

## **TransEuropa Debacle**

Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee.

*Jeremiah 7:27. Authorised version of King James's bible, 1611.*

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### **Extract from email sent by David Foley to UK Port Advisors who had been appointed by Thanet District Council to report on the operations of the port of Ramsgate**

**Sent on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012**

“As regards the management and operations of the Port of Ramsgate, I find it difficult to assess the true state of affairs since TDC does not publish traffic information, specific accounts or give anything other than a most general report on its operations. Following a meeting in May 2012 with the TDC leader, Cllr Clive Hart, and the TDC Chief Executive, Dr. Sue McGonigal, Dr. Moses and I were led to believe that TDC does not separate the Port of Ramsgate accounts or any detailed information on its financial management. It seems that a discreet commentary on costs and expenditure is not available. Although we have every reason to believe that the Harbour Master, Rob Brown, is thoroughly professional and competent in all his dealings, we find that the lack of transparency and the absence of trading information lead to the inevitable conclusion that the strategic and financial management of the port gives rise to justifiable and eminently reasonable concern.

If the TDC accounting procedures do not allow for port operations to be assessed as a cost centre, then this should be addressed as a matter of urgency. Under current legislation, TDC will have been given a year to produce an acceptable Local Plan for the district. Unlike the Dover District Council, Thanet does not have an official Local Development Framework to update. Its plans for the Port of Ramsgate suffer from an all too familiar opacity.”

David Foley  
Chief Executive  
Thanet & East Kent Chamber Ltd

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### **Km Group 31 May 2013**

#### **“Thanet councillors 'blocking probe' into £3m failed ferry deal with TransEuropa**

by Paul Francis  
Political Editor  
31 May 2013

Thanet District Council is facing further criticism over a secret deal with ferry operator TransEuropa amid claims councillors are trying to block an investigation into what went wrong.

The deal has left the authority with a £3.3million funding gap and the Labour council has now agreed a package of measures to cover the black hole - including a £1m cut to the housing benefits budget.”

See [http://www.kentonline.co.uk/thanet\\_extra/news/Ferry-deal-1380/](http://www.kentonline.co.uk/thanet_extra/news/Ferry-deal-1380/)

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### **BBC 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

#### **Complaint lodged over £3.4m Thanet TransEuropa ferry debt**

A council which allowed a passenger ferry company to accrue £3.4m of debt by waiving port fees has been referred to the European Commission (EC).

The debt came to light after Belgian firm TransEuropa went into administration in April, ending the only service from Ramsgate.

See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-22881982>