Financial decisions of the Hull Corporation were officially made and represented by a Finance Committee. The Finance Committee joined with the Property Committee in 1876/7 to form the Finance and Property Committee in order to consider and from time to time report on the amount of rates necessary to be levied by the Corporation, so as to proportion the amount of rates to the actual expenditure in each year. However, after a short period of just three years the two committees reverted back to their original committee titles in 1879/80.

The finance department held responsibility for such functions as borrowing and debt collection, as well as recording the finances of various sectors of the Hull Corporation, such as education, libraries, telephones, and water. Each of these sectors were, and still remain, extremely important to the City.

Today, the Finance Department of the Hull City Council, also known as the Corporate Finance Team, remains responsible for the financial functions and activities of the Hull City Council.

Hull History Centre: Records of the Finance Department of the Hull Corporation: Water

The Hull Corporation had been responsible for the supply of water to the town since it acquired the Derringham Springs under the charter of 1447. Subsequently the corporation has had to steadily expand and improve the water supply to meet the needs of a growing town by finding new sources of water supply, buying and installing better pumping equipment, and modernizing the distribution system to meet growing demands. In the 20th Century the Water Department extended its area of supply to a wide territory beyond the city boundary (Oxley, 1973, p.9).

Description: This collection includes journals, and volumes relating to water charges and rates

Arrangement:

C TFW/1	Water Journals	1918-1965
C TFW/2	Water Charges	1936-1939

Extent: 5 volumes

Related material: For records regarding the Borough of Kingston upon Hull before the Corporation was reformed by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 please see C BR. For minutes of the Finance Committee meetings please see the Hull City Council minutes at reference C TCM.

Custodial History: These records were created and stored by the Finance Department of the Hull City Council until they were transferred to the Hull City Archives in October 1983

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C TFW/1	Water Journals Regarding payments and costs 3 volumes	1918-1965
C TFW/1/1	Water Journal Includes lists of payments for each month, with description and total amounts 1 volume	1918-1929
C TFW/1/2	Water Journal Gives payments for each half of the year 1 volume	1940-1950
C TFW/1/3	Water Journal Gives payments for each half of the year 1 volume	1950-1965
C TFW/2	Water Charges Two volumes regarding water charges to new customers and charges to customers in Howdenshire 2 volumes	Apr 1936- Mar 1939
C TFW/2/1	Water Charges: New Customers Gives new customer number, assessment number, name of occupier or persons charged, and address. Also details the charges giving date of commencement, description, sundries, total amount, details of collections giving amounts paid in first and second half of year, and details of money carried forward to ledgers. 1 volume	1 Apr 1936- 31 Mar 1938
C TFW/2/2	Water Rates and Charges: Howdenshire Giving the name of the street at the top of each page listed below are the name of the occupier, name and address of the owner, description of the property (e.g. house), number of house, sundry charges with details of annual value, annual charges, amounts due, and amounts paid 1 volume	1 Apr 1938- 31 Mar 1939