
RAMSGATE MARITIME PLAN

To: **Cabinet – 14 November 2013**

Main Portfolio Area: **Operational Services**

By: **Mark Seed, Director of Operational Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: **The report provides Cabinet with the draft Ramsgate Maritime Plan for consideration.**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Ramsgate Maritime Plan, which is attached at Annex 1, for Cabinet's consideration.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Advisory Group was set up to assist Cabinet with the development of a strategic plan for the future of Ramsgate Port and Harbour.
- 1.3 On the 31 July 2013 the draft plan was presented to the Ramsgate Port and Marina Cabinet Advisory Group by the consultants, UK Port Advisers, who prepared the document.
- 1.4 In preparing the plan a consultation process was undertaken with key stakeholders to understand the differing perspectives and any opportunities or constraints that should be considered for the future development of the Port and Harbour.
- 1.5 The Cabinet Advisory Group then considered the content of the document and met again on the 24 September 2013 for further discussion and to make a recommendation to Cabinet on the way forward.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 UK Port Advisers were commissioned to prepare and present a Maritime Plan to the Port and Marina Cabinet Advisory Group for consideration prior to it going to Cabinet for adoption.
- 2.2 At the Cabinet Advisory Group meeting on the 24 September, a collective view could not be reached, particularly in relation to the governance arrangements, and the Group were unable to make a mutually agreed recommendation to Cabinet. The following recommendation was proposed, seconded and agreed by the Group:

“That the Group notes the Consultants' report and asks Cabinet to consider the different views of Group Members as recorded in the minutes.”

These minutes are attached at Annex 2.

- 2.3 Further information has been sought by officers in connection with the governance arrangements of Portsmouth, Sunderland and Whitstable ports and harbours, which

are municipally owned ports. A summary of their current arrangements are detailed within Annex 3 of this report for information. In the view of officers, the governance arrangements in place at Sunderland and Whitstable would appear to be the most in line with best practice, as set out in the Municipal Ports Review.

3.0 Next Steps

3.1 The information presented will form a useful basis for discussions of Cabinet in determining the next steps in progressing the Maritime Plan and for determining the most appropriate governance arrangements for the Port and Harbour.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

4.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 The Ramsgate Maritime Plan supports the delivery of the council's Corporate Plan priorities detailed below:

- Priority 1 - Working with European partners and encouraging further location of sustainable energy businesses into the area, particularly at Ramsgate Port
- Priority 1 - Protecting and diversifying the commercial function of Port of Ramsgate as a key Kent cross-channel trade route

4.3.2 Amendment to the council's constitution may be needed in the event that changes to the governance arrangements for the Port and Harbour are agreed; these would require agreement at full Council.

4.3.3 Referring to the Ramsgate Maritime Plan, the Executive Summary of the Plan needs to be completed, and this will be prepared by officers following finalisation of the content of the Plan.

4.4 Equity and Equalities

4.4.1 There are no equity or equalities issues arising from this report.

4.5 Risks

4.5.1 There is a risk that the council will not have an appropriate plan in place that provides the strategic overview to the community, and we are therefore not open and transparent about the way we intend to take for business at the Port and Harbour.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 That Cabinet receive the report.

6.0 Decision Making Process

- 6.1 This is a key decision. Cabinet needs to make strategic decisions that create a framework for full utilisation of the economic infrastructure in the district in order to enhance the economic benefits for the area.

Contact Officer:	Mark Seed, Director of Operational Services
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Annex List

Annex 1	Ramsgate Port and Harbour Strategic Plan
Annex 2	Minutes of the Cabinet Advisory Group meeting – 24 September 2013
Annex 3	Governance arrangements summary

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Monitoring Officer / Legal	Harvey Patterson, Corporate & Regulatory Services Manager
Finance	Sarah Martin, Financial Services Manager