

CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

CONTENTS

	Page
Chairman's statement	1 - 2
Balance sheet	3
Notes to the financial statements	4 - 6

CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

It was unexpected to return to the role of Chairman of the Crouch Harbour Authority (CHA) in May 2025 following the resignation of my predecessor. Since then, it has been a demanding and productive period for the Authority and its Trustees. This report provides an overview of the CHA's role, activities, and the challenges and priorities ahead.

The Role of the Crouch Harbour Authority

The Crouch Harbour Authority is the Statutory Harbour and Navigation Authority for the Rivers Crouch and Roach in South Essex. It operates as a not-for-profit Trust Port under the Crouch Harbour Act 1974, holding its assets and exercising its powers for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The CHA is responsible for ensuring marine safety and overseeing all maritime activity within the harbour area. Its core functions include:

Marine Safety and Navigation

Managing and directing the movement of regulated vessels. Providing and authorising pilots and delivering all required pilotage services. Surveying fairways and channels and issuing navigational information. Conducting dredging works. Maintaining buoyage and channel marking. Removing hazards, wrecks, and obstructions.

Licensing and Regulation

Licensing boat moorings. Licensing marine works and dredging operations. Enforcing speed limits and regulating waterskiing and Personal Watercraft (PWC) activity.

Environmental and Operational Management

Oil spill prevention, response, and clean-up capability. Managing waste from vessels and collecting harbour dues and charges.

In delivering these responsibilities, the CHA must comply with a wide range of statutory requirements. Chief among these is the Port and Marine Facilities Safety Code, which requires that marine risks be managed to remain as low as reasonably practicable. The Authority also operates within an increasingly complex regulatory framework for environmental and water quality.

Governance and Financial Management

Like many small ports and harbours, the CHA continues to face financial pressures. Good governance requires the Authority not only to break even but to generate a modest operational surplus to remain sustainable. While this remains a priority for the Trustees, it inevitably increases user fees.

Trustees and stakeholders must understand that the Authority can act only within the powers granted by legislation, regulations, and Codes of Practice. The Trustees continue to work toward a structured, formal framework to anticipate and manage future change.

I am pleased to welcome Robert Coyle as Chair of the Finance and Estates Committee. Working with a small but dedicated committee, he oversees budgets, accounts, leases, and the vital task of ensuring timely payment of charges.

Operational Activity

Commercial berth activity at Baltic Wharf has remained steady during the year, with some changes to the regular vessels calling at the port. It is encouraging to see consistent cargo volumes entering this small but essential harbour.

The Authority's working boats have continued to provide reliable and professional service. *Watchful* delivers valuable weekend patrol coverage. *Crouch Trident*, our pilot cutter, continues to support pilotage operations for commercial shipping.

Staff and Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Harbour Master and all CHA staff. Since taking office, I have been supported with exceptional dedication and professionalism. The Harbour Master, in particular, has worked extensively through periods of change, ensuring continuity, addressing unresolved matters, and maintaining practical cooperation with local authorities and emergency services.

CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Key Challenges Ahead

The CHA faces several ongoing and emerging challenges, including: Implementation of potential changes to shellfishery activity and Several Orders. Preparedness for tidal flooding, emergency response, and resilience planning. Maintaining and improving river water quality in line with evolving environmental legislation. Ensuring ongoing training for staff, Trustees, and committee members, with a strong focus on succession planning. Managing rising operational costs, including fleet maintenance, buoyage upkeep, and salvage responsibilities.

Priorities for 2026

Looking ahead, the Authority will place increased emphasis on developing “Stay Safe” initiatives with local schools and community organisations. Generating sustainable income to support long-term financial stability. Continued maintenance of navigational aids, patrol vessels, and harbour infrastructure. Modernisation of the CHA website. Effective management of salvage obligations and the removal of abandoned craft.

The Trustees remain committed to ensuring that the Crouch Harbour Authority continues to operate safely, responsibly, and sustainably for the benefit of all who use and depend upon the Rivers Crouch and Roach.

This period between Christmas and New Year's gives us time to reflect on the year that has ended and conjecture on the year that is beginning. Enjoy the river and the surrounding nature in 2026.

E Buckley

Chairman, Finance and Estates

27 August 2026

CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	2		165,277		171,259
Investments	3		155,770		153,746
			<u>321,047</u>		<u>325,005</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	4	31,063		46,171	
Cash at bank and in hand		671,254		671,116	
		<u>702,317</u>		<u>717,287</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	(46,926)		(73,581)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net current assets			655,391		643,706
Net assets			<u>976,438</u>		<u>968,711</u>
Capital and reserves					
Other reserves			150,000		150,000
Profit and loss reserves			826,438		818,711
Total equity			<u>976,438</u>		<u>968,711</u>

The directors of the company have elected not to include a copy of the profit and loss account within the financial statements.

For the financial year ended 31 December 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the chairman and authorised for issue on 27 August 2026 and are signed on its behalf by:

E Buckley
Chairman

CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 as applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Turnover

Revenue comprises sales of goods or services provided to customers net of value added tax and other sales taxes, less an appropriate deduction for actual and expected returns and discounts. Revenue is recognised when performance obligations are satisfied and the control of goods or services is transferred to the buyer. Where the performance obligation is satisfied over time, revenue is recognised in accordance with its progress towards complete satisfaction of that performance obligation.

When cash inflows are deferred and represent a financing arrangement, the promised consideration is adjusted for the effects of the time value of money, which is recognised as interest income.

Revenue from contracts for the provision of professional services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion when the stage of completion, costs incurred and costs to complete can be estimated reliably. The stage of completion is calculated by comparing costs incurred, mainly in relation to contractual hourly staff rates and materials, as a proportion of total costs. Where the outcome cannot be estimated reliably, revenue is recognised only to the extent of the expenses recognised that are recoverable.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Not depreciated
Leasehold land and buildings	Over the length of the lease
Plant and equipment	15% reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	15% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to profit or loss.

1.4 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method 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. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1.5 Taxation

The tax expense represents the sum of the tax currently payable and deferred tax.

Current tax

The tax currently payable is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from net profit as reported in the profit and loss account because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The company's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting end date.

Deferred tax

Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all timing differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Such assets and liabilities are not recognised if the timing difference arises from goodwill or from the initial recognition of other assets and liabilities in a transaction that affects neither the tax profit nor the accounting profit.

2 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Plant and machinery etc £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2025	120,975	712,520	833,495
Additions	-	4,975	4,975
Disposals	-	(5,279)	(5,279)
At 31 December 2025	120,975	712,216	833,191
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2025	9,671	652,565	662,236
Depreciation charged in the year	466	9,608	10,074
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(4,396)	(4,396)
At 31 December 2025	10,137	657,777	667,914
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2025	110,838	54,439	165,277
At 31 December 2024	111,304	59,955	171,259

CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

3 Fixed asset investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Other investments other than loans	155,770	153,746

Movements in fixed asset investments

	Investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2025	153,746
Additions	2,024
At 31 December 2025	155,770
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2025	155,770
At 31 December 2024	153,746

4 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	16,516	19,944
Other debtors	14,547	26,227
	31,063	46,171

5 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	20,269	31,331
Taxation and social security	5,199	13,597
Other creditors	21,458	28,653
	46,926	73,581