

**Isle of Wight Council**

**Ventnor Harbour**

**Annual Report and Accounts**

**31 March 2021**

**(pre-assurance review)**



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## 1. Background Information

Relevant legislation:

Ventnor Pier and Harbour Act 1862

Ventnor Harbour Revision Order 1994

The Harbours Act 1964

The Transport Act 1981

The Statutory Harbour Undertakings (Accounts etc) Regulations 1983

The Harbour, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847

Local Government Act 1972

Responsible Members (The Harbour Committee)- 1<sup>st</sup> April 20 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 21

Cllr Ian Ward

Cllr Matthew Price

Cllr Shirley Smart

Cllr Stephen Hastings

Cllr Graham Perks-Started 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 20

Cllr Brian Tyndall-Started 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 20

Cllr Julie Jones Evans-Started 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 20

Cllr Andrew Garratt-Left 16th Sept 20

Cllr Stuart Hutchinson-Left 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 20

Cllr John Hobart-Left 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 20

Isle of Wight Council

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## 2. Report on Statutory Harbour Undertakings

The Council is the statutory harbour authority for Ventnor Harbour. Harbour legislation requires the Council to prepare an annual statement of accounts relating to the harbour activities and any associated activities for each harbour for which it is the statutory harbour authority. This report contains a summary of activities during the year and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 for Ventnor Harbour.

### Principal activities:

The principal activities during the year continued to be the provision of anchorage, moorings, pontoons and associated harbour facilities as well as leases of harbour land and buildings.

## 3. Officers' Report

### Officers' report to the members responsible for the combined ports and harbours activities of the Isle of Wight Council.

Section 42 of the Harbours Act 1964, as amended by paragraph 10 of Schedule 6 to the Transport Act 1981, specifies requirements as to accounts and reports relating to the activities of statutory harbour undertakings. It is the duty of every statutory harbour undertaker to prepare an annual statement of accounts relating to the harbour activities and to any associated activities carried out. This requirement cannot be satisfied by the preparation of a statement of accounts which relates to other activities in addition to harbour activities.

The accounts prepared under the Harbours Act 1964 shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 as to the form and content of the accounts and reports, and shall be subject to an assurance review. It shall be the duty of any person by whom a statement of accounts is prepared to send to the Secretary of State for Transport a copy of the statement together with a copy of the assurance reviewer's report on it.

In the case of the harbour undertakings carried out by the Isle of Wight Council, all of the harbour undertakings are part of the council's service provision to residents, and there is no separate legal entity in place to which the provisions apply. On that basis, these accounts have been prepared for Ventnor Harbour activities in a style which is consistent with the reporting requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

However, the legislation does not prescribe the form of assurance review to be undertaken, and neither does the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (or the previously extant legislation, the Audit Commission Act 1998) which specifies the audit requirement for public bodies. Clarification was issued by the Audit Commission that, as the council's harbour accounts are below the threshold for the Companies Act, they will be reviewed by the assurance reviewer on the basis of Agreed Upon Procedures. In this case, the Council's external auditor is required to confirm that the harbour accounts have been prepared on a reasonable basis, by confirming that the transactions recorded in the annual statement of accounts relating to harbour activities agree to the underlying records upon which they have been prepared and are consistent with the transactions recorded in the local authority financial statements for the same reporting period. They will also confirm that the accounts cast correctly.

It is considered that Ventnor Harbour and the activities as presented here in abbreviated form are consistent with the reporting requirements of the Companies Act 2006. We have acknowledged our responsibilities for ensuring that accounting records are kept which comply with Companies Act 2006, and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Ventnor Harbour and the activities and of their profit or loss for the financial year.

Accordingly, we have prepared abbreviated accounts which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes to the accounts from the accounting records of the council's Ventnor Harbour activities and on the basis of information and explanations that have been provided by operational staff and officers engaged in port and harbours activities.

The accounts summarise the transactions for the 2020/21 financial year and the financial position at the year-end of 31st March 2021. The authority is required to prepare the accounts in accordance with proper accounting practices. The accounting convention adopted is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets.

Alex Minns  
Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods

#### 4. Activity Report

Ventnor Harbour is a small fair weather harbour situated on the Esplanade, Ventnor. Part of the facility is used by a local fish processing company, and there are a small number of visitor moorings within the harbour. The four offshore moorings situated in deep water used during summer months have previously been discontinued, as the cost of their placement and removal far exceeds any income.

The Council owns the freehold interest of Ventnor Harbour. It has granted a 125 year ground lease to the Blake family of an area in the centre of the Harbour, upon which the tenant has constructed a building on stilts that sits above the water and which provides a small scale fish processing facility and wet fish retail outlet, together with a fish and chip shop. The tenant is responsible for the maintenance and repair of this facility.

Following a competitive tendering process Cheetah Marine was employed to supervise activities in the Harbour on behalf of the council; the original contract required that they were to act as an agent of the council and accordingly were required to provide the following services within Ventnor Harbour:-

- A day to day supervision service in a safe and efficient manner.
- Collect dues from craft using the Harbour and the adjacent moorings in accordance with the schedule of charges.
- Work with the Isle of Wight Council to develop the Harbour and expand the range of facilities and services offered to both visitors and local users.
- Inspect all mooring chains on a weekly basis and renew when necessary.
- Clean the slipway, walkway and the pontoons weekly or more frequently.
- Remove all debris from the Harbour and the surrounding areas daily.

The terms of the original contract were varied in 2011 to include for the removal of macroalgae (seaweed) as and when necessary and possible to ensure the Council's compliance with environmental legislation. The contract has since been extended through a deed of variation and will now expire on 31st March 2022; this was to enable the work commissioned through Royal Haskoning to be completed and for any recommendations to be funded and implemented.

The contract no longer includes any of the aforementioned supervision functions and these are now undertaken by the Council and are managed by the Senior Harbour Master.

To help manage the macroalgae accumulations Cheetah Marine have used a pump mounted on a boat which sucks the macroalgae and contaminated sand from the Harbour. This addresses both the odour issue and maintains the depth within the Harbour avoiding the need for conventional dredging. The effectiveness of this approach was found to be compromised by the swinging moorings in the Harbour which prevented the boat mounted pump being manoeuvred to where it needed to operate. Cheetah Marine found it necessary to take the moorings out of use and provided an alternative pontoon to allow vessels to be berthed. This pontoon is not a capital asset of the harbour authority which has no maintenance liability for it, rather the provision was an operational decision taken by Cheetah Marine in the discharging of their obligations under the terms of our contract.

The annual cost of removing the macroalgae is currently £87,420. Clearly the cost of removing the macroalgae is not sustainable in the medium to long term and accordingly officers commissioned Royal Haskoning to investigate options to prevent or reduce the macroalgae entering the Harbour. The initial desk top feasibility study identified a number of options that could be adopted and the majority of options require some form of hard engineering.

Their report concluded that whilst physical changes to the harbour were possible, albeit at a high capital cost, they could not be proven to mitigate the accumulation of macroalgae and that the most economical way of resolving the situation was to continue the physical removal and disposal.

As part of its medium-term financial plan the council has identified that the management of Ryde and Ventnor harbours is not a core function and is seeking to transfer these to third parties with their future operation at no cost to the authority. Indeed, the transfer of Ryde was agreed at Cabinet in February 2021 and the freehold will transfer to Ryde Town Council on 1 April 2022.

At the time of preparing this annual report Ventnor Harbour is still within the Isle of Wight Council's ownership and management and option are being reviewed for the future.

**5. Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	Note	2020-21	2019-20
		£'000	£'000
Turnover	1	18	17
Operating expenses	2	(125)	(100)
Other expenses	3	(11)	(12)
<b>Net loss</b>		<b>(118)</b>	<b>(95)</b>

**6. Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021**

	Note	2020-21	2019-20
		£'000	£'000
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant & equipment	4	2,310	2,338
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>2,310</b>	<b>2,338</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors falling due within one year		5	7
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>2,315</b>	<b>2,345</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors falling due within one year		(7)	(14)
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>2,308</b>	<b>2,331</b>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>			
Contribution from IWC in year	5	116	88
Profit and loss account for year	6	(118)	(95)
Capital adjustment account	7	2,310	2,338
<b>Total capital &amp; reserves</b>		<b>2,308</b>	<b>2,331</b>



## 7. Notes to the accounts

### 1) Turnover

		2020-21	2019-20
		£'000	£'000
Moorings		6	5
Rental income		12	12
<b>Total turnover</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>

### 2) Operating expenses

		2020-21	2019-20
		£'000	£'000
Employee costs		2	2
Supplies and Services		94	70
Depreciation		29	28
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3) Other expenses

		2020-21	2019-20
		£'000	£'000
Support services and other costs		11	12
<b>Total other expenses</b>		<b>118</b>	<b>12</b>

### 4) Property, Plant & Equipment

		Land & Buildings
		£'000
<b>Cost</b>		
As at 1 April 2020		2,831
Additions		0
<b>As at 31 March 2021</b>		<b>2,831</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
As at 1 April 2020		(493)
Charge for the year		(28)
<b>As at 31 March 2021</b>		<b>(521)</b>
<b>Net book value as at 31 March 2021</b>		<b>2,310</b>
<b>Net book value as at 31 March 2020</b>		<b>2,338</b>

Depreciation on land and buildings is calculated based on the estimated remaining useful lives of individual assets which is assessed by the Isle of Wight Council. The following ranges of remaining useful lives are used:

Property Land and Buildings: 2-100 years

Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment: 1-9 years

**5) Contribution from Isle of Wight Council to support continuing activities.**

This represents the amount by which the Isle of Wight Council supports the losses incurred during the normal operation and activities of the harbour in year.

**6) Profit and Loss account**

Profit or loss incurred during the normal operation and activities of the harbour in year.

**7) Capital adjustment account**

This account relates to the different arrangements for accounting for the use of long term assets and their related funding as part of Harbour operations.

The total value of long term assets (note 4) is matched by the capital adjustment account.