

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION OF INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Name of Cabinet Member:

Councillor Hunter Stummer-Schmertzing, Councillor John Townend

Relevant Portfolio:

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise Services, Cabinet Member for Financial Services and Estates

Date of Decision:

16 June 2017

Subject:

Ramsgate Harbour Inner Basin Dock Gate and Lifting Bridge Proposed Refurbishment Works

Key Decision

Yes

In Forward Plan

No

Brief summary of matter:

The Inner Basin of Ramsgate Harbour accommodates approximately 212 vessels on floating pontoons, this is known as the Inner Marina. The water level in the Inner Basin is retained at high tide by two pieces of mechanical infrastructure this being the flap gate and the mitre gates. These are both located in a formed channel through the cross wall between the Inner and Outer Basins of Ramsgate Harbour which affords vessel access. A third piece of infrastructure, a lifting bridge provides pedestrian/vehicular access across the channel when the gates are closed and can then be raised clear when they are open to allow the passage of tall vessels through the channel.

This system of retaining water in the Inner Basin is unusual as it is not a traditional sea lock and must be operated four times a day, (2 hours before high tide and two hours after high tide) so is therefore in constant use 365 days per year. Whilst this allows for free access in and out of the Inner Basin twice a day, this necessary constant use has started to put pressure on old and obsolete equipment.

Maintaining the integrity of these systems ensures that there is always sufficient water within the Inner Basin where the majority of boats are moored permanently. A failure of any part of the system that resulted in a significant loss of water within the Inner Basin could cause damage to vessels giving rise to third party claims and potential loss of custom and future income.

The flap gate, mitre gates and lift bridge all require urgent refurbishment and improvement. The purpose of this project is to sustain the long term serviceability of both gate systems and the bridge to avoid negative impact on marina customers and loss of associated revenue income.

Decision made:

To allocate £750k from the Capital Receipts Reserve to the 2017/18 Budget Framework and Capital Programme to fund an urgent capital project to refurbish the Inner Basin dock gates and lifting bridge at Ramsgate Harbour.

Reasons for decision:

To maintain the serviceability of this critical harbour infrastructure to reduce risk of significant customer impact, third party claims and loss of income.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

The 'do nothing' option was rejected as it would not reduce the risk of significant customer impact, third party claims and loss of income. These risks will increase if this urgent work is not undertaken.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Mike Humber

Background papers

None

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

The flap gate, mitre gates and lift bridge at Ramsgate Harbour require urgent refurbishment and improvement works. This work is required to reduce operational risk, protect existing income streams and to mitigate third party liability risk.

The Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Chairman of the Council have been consulted and have confirmed that this decision is urgent as described in section 4(a) of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules and section 15(p-r) of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel Procedure Rules of the Constitution and is therefore not subject to call-in.

Last date for call-in:

Decision is exempt from call-in