

## Statement by Chair of RCCT and member of Ramsgate HAZ Programme Board

CCTs were set up as part of a government initiative to reverse the decline of coastal towns such as Ramsgate. There are now 146 around the coast of England, each with the same focus on addressing the socio-economic challenges of their area.

Ramsgate Coastal Community Team (RCCT) was set up in 2016 as a partnership between the district council, the town council and the voluntary sector. Our, considered, long-term ambition is to see Ramsgate thriving, with a strong, mixed economy that meets the needs of its residents and draws visitors to the town.

RCCT drafted the application for the whole of Ramsgate to be given HAZ status. Ramsgate Heritage Action Zone is a partnership between Historic England, Thanet District Council and RCCT and its aim is for Ramsgate to become a prosperous maritime town combining outstanding heritage and architecture with new investment and development that supports sustainable growth in all parts of the town, using our historic environment as a catalyst to strengthen the economic base and address the social needs of our community.

Historic England has clarified its original response to the ExA, confirming that there would be some harm to heritage assets in Ramsgate and stating ... *we considered that the socio-economic effects were not unique to the historic environment and would be better assessed by those with expertise in this area and the matter determined by the Examining Authority.*"

We carefully considered the current application with reference to the aims of both RCCT and RHAZ and concluded that the presence of an air cargo hub just outside the town would not contribute to the development of a strong mixed economy nor address the social needs of our community. Rather the increase in noise, diminution of air quality, and visual pollution would all have a detrimental effect on the population of the town and the town's economic recovery.

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