

# Media Release

17<sup>th</sup> February 2005

## **GRAND TURK TO DROP ANCHOR INDEFINITELY DURING WINTER SEASON**

The Grand Turk looks set to be a permanent feature in Whitby Harbour during the winter season providing a welcomed boost to the town's charm at this time of year.

A report to be discussed with Cllr. Jim Preston, portfolio holder for harbours, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February details a letter received from the owners of the ship expressing a desire to set up a long-term arrangement for winter berthing in Whitby between September and March. In the letter, Capt Macdougall says:

*We very much appreciate our Winter berth in Whitby and of course absolutely treasure the way that the wider community in general have accepted the presence of the Grand Turk in the Harbour.*

Port Manager, Bill Estill, welcomed the approach from the Grand Turk and said:

“The Grand Turk has berthed at Whitby every year since 2001 and the Master and crew have forged strong links with the community. The ship has been made available free of charge for charity and other community events on several occasions and is highly regarded as part of Whitby's strong maritime heritage and overall appeal to visitors.

“We are extremely pleased that such a prestigious ship is keen to strengthen its ties to the area and have received a number of testimonies from local organisations about the added

value the ship brings. Our recommendation to Cllr. Preston is that the approach from the Grand Turk is accepted.”

Under the proposed agreement, the Grand Turk has agreed to vacate the berth for short periods should one of the Tall Ships visiting later this year express an interest in returning during the winter and in turn, the Council will honour any filming commitments that the vessel may attract.