

Thanet District Council Port and Harbours Report for the 2016-17 Financial Year

01843 577000
www.thanet.gov.uk



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1)

About our Port and Harbours:

The Port of Ramsgate



The Port of Ramsgate is one of 26 municipal ports on England and Wales.

Set on 32 acres of dedicated port land, the Port of Ramsgate has three roll on roll off (Ro-Ro) berths, capable of accommodating conventional Ro-Ro fast ferry services and Jack up barges. Full passenger and freight vessel facilities allow the Port to operate and service the three berths simultaneously, allowing Ramsgate to handle up to 500,000 freight units and two million passengers each year.

The Port can accommodate vessels of up to 180 metres in length with 6.5 metres draft with no tidal restrictions and has the capacity to handle multi-decked vessels, stern and quarter ramps. With easy access to the open sea, it takes an average of 10 minutes from berth to clearing a buoyed channel and access is possible at all states of the tide and in most weather conditions.



With a dedicated £30 million road into the port and dual carriageway links to the M2 motorway, driving times between Ramsgate and the M25 have been cut to just over an hour. High speed passenger rail services started in December 2009, cutting the journey time from Ramsgate to Central London to just 63 minutes.



The Port of Ramsgate operates an aggregate import facility, in partnership with Brett Aggregates, which can accommodate vessels of up to 90 metres in length. Type one, crushed slag, sand and crushed limestone is imported, which is then used within the construction sector. Brett also operate a concrete batching plant on site.

With sufficient available land and water space to allow future diversification and the availability of hard standing and berthing slots, the Port of Ramsgate is well placed for short sea shipping trades and to capitalise on predicted growth in the cross channel freight sector over the next 10 years.

Ramsgate has experienced significant growth in activity, supporting the offshore wind industry. Ramsgate is now a renewable energy hub for offshore wind following commitments from four projects off the Kent coast including the Vattenfall's Thanet Offshore Windfarm (TOW), which until recently held the 'world's largest' title but has now been overtaken by 'London Array' wind farm with 175 turbines. Vattenfall additionally undertake operations and maintenance for Kentish Flats and Kentish Flats Extension wind farms from Ramsgate. London Array undertook construction management of their world leading project from Ramsgate and Ramsgate is home to their operations and maintenance base. Between Vattenfall and London Array, 320 turbines are presently serviced from Ramsgate.

The Ramsgate Marina



The stunning Royal Harbour Marina was developed in 1976. The Four Gold Anchor Award complex now offers 700 finger moorings, serviced by first class amenities and security, in a picturesque and historic harbour setting outshining many Mediterranean marinas.

Situated on the South East tip of England, the Royal Harbour Marina offers an unrivalled location with 24 hour access to our Outer Marina. Our position, just 35 miles from the French coast and with 16 miles of sheltered, but challenging waters, between the coast and the Goodwin Sands offers a great experience for boat owners.

To enhance our status, we are constantly improving our customer services and facilities which include a 40 tonne “Wise” boat hoist, chandlery, sail loft and slipways. In addition to these services, we also provide a fuel barge that supplies petrol and diesel 365 days a year, a Port Control centre which is manned 24 hours a day, equipped with the latest radar and communication equipment listening on VHF channel 14, monitored and recorded CCTV security and free WIFI broadband access in the marina.

The comfort of our visitors is important to us and we offer free shower and toilet facilities as well as a coin operated launderette housed in a modern purpose built complex. Water and electricity is readily available and our experienced and friendly team will ensure that the service experienced in our Marina is a memorable one.

Our commitment to our customers, coupled with our marina’s unique setting, just minutes from the town centre and cosmopolitan waterfront, sets Ramsgate apart from other marinas.



The Royal Harbour Ramsgate, whilst having modern facilities, has an interesting historical background, dating back to Roman times, with many original features still in existence.

The Harbour was given its Royal title in 1821 when George IV sailed from Ramsgate to Hanover and back. He was so taken with the hospitality given to him by the people of Ramsgate that he decreed Ramsgate Harbour should have the right to add 'Royal' to its name. It is the only 'Royal' harbour in the United Kingdom.



Margate Harbour



Margate Harbour is a small drying site which is protected by a large stone breakwater, the Harbour Wall itself being constructed as a series of compartments filled with rubble and shingle and has now firmly withstood the fury of the sea for almost two centuries.

The harbour is suitable for boats that can take the ground and sit reasonably upright as the bottom consists of fairly hard sand. It is also really only suitable for shallow draught boats as parts of the harbour dry. The harbour is mainly used by small leisure vessels and a few fishing vessels. There are also slipways available for launching and recovering vessels to trailers. Currently the local sailing club operate from this harbour and surrounding slipways.

The Turner Contemporary art gallery occupies a prominent position next to the harbour.

Broadstairs Harbour



Situated at the extreme north-eastern corner of the Kent coast and protected by a large stone breakwater, Broadstairs is predominantly used for Leisure and Fishing. Although the harbour still supports a small number of commercial fishing boats, these days the majority of sea-going is for pleasure rather than commercial. Currently the local sailing club operates out of this harbour.

2) Ramsgate Maritime Plan

Executive Summary

Ramsgate's port and Royal Harbour, owned and operated by Thanet District Council, is located 76 miles from the heart of London, and close to continental ports and harbours across the North Sea and Straits of Dover.

The commercial port has for the past decades, until recently, operated ferry services to both Dunkerque and Oostende and has become both a construction and now operation and maintenance base for four nearby offshore wind farms. The port adjoins the Royal Harbour.

The Royal Harbour forms a fantastic visual link between Ramsgate's attractive waterfront and the open sea. The dominant activity in the Royal Harbour is created by separate, well-appointed commercial and leisure marinas which provide safe berths for both local and visiting vessels.

The port and harbour lie in an environmentally sensitive marine area. The latter comprises of a number of nature conservation designations including Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas for birds together with Ramsar sites, the Thanet MCZ (Marine Conservation Zone) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

We have published this Maritime Plan, which has an evolving scope and purpose, as a high level guide for the future operation, development and management of the port and Royal Harbour.

Please follow link to full report.

<http://www.portoframsgate.co.uk/exciting-developments/maritime-plan/>

3)

Report of the Last 12 Months

Narrative Report Extract from Main Council Statement of Accounts

The financial position of the council has strengthened during the year with sound and improving financial management being applied in all areas.

Since last year General Fund Reserves have increased by £187k and Housing Revenue Account Balances and reserves have increased by £2.478m.

Due to national austerity measures the council is facing and meeting major financial challenges. As part of the 2016 to 2020 medium term financial strategy changes have been introduced which include a shift in focus away from the traditional incremental budgeting approach to a more strategic outcome based style concentrating on finding new and innovative methods to continue delivering vital local services.

The majority of the savings targets set in the 2016-17 budgets have been met and substitute savings found where the plan could not reach target levels.

The 2017-18 budget and the 2017 to 2021 medium term financial strategy approved by council on 9 February 2017 again includes a balanced budget after a wide ranging examination of all costs and income. We are actively looking at ways of reducing our costs, and using even more efficient methods of working to further improve the council's financial position. Economic development of the district is being enhanced and inward investment is being actively sought to further our growth programme. Capital expenditure in the 4 year period of approximately £59m has been approved of which £32m will be applied to assets within the district including new housing development and enhancement of coastal facilities.

Link to Main Statement on TDC Website

[Statement of Accounts](#)

Summary of the 2016/17 financial year for the Port and Harbour

The past year has seen the continuation of Thanet District Council's (TDC's) full compliance with all statutory port marine legislation and codes of practice.

GEFCO imported new Peugeot and Citroen cars from the Continent to Ramsgate throughout the 2016 calendar year. These vehicles were bound for the UK market and were stored at Ramsgate prior to onward transport to customers.

Major investment was made in dredging to ensure that the Port is ready to accept large commercial vessels with no tidal restriction.

An extensive project was also undertaken to refurbish two of the port's three Ro-Ro (roll on – roll off) ferry berths. This £1.2million project has extended the operational life of these berths to allow the Port to accommodate new business and meet the growing demand for cross channel freight capacity.

The Harbour continues to support a fishing fleet of approximately 26 vessels, 18 commercial day angling vessels, six ESL Pilotage Cutters, UKBF Cutters and the associated onshore support services.

Leisure customers are not only important to harbour operations, but also to the prosperity of the district. The 700 berth marina at Ramsgate has been independently assessed by the Yacht Harbour Association and is presently graded as a four 'Gold Anchor' facility (five is the maximum). Permanent leisure vessel berthing increased from 3,770m to 3,944m and the number of visiting yacht nights was 6,338.

All commercial properties on the harbour estate are presently let or licenced to tenants.

The Port and Harbour provides the operational and maintenance base for 2 companies who manage 4 offshore windfarms adjacent to the NE Kent coastline. A total of 320 turbines are maintained from Ramsgate, utilising a fleet of high speed crew transfer vessels and transient specialist craft. The crew transfer vessel fleet size varies between summer and winter operations, averaging approximately 15 vessels. The substantive number of vessels increased this year by one, as Vattenfall relocated operations to support Kentish Flats and Kentish Flats Extension to Ramsgate.

The port remains an attractive facility to support Ro-Ro freight operations, which was additionally communicated to the sector through attendance at the premier trade logistics show, Multimodal, at the Birmingham NEC.

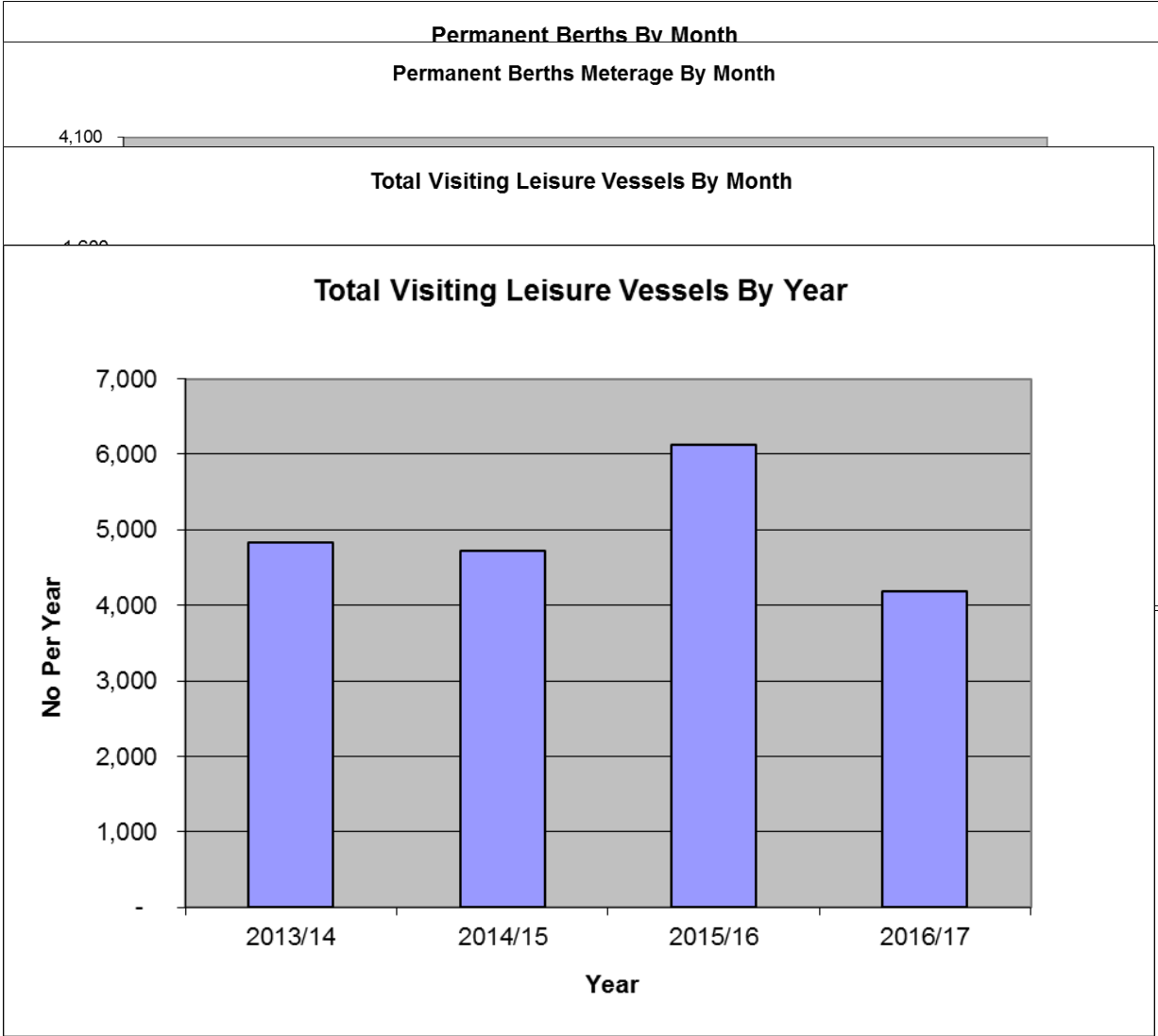
A short promotional video (63 seconds), demonstrating the attractiveness of the Port of Ramsgate can be viewed from the home page on the port website at www.portoframsgate.co.uk ; the key points being –

- The Port of Ramsgate is only 58 miles from junction 2 of the M25, the same as Dover,
- M20 Operation Stack has no impact on those using the port,
- a dedicated road network and tunnel which bypasses the town and links you to the motorway network,
- excellent connectivity to UK motorway network via M2 and M25 and good links to the M20,
- short sea passage, second closest port to mainland Europe,

4) Statistics

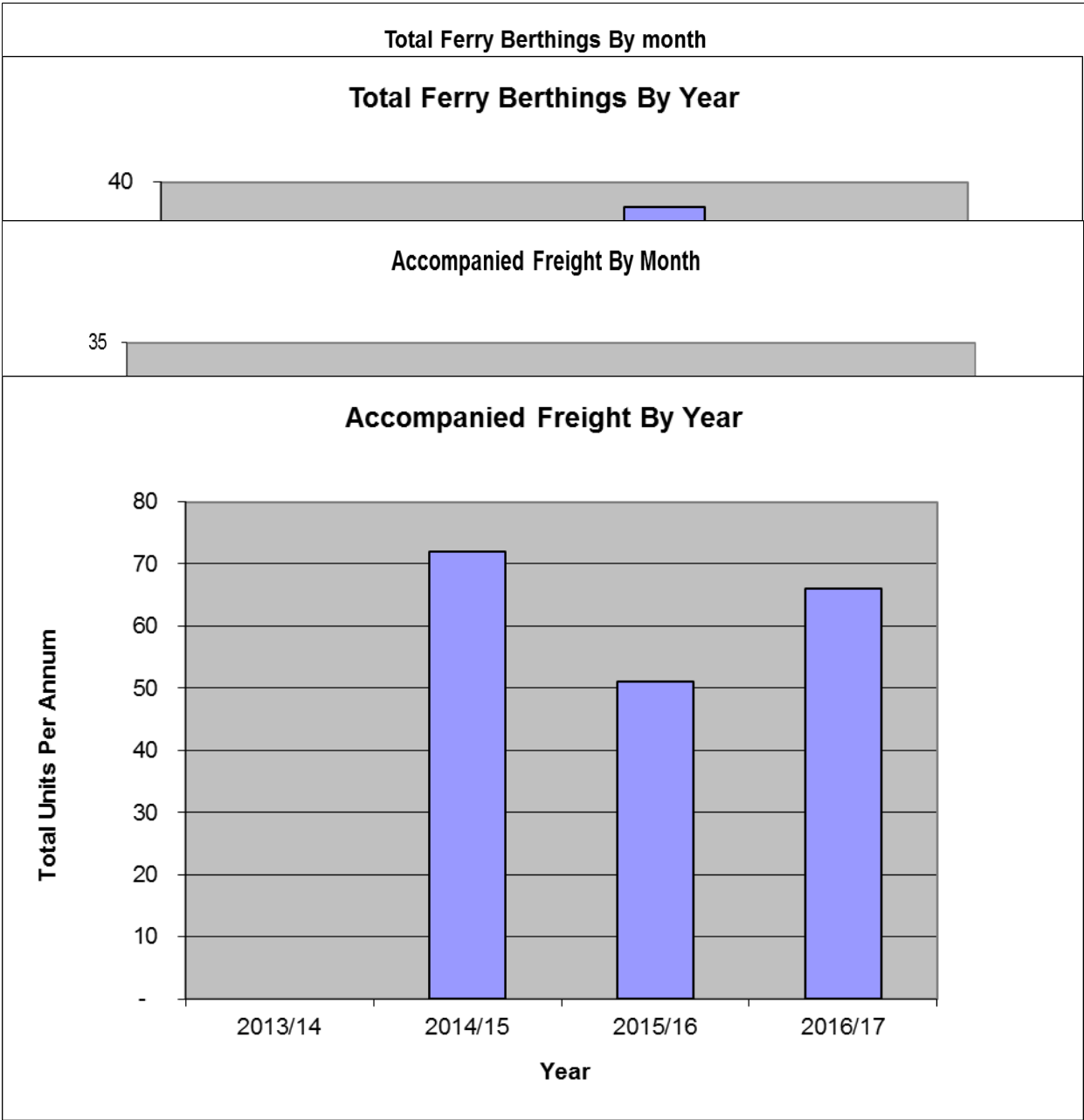
Marina Statistics

Both the recession and the inclement weather have had a substantial impact on the Marina over the last few years; this is demonstrated throughout but is particularly prevalent within the visiting leisure vessels. Inward Investment has seen improved facilities and as a result sustained the number of permanent berth holders. There is now a waiting list for vessels over 12m in length for the inner marinas.



Ramsgate Port Statistics

The situation since April 2013 is that there are no passenger ferries currently operating from the Port. However, a car importation operation ran from January 2016 to December 2016. Many further opportunities are available for operators to take advantage of Ramsgate’s fantastic transport links.



Yearend Financial Report

Summary Profit and Loss Account 2016/17

31 March 2016		31 March 2017	Note
Outturn		Outturn	
000's		000's	
	Revenues		
1,612	Vessels	1,555	
211	Goods & Freight	219	
0	Passengers	0	
4	Cranes & Plant	6	
1,095	Rents & Concessions	1,107	
232	Car Parking	207	
28	Pilotage	17	
32	Other Misc income	10	
354	Internal Recharges	344	
<u>3,568</u>		<u>3,466</u>	
	Direct Costs		
905	Employee Costs	955	
1,641	Premises Costs	1,398	1
20	Transport Costs	18	
2,535	Supplies and Services	1,043	2
<u>5,101</u>		<u>3,414</u>	
(1,533)	Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	51	
	Central Costs		
(1,233)	Central Support Services	(1,269)	
(2,765)	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,218)	
	Capital Charges		
(680)	Depreciation/Impairments	(440)	3
50	Capital Financing Costs	0	
<u>(630)</u>		<u>(440)</u>	
(3,395)	Net Result	(1,658)	
160	Maritime Reserves	0	4

Notes to the Accounts - Movement between Years

1. Premises costs reduced due to less spend on Dredging compared to 2015-16
2. Supplies and Services reduced as there was no compensation paid 2016-17
3. In 2016-17 there were some land and buildings upward revaluations at the Harbour
4. Contributions to maritime projects.

6) Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

Both the Council and the Section 151 Officer have certain responsibilities in respect of the Statement of Accounts.

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required:

- to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs; and
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- to approve the Statement of Accounts.

In this Authority, the Responsible Officer is the Director of Corporate Resources & Section 151 Officer.

Director of Corporate Resources & Section 151 Officer's Responsibilities

The Director of Corporate Resources & Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in terms of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in United Kingdom ("the Code").

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Director of Corporate Resources & Section 151 Officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with the local authority Code;
- kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities;
- gained appropriate assurance over the accuracy of the statement of accounts prior to approval.

The Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Thanet District Council as at 31 March 2016 and of its income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.

Tim Willis CPFA
Director of Corporate Resources & Section 151 Officer
Date: 30 June 2017

Link to Main Statement on TDC Website

[Statement of Accounts](#)

7)

Independent Audit Report



Grant Thornton

An instinct for growth"

Tim Willis

Director of Corporate Resources

Thanet District Council

POBox9, Cecil Street

Margate, Kent

CT9 1XZ

Dear Tim

Report of factual findings of our agreed upon procedures to the directors of Thanet District Council

In accordance with the requirements of Section 42 of the Harbours Act 1964 we are giving our report on the annual statement of accounts relating to harbour activities that you have prepared in relation to Thanet District Council Harbour Authority for the year ending 31 March 2017. This report is produced in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 13 December 2017.

Our engagement was undertaken in accordance with International Standards on Related Services 4400 applicable to agreed-upon procedures engagements. We have performed the procedures agreed with you and enumerated below, as set out in our engagement letter.

We have considered whether the annual statement of accounts relating to the harbour activities of Thanet District Council Harbour Authority has been prepared on a reasonable basis by carrying out the following procedures:

- checking that the figures in the harbour authority annual statement of accounts agree to the underlying records upon which they have been prepared and are consistent with the transactions recorded in the statutory accounts of the local authority for the same reporting period; and
- checking that the harbour authority annual statement of accounts casts correctly.

These procedures were performed solely to assist you in meeting your responsibilities under the Harbours Act 1964. Under Section 42(5) of the Harbours Act 1964 you are required to submit this report along with the copy of the annual statement of accounts relating to harbour activities on which it has been given to the Secretary of State for Transport.

This report is provided pursuant to, and must be read in conjunction with, our engagement letter dated 31 December 2017 and is subject to the terms and limitations set out therein.

Auditor's report on the annual statement of accounts relating to the harbour activities of Thanet District Council Harbour Authority for the year ending 31 March 2017

We have no matters that we wish to draw to the attention of the Secretary of State in relation to the preparation of the annual statement of accounts relating to the harbour activities of Thanet District Council Harbour Authority for the year ending 31 March 2017.

Because the above procedures do not constitute either an audit or a review made in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) or International Standards on Review Engagements (UK and Ireland), we do not express any assurance.

Had we performed additional work or procedures or had we performed an audit or review of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) or International Standards on Review Engagements (UK and Ireland), other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

Our report is prepared solely for the confidential use of Thanet District Council and solely for the purposes set out in this report. Our report must not be recited or referred to in whole or in part in any other document. Our report must not be made available, copied or recited to any other party without our express written permission. Grant Thornton UK LLP neither owes nor accepts any duty to any other party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by other parties' reliance on our report.

We have completed our responsibilities in respect of the annual statement of accounts relating to harbour activities for Thanet District Council Harbour Authority for the year ending 31 March 2017 under the requirements of the Harbours Act 1964 and the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 so far as they apply to this engagement.

Grant Thornton UK LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Gatwick

16 January 2017

8) Port and Harbour note (15) to the accounts from Main Statement

Harbours

Expenditure on harbours includes the Port of Ramsgate, Ramsgate Royal Harbour, Broadstairs and Margate Harbours and is included under the heading Highways, Roads and Transport Services. The majority of income and expenditure takes place within the Ramsgate operations.

2015-16 (Surplus)/ Deficit £'000s		2016-17 Expenditure £'000s	2016-17 Income £'000s	2016-17 (Surplus)/ Deficit £'000s
3,444	Port of Ramsgate	3,219	(970)	2,246
(75)	Ramsgate Royal Harbour	1,505	(2,063)	(558)
11	Broadstairs Harbour	27	(84)	(57)
15	Margate Harbour	28	(5)	23
3,395	Total	4,779	(3,122)	1,657

9) Focus moving forward

Key Focus for the next 4 years. Maritime Operations Service Plan for 2016-2020:

- To increase the port's visibility within the sector.
- To continue working to attract and retain new roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) services and port related business to Port of Ramsgate.
- To progress outputs from the approved externally funded programmes.
- To continue working with the External Funding Officer to secure further externally funded opportunities for essential project delivery.
- To maintain engagement with the offshore renewable sector to benefit the district through job creation associated with the emerging blue energy sector, as well as the existing wind renewables and their supply chain.
- To continue to provide an efficient and effective service to leisure and commercial users of the Royal Harbour.
- To work towards achieving 5 starts in the Gold Anchor scheme.

Link to the Thanet District Council Corporate Plan

<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/about-us/corporate-plan-2015-to-2019/>

10) Key contacts

Responsible Officers:

Tim Willis: Director of Corporate Resources & Section 151 Officer's Responsibilities

Gavin Waite: Director of Operational Services

Mike Humber: Head of Service

Joanne Kemp: Management Accountant

Responsible Members

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise Services

Description

To lead policy development and advise the Cabinet on:

1. Regeneration and economic development;
2. East Kent Opportunities Ltd;
3. Thanet Regeneration Board;
4. Harbours;
5. Tourism.

Post is held by

[Councillor Hunter Stummer-Schmertzing](#)