# COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION STRATEGIC REPORT, REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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#### COMMISSION INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**COMMISSIONERS:** 

M Bew

(Appointed 2024)

C Blount

(Appointed 2020)

V Clifford F Fitzherbert-Brockholes (Appointed 2019)

P Hagen

(Appointed 2021) (Appointed 2020. Chairman from 2022)

G Hall

(Appointed 2021, Chief Executive) (Appointed 2020)

J Losty R Macinnes

(Appointed 2024)

J Riley S Sheridan (Appointed 2024) (Appointed 2019)

HARBOUR MASTER:

Capt. J Kidd

**REGISTERED OFFICE:** 

Harbour Office

Town Quay

Cowes Isle of Wight

**PO31 7AS** 

**AUDITORS:** 

Harrison Black Limited

Statutory Auditor

East Quay Kite Hill

Wootton Bridge Isle of Wight PO33 4LA

**BANKERS:** 

Lloyds Bank Plc

22 St Thomas' Square

Newport Isle of Wight PO30 1SQ

#### STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Commissioners present their strategic report for the year ended 31 December 2024.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Cowes Harbour Commission (CHC) will manage the harbour, its safety and sustainable improvement and deliver the Commission's strategic objectives.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Commissioners have the following key strategic objectives for 2022-2027:

- Manage the Harbour in accordance with the principles in the DfT's Ports Good Governance Guidance document
- Promote and deliver a safety-first culture ensuring the highest standards in health and safety for CHC employees and Harbour users whilst complying fully with the Port Marine Safety Code
- Commit to the sustainable management and conservation of the Harbour, estuary, and local environment
- Promote and deliver sustainable Harbour development policies to safeguard existing, and support new, business, services, investment, and employment
- Ensure that commercial and financial management is robust, market-led and enables CHC to deliver its statutory duties and strategic objectives and to fund Harbour improvements
- Create long-term value for CHC by aligning our business development activities, key stakeholder relationships and communications strategy with our strategic goals
- Support and maximise the potential of our employees by implementing policies and procedures that align to our strategic goals and addresses the needs of our employees and CHC
- Continue to communicate and engage with key stakeholders on the strategic development of the Harbour
- Support and develop marine employment

#### **GOVERNANCE**

The governance of the Commission is based on the Department of Transport Modernising Trusts Ports' and Combined Code. The Board met eight times in 2024 and sub-committees meet as required (Appointments, Finance, Audit, and Remuneration). Biographical details of each Commissioner and a register of interests is published on our website www.cowesharbourcommission.co.uk.

#### **BUSINESS REVIEW 2024**

#### Income

Total operating income for the year was £3,687k, a decrease from £3,897k in 2023. This reduction was primarily driven by lower-than-anticipated revenue from fuel sales and commercial operations, reflecting a decline in visitor numbers to Cowes. Commercial shipping activity also fell short of expectations. In addition, rental income from tenants was impacted by an extended transition period between occupancies.

#### Expenditure

Operating expenditure increased by £247k, largely due to higher costs associated with harbour repairs and renewals, as well as an additional provision made for future dredging requirements.

#### **Surplus Before Tax**

The surplus before tax declined from £581k in 2023 to £191k in 2024. This reduction was influenced not only by the income and expenditure variances outlined above, but also by exceptional items in both years.

In 2023, the Harbour Commission experienced strong visitor and commercial activity, along with one-off grant income from an Innovate UK project focused on alternative propulsion systems for harbour vessels. An exceptional pension adjustment also contributed positively to that year's financial performance.

While the 2024 budget accounted for these one-off factors, actual income and expenditure variances resulted in a year-end surplus that was £49k below budget.

#### KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Profitability (Earnings before interest, tax, and depreciation / turnover) 0.13 (2023: 0.24). Current ratio (current assets/current liabilities) 3.23 (2023: 3.34).

#### **BUSINESS RISK**

The Commissioners approach to risk management is to identify key risks which are believed could be a threat and then develop policies to manage, to an acceptable level, the impact and likelihood of those risks.

General risk: Some factors which affect the harbour are beyond the control of the Commissioners for example the national economy. The business is also very seasonal and weather dependent.

Compliance risk: Cowes Harbour Commission operates a safety management system that includes preparation for emergencies. A comprehensive staff training programme is maintained to ensure the Harbour is compliant with the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code.

Governance risk: The Commissioners have a strategic plan which sets out the key aims, objective and policies. Before recruitment of a new commissioner a review is undertaken of skills required for an effective Board.

Financial risk: Budgets are set annually to monitor financial performance. Budgetary and financial reports are produced and interpreted in a timely and accurate way.

Pollution risk: The Commission invests in specific oil spillage training for it's staff and has contracted to have expert support and advice in the event of an incident.

Reliance upon key customers: We maintain a strong relationship with our existing customers and work hard to build good relationships with new customers based on quality and value. We continue to seek new business with the expansion of our mooring contract work to increase the diversification of our trading base.

#### STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

P Hagen – Commissioner/Chairman

Date: 12/09/2025

#### REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Commissioners present their report with the financial statements of the Commission for the year ended 31 December 2024.

#### CONSTITUTION

Cowes Harbour Commission (CHC or "the Commission") is the Statutory Harbour Authority for Cowes Harbour and the River Medina as far south as the Folly Inn. It is an independent Trust Port constituted by the Cowes Harbour Acts and Orders 1897 to 2012.

As a Trust Port any surpluses made by the Commission are retained for the benefit of stakeholders and invested in a variety of projects that benefit harbour users. Every person, Commission or other organisation that has an interest in Cowes Harbour or the River Medina is a stakeholder in the Commission.

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activities of the Commission in the year under review were acting as the Statutory Harbour Authority and the provision of harbour facilities, including yacht and commercial moorings and fuel.

#### COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Commission is accountable to its stakeholders and ultimately to the Secretary of State for transport. The Commissioners encourage comments, questions and suggestions from its stakeholders and factor this input into their decision-making process. Methods used to communicate on a regular basis with stakeholders include:

- An annual public meeting held in May or June
- A website (www.cowesharbourcommission.co.uk) with a section explaining the operation of the Commission
- A monthly e-newsletter
- An Advisory Committee
- An "open door" policy for stakeholders to raise issues

#### COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners consists of ten Commissioners together with a maximum of two Commissioners co-opted for specific purposes for a maximum period of one year. Commissioners are appointed by the Commissioners on the recommendation of an appointments panel consisting of the Chairman, a Stakeholder representative, an independent member and advised by the chief executive. Commissioners are appointed by an openly advertised recruitment process for an initial term of 3 years and usually serve 2 terms. Commissioners are required to have knowledge, experience or ability in a number and complementary range of matters relevant to the efficient, effective and economic discharge by the Commission of its functions.

The chairman of the Commissioners is appointed by the Commissioners from among their number for a term of 3 years.

The Commissioners meet 8 times a year (2024: 8 meetings) with ad hoc meetings held when necessary. A quorum of Commissioners is five people.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The year of appointment of the current Commissioners is shown on the Commission information page. The performance of each Commissioner is evaluated annually. The post of Commissioner is not remunerated.

The Commissioners are collectively and individually responsible for the proper exercise of the Commission's Statutory Duties.

The following held office as Commissioners and their attendance at regular meetings during the year.

M Bew - 8/8 or 100%
C Blount - 7/8 or 88%
V Clifford - 7/8 or 88%
J Evans - 3/3 or 100%
F Fitzherbert-Brockholes - 8/8 or 100%
P Hagen (Chairman) - 8/8 or 100%
G Hall (Chief Executive) - 8/8 or 100%
J Losty - 8/8 or 100%
R Macinnes - 7/8 or 88%
J Riley - 1/1 or 100%
S Sheridan - 8/8 or 100%

J Evans resigned as Commissioner on 26 April 2024, M Bew was appointed as Commissioner on 26 January 2024, R Macinnes was appointed as Commissioner on 8 March 2024 and J Riley was appointed as Commissioner on 13 December 2024.

#### STATEMENT ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Commission is committed to operating a system of corporate governance that follows the principles and guidance laid down in "Modernising Trust Ports (second edition)" published in 2009 by the Department of Transport, to the extent considered appropriate to the size and nature of the Commission.

The Commission has developed its governance procedures including the establishment of a remuneration committee and an audit committee.

The latest statement of governance can be found on the Cowes Harbour Commission website www.cowesharbourcommission.co.uk.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commissioners are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Report of the Commissioners and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Commissioners to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Commissioners have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. Under company law the Commissioners must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Commission and of the surplus or deficit of the Commission for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Commissioners are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Commission will continue in business.

The Commissioners are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Commission's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Commission and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Commission and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the Commissioners are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the Commission's auditors are unaware, and each Commissioner has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Commissioner in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Commission's auditors are aware of that information.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD;

P Hagen - Commissioner/Chairman

Date: 12/09/2025

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Cowes Harbour Commission (the 'Commission') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Income Statement, Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows, Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Commission's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 42 of the Harbours Act 1964 (as amended by the Transport Act 1981) which requires the financial statements to be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Commissioners' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Commissioners with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### Other information

The Commissioners are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in the Strategic Report and the Report of the Commissioners, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Strategic Report and the Report of the Commissioners for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Report of the Commissioners have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Commission and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report or the Report of the Commissioners.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Commissioners' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### **Responsibilities of Commissioners**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Commissioners' Responsibilities set out on page six, the Commissioners are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Commissioners determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Commissioners are responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Commissioners either intend to liquidate the Commission or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, we have considered the following:

- The nature of the industry in which the entity operates, gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable. We consider the most significant laws and regulations which have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Section 42 of the Harbours Act 1964 (as amended by the Transport Act 1981), the Companies Act 2006, Health and Safety and tax compliance regulations. We considered non-compliance of such regulatory requirements and designed our work accordingly, enquiring of management how they ensured compliance with such legislation and discussing the outcome of such procedures. External specialists were relied upon, where necessary in areas such as pension actuarial legislation.
- The management structure and control environment. We considered whether remuneration or bonus levels would give rise to incentive for fraud and in which audit areas gave the greatest potential for such fraud. We designed our testing to focus on areas such as complex transactions, unusual journals and recognition of income. We are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override, as is common in all audits under ISAs (UK).
- The appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures. We considered the consistency of such policies and estimates and whether they were still appropriate, who performed the work and their expertise in doing so, whether any adjustments were made in according with the relevant accounting framework.

Our work was carried out using systematic testing methods, analytical review, results of communication with management, professional scepticism, observation of controls and systems, and our experience and knowledge of the entity.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements. The risk increases the further removed non compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements as we are less likely to become aware of instances of non compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Commission's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Commission's members those matters we are required to state to them in a Report of the Auditors and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Commission and the Commission's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A S Garner BA(Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Harrison Black Limited Statutory Auditor East Quay Kite Hill Wootton Bridge Isle of Wight PO33 4LA

Date: 12 | 9 | 20 2 5

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		202	24	202	.3
	Notes		£	£	£
TURNOVER	3		3,686,613		3,896,905
Cost of sales			2,806,807		2,599,061
GROSS SURPLUS			879,806		1,297,844
Administrative expenses			769,773		731,464
OPERATING SURPLUS	5		110,033		566,380
Interest receivable and similar income	10	92,760		29,206	
Other finance income	18	25,000	117,760	23,000	52,206
			227,793		618,586
Interest payable and similar expenses	6		37,041		37,795
SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION			190,752		580,791
Tax on surplus	7		68,447		122,129
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR			122,305		458,662

#### OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Notes	2024 £	2023 £
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	122,305	458,662
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Actuarial surplus/deficit on pension scheme Income tax relating to other	539,000	(34,000)
comprehensive income	(146,000)	(30,250)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE		
INCOME FOR THE YEAR, NET OF INCOME TAX	393,000	(64,250)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE		
INCOME FOR THE YEAR	515,305	394,412

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 31 DECEMBER 2024

		20		202	
A COPEC	Notes		£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS  Fangible assets	8		10,621,285		10,930,450
rungiore usseus					15 115
CURRENT ASSETS				40.061	
Stocks	9	21,870		48,261 372,413	
Debtors	10	323,992		2,817,966	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,377,240		2,817,900	
		3,723,102		3,238,640	
CREDITORS		-,,			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	1,149,916		968,941	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,573,186		2,269,699
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			13,194,471		13,200,149
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than or	ne				
year	12		(2,956,820)		(3,096,107)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	16		(984,378)		(777,393)
ROVISIONS FOR EIGHDEFFILES	10		(201,010)		(,)
PENSION ASSET	18		1,130,681		542,000
NET ASSETS			10,383,954		9,868,649
RESERVES					
Retained earnings	17		10,383,954		9,868,649
					2 (2725 /295
	21		10,383,954		9,868,649

P Hagen – Commissioner/Chairman

G Hall - Commissioner Chief Executive

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Balance at 1 January 2023	Retained earnings £ 9,474,237	Total equity £ 9,474,237
Changes in equity		
Total comprehensive income	394,412	394,412
Balance at 31 December 2023	9,868,649	9,868,649
Changes in equity		
Total comprehensive income	515,305	514,135
Balance at 31 December 2024	10,383,954	10,382,784

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024	2023
	Notes	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	676,667	448,983
Interest paid		(37,041)	(37,795)
Tax paid		(132,538)	(25,759)
Net cash from operating activities		507,088	385,429
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(106,951)	(183,832)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		48,150	-
Provisions		78,222	15,805
Interest received		92,760	29,206
Net cash from investing activities		112,181	(138,821)
Cash flows from financing activities		(50.005)	(57.061)
Loan repayments in year		(59,995)	(57,961)
Net cash from financing activities		(59,995)	(57,961)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		559,274	188,647
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	2	2,817,966	2,629,319
Cash and cash equivalents at end of			
year	2	3,377,240	2,817,966

# NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

# 1. RECONCILIATION OF SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION TO CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATIONS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Surplus before taxation	190,752	580,791
Depreciation charges	367,966	360,009
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	7,183
Difference on pension charge & cash contribution	(24,681)	(132,000)
Finance costs	37,041	37,795
Pension costs	(25,000)	(23,000)
Finance income	(92,760)	(29,206)
	453,318	801,572
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	26,391	(1,819)
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other debtors	48,421	(89,847)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other creditors	148,537	(260,923)
Cash generated from operations	676,667	448,983

### 2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The amounts disclosed on the Statement of Cash Flows in respect of cash and cash equivalents are in respect of these Statement of Financial Position amounts:

Year ended 31 December 2024	31.12.24 £	1.1.24 £
Cash and cash equivalents	3,377,240	2,817,966
Year ended 31 December 2023	31.12.23	1.1.23
Cash and cash equivalents	£ 2,817,966	£ 2,629,319

### NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 3. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Cash flow	At 31.12.24 £
Net cash Cash at bank and in hand	2,817,966	559,274	3,377,240
	2,817,966	559,274	3,377,240
Debt			
Debts falling due within 1 year	(68,472)	(2,463)	(70,935)
Debts falling due after 1 year	(449,321)	62,458	(386,863)
	(517,793)	59,995	_(457,798)
Total	2,300,173	619,269	2,919,442

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### INFORMATION ON THE COMMISSION 1.

Cowes Harbour Commission is an Independent Trust Port constituted by the Cowes Harbour Acts and Orders 1897 to 2012 and its principal place of business and registered office is Harbour Office, Town Quay, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7AS.

#### ACCOUNTING POLICIES 2.

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Turnover represents net invoiced sales of goods, facilities and services, excluding value added tax.

A sale of goods is recognised on despatch of the goods to the customer which is the point at which all the risks and rewards of ownership of the goods pass to the customer.

Turnover in respect of services is recognised when the Commission obtains the right to receive consideration for the services rendered to it's customer.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

- 2-4% on cost Freehold property 2% on cost Cowes breakwater 4% on cost Eastern Channel dredge - 10% on cost Harbour equipment - 5% on cost Vessels - 33% on cost Office equipment

Tangible fixed assets, other than investment property, are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Freehold land is not depreciated.

Grants are credited to deferred revenue under the accruals method. Grants towards capital expenditure are released to the income statement using the straight line method over the expected useful life of the assets. Grants towards revenue expenditure are released to the income statement as the related expenditure is incurred.

Government grants which do not impose specified future performance related conditions (including Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant) are recognised when received or receivable.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

#### Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Cost is based on the cost of purchase on a first in, first out basis.

#### **Taxation**

Taxation for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Income Statement, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the statement of financial position date.

#### Deferred tax

Deferred tax is provided in full on timing differences which result in an obligation at the statement of financial position date to pay more tax, or a right to pay less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current tax rates and laws. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the accounts. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is regarded as more likely than not that they will be recovered. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

#### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The Commission participates in the Isle of Wight Council Pension scheme, a defined benefit statutory scheme. Scheme assets are measured at fair values. Scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. The net surplus or deficit is presented separately from other net assets on the statement of financial position. The current service costs and costs from settlements and curtailments are charged against operating surplus. Past service costs are spread over the period until the benefit increases vest. Interest on the scheme liabilities and the expected return on the scheme assets are included net in other finance costs/income. Actuarial surpluses/deficits are reported in the statement of other comprehensive income. Entry for new members to this pension was stopped in May 2008.

The Commission also operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the Commission's pension scheme are charged to the income statement in the period to which they relate.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

#### Financial instruments

#### (i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### (ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade creditors and other payables including bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Commission has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Commission will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

#### **Employee benefits**

Short term benefits, including holiday pay and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

#### Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

The Commission makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below:

In preparing these financial statements, the commissioners have made the following judgements:

- Determine whether leases entered into by the Commission either as a lessor or a lessee are
  operating leases or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the
  risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by
  lease basis.
- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the Commission's tangible assets.
   Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset and where it is a component of a larger cash-generating unit, the viability and expected future performance of that unit.
- Determine whether the Commission has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, if it is probable that the Commission will be required to settle such obligation and if a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of such obligation.

#### Key estimation uncertainties are:

- Tangible fixed assets, other than investment property, are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation, product life cycles and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.
- Investment property is professionally valued every 5 years. In the intervening years investment property is valued using an in use methodology. This uses market rental values but there is an inevitable degree of judgement involved in that each property is unique and value can only ultimately be reliably tested in the market itself.
- The amount the Commission recognises as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.
- Defined Benefit pension scheme. The Commission has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including; life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Managements estimates these factors in determining the net pension obligation in the statement of financial position. The assumptions reflect historical experience and trends. See note 18 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit pension scheme.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3.	TURNOVER		
	The turnover and surplus before taxation are attributable to the Commission.	one principal	activity of the
	An analysis of turnover by class of business is given below:		
		2024 £	2023 £
	Harbour dues Pilotage	903,838 121,407	926,317 119,996
	Fuel sales Capital grant released Other commercial operations	718,570 63,120 1,879,678	835,337 63,120 1,952,135
		3,686,613	3,896,905
4.	EMPLOYEES AND COMMISSIONERS		
		2024 £	2023 £
	Wages and salaries Social security costs	1,079,310 105,295	956,286 93,288
	Other pension costs	<u>31,429</u> 1,216,034	36,330 1,085,904
		1,210,001	1,000,501
	The average number of employees during the year was as follows:	2024	2023
	Harbour staff	34	34
	The number of Commissioners to whom retirement benefits were accru	ing was as follo	ws:
	Money purchase schemes	1	1
	Except for the Chief Executive, Commissioners are not remunerated.		

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5.	OPERATING SURPLUS		
	The operating surplus is stated after charging:		
		2024	2023
		£	£
	Depreciation - owned assets	367,966	360,011
	Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	7,183
	Chief Executive's remuneration	114,286	109,041
	Auditors' remuneration	6,623	4,700
	Auditors' remuneration (non audit)	2,600	2,600
	Capital grant released	63,120	63,120
6.	INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR EXPENSES		
0.	II (I II I	2024	2023
		£	£
	Bank loan interest	37,041	37,795
7.	TAXATION		
	Analysis of the tax charge		
	The tax charge on the surplus for the year was as follows:	2024	2022
		2024	2023
		£	£
	Current tax:	07.404	100 500
	UK corporation tax	85,684	132,538
	Deferred tax	(17,237)	(10,409)
	Tax on surplus	68,447	122,129

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 7. TAXATION - continued

### Reconciliation of total tax charge included in profit and loss

The tax assessed for the year is higher than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK. The difference is explained below:

Surplus before tax		2024 £ 190,752	2023 £ 580,791
Surplus multiplied by the standard rate of corporation t of 25% (2023 - 25%)	ax in the UK	47,688	136,602
Effects of: Expenses not deductible for tax purposes Income not taxable for tax purposes Depreciation in excess of capital allowances Deferred tax		1,089 (23,951) 60,858 (17,237)	9,245 (47,773) 34,464 (10,409)
Total tax charge		68,447	122,129
Tax effects relating to effects of other comprehensive	e income		
Actuarial surplus/deficit on pension scheme	Gross £ 539,000	2024 Tax £ (146,000)	Net £ 393,000
Actuarial surplus/deficit on pension scheme	Gross £ (34,000)	2023 Tax £ (30,250)	Net £ (64,250)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1123					
8.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				Eastern
			Freehold property	Cowes breakwater	
	COST		£	£	£
	At 1 January 2024		3,722,048	7,333,990	337,800
	Additions		-	-	-
	Disposals			-	-
	At 31 December 2024		3,722,048	7,333,990	337,800
	DEPRECIATION				
	At 1 January 2024		313,922	1,190,353	63,056
	Charge for year		29,587	146,527	13,512
	Eliminated on disposal				
	At 31 December 2024		343,509	1,336,880	76,568
	NET BOOK VALUE				
	At 31 December 2024		3,378,539	5,997,110	261,232
	At 31 December 2023	,	3,408,126	6,143,637	274,744
		Harbour		Office	
		equipment £	Vessels £	equipment £	Totals £
	COST				
	At 1 January 2024	3,740,724	887,118	97,218	16,118,898
	Additions	86,451	20,500	-	106,951
	Disposals		(238,110)	<del>-</del>	(238,110)
	At 31 December 2024	3,827,175	669,508	97,218	15,987,739
	DEPRECIATION				
	At 1 January 2024	2,895,149	634,518	91,450	5,188,448
	Charge for year	131,551	42,624	4,165	367,966
	Eliminated on disposal		(189,960)		(189,960)
	At 31 December 2024	3,026,700	487,182	95,615	5,366,454
	NET BOOK VALUE				
	At 31 December 2024	800,475	182,326	1,603	10,621,285
	At 31 December 2023	845,575	252,600	5,768	10,930,450

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

Tangible fixed assets with a carrying value of £1,191,949 (2023: £1,191,949) are pledged as security for the bank loan.

#### 9. STOCKS

9.	STOCKS		
		2024	2023
	Fuel	£	£
	Goods for resale	12,193	37,162
	Goods for resale	9,677	11,099
		21,870	48,261
10.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
		2024	2023
		£	£
	Trade debtors	264,332	314,328
	Other debtors	15,395	13,275
	Prepayments	44,265	_44,810
		323,992	372,413
11.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
		2024	2023
		£	£
	Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 13)	70,935	68,472
	Trade creditors	76,937	48,893
	Corporation tax	85,684	132,538
	Social security and other taxes	26,439	24,091
	VAT	15,836	18,731
	Other creditors	19,280	168,079
	Accruals & deferred income	791,685	445,017
	Deferred capital grants	63,120	63,120

968,941

1,149,916

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 13)	386,863	449,321
Other creditors	51,415	65,124
Deferred capital grants	2,518,542	2,581,662
	2,956,820	3,096,107

Included in "other creditors" in both notes 11 and 12 is an amount of £65,167 payable in instalments over the next 6 years to the Trustees of the Pilots National Pension Fund (PNPF) representing PNPF's estimates of CHC's share of the deficit in the Fund. PNPF have stated that amount payable may not be the final liability. It has not been possible to quantify the amount of the additional liability, if any.

#### 13. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year or on demand: Bank loans	70,935	68,472
Amounts falling due between one and two years: Bank loans	73,348	70,935
Amounts falling due between two and five years: Bank loans	235,340	227,615
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable by instalments Bank loans	78,175	150,771

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 14. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-canc	ellable operating leases fall due as follows:
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	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	61,970	62,022
Between one and five years	273,450	275,999
In more than five years	409,190	400,178
	744.610	738 199

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year were £62,864 (2023: £59,361).

#### 15. SECURED DEBTS

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans	457,798	517,793

The bank loan is secured by a 1st legal charge over the land on the South West of Kingston Road and the land adjoining Shepherds Wharf Marina.

#### 16. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

	2024 £	2023
Deferred tax	L	£
Surplus rolled over	348,488	350,061
Pension asset/(deficit)	281,500	135,500
Investment property revaluation	(77,500)	(77,500)
Accelerated capital allowances	239,390	267,554
Deferred tax other timing differences		(12,500)
	791,878	663,115
Other provisions	192,500	114,278
Aggregate amounts	984,378	777,393

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### **PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES - continued** 16.

	Deferred tax £	Other provisions £
Balance at 1 January 2024	663,115	114,278
Credit to Income Statement during year	(17,237)	
Maintenance dredge provision	-	78,222
Charge to other comprehensive income	146,000	
Balance at 31 December 2024	791,878	192,500

The net deferred tax liability expected to reverse in 2025 is £43,174 This primarily relates to the reversal of timing differences on capital allowances.

#### Maintenance dredge provision

The maintenance dredge provision is calculated by considering the likely cost of such dredging as a result of the condition of the harbour at the end of the financial year. The expenditure is expected to be incurred during 2025/26.

#### 17.

RESERVES	
	Income and expenditure account
	£
At 1 January 2024	9,868,649
Surplus for the year	122,305
Other recognised surpluses	539,000
Movement on deferred tax relating to pension liability	(146,000)
At 31 December 2024	10,383,954

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 18. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The commission participates in a defined benefit pension scheme in the UK. A full actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 March 2022 and updated to 31 December 2024 by a qualified independent actuary.

The amounts recognised in the statement of financial position are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2024 £	2023 £
Present value of funded obligations Fair value of plan assets	(2,350,000) 3,480,681	(2,666,000) 3,208,000
Present value of unfunded obligations	1,130,681	542,000
Net Asset	1,130,681	542,000
The amounts recognised in surplus or deficit are as follows:		
	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost Net interest from net defined benefit	8,000	8,000
asset/liability	(25,000)	(22,000)
Past service cost		
	(17,000)	(14,000)
Actual return on plan assets	363,000	233,000

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 18. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

		Defined benefit pension plans	
	2024	2023 £	
Opening defined benefit obligation	2,666,000	2,532,000	
Current service cost	8,000	8,000	
Contributions by scheme participants	2,000	2,000	
Interest cost	119,000	118,000	
Actuarial deficits/(surpluses)	(320,000)	127,000	
Benefits paid	(125,000)	(121,000)	
	2,350,000	2,666,000	

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit	
	pension plans	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening fair value of scheme assets	3,208,000	2,953,000
Contributions by employer	32,681	141,000
Contributions by scheme participants	2,000	2,000
Expected return	144,000	140,000
Actuarial surpluses/(deficits)	219,000	93,000
Benefits paid	(125,000)	(121,000)
	3,480,681	3,208,000

The amounts recognised in other comprehensive income are as follows:

		ined benefit nsion plans	
Actuarial surplus/(deficit)	2024 £ 539,000	2023 £ _(34,000)	
	539,000	(34,000)	

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 18. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued

The major categories of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets are as follows:

		Defined benefit pension plans	
	2024	2023	
Equities	61%	73%	
Bonds	21%	15%	
Property	5%	5%	
Cash	13%	7%	
	100%	100%	

Principal actuarial assumptions at the balance sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	2024	2023
Discount rate	5.50%	4.55%
Future salary increases	3.75%	3.85%
Future pension increases	2.75%	2.85%

#### Mortality

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2022 model, with a 0% weighting of 2021 (& 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7) initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. Based on these assumptions, average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below.

	Males	Females
Current pensioners	22.6 years	25.2 years
Future pensioners	21.7 years	25.4 years

#### Commutation

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take 50% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits.

#### **Defined contribution scheme**

The Commissioners operate a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Commission in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Commission to the fund.

The defined contribution scheme costs for the year amounted to £131,939 (2023: £109,192) and £nil (2023: £2,902) was outstanding at the year end.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year the Commissioners occupied boat storage and mooring facilities provided by the Commission amounting to £4,143 (2023: £2,744). All transactions were carried out on normal commercial terms save for key management who received the normal staff discount. The total outstanding at the balance sheet was £nil (2023: £nil).

#### 20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

There is no ultimate controlling party.

#### 21. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN RESERVES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Surplus for the financial year	122,305	458,662
Other comprehensive income relating to the year (net)	393,000	(64,250)
Net addition to reserves	515,305	394,412
Opening reserves	9,868,649	9,474,237
Closing reserves	10,383,954	9,868,649