

## **Training academy success and launch of new programme**

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## **Training academy sees continued success at Port of Tilbury as new Apprenticeship programme launched**

The Port of Tilbury, London's major port, has launched a new apprenticeship programme this month on the back of a successful year for its onsite training academy. The Port, which has a long and proud tradition of investing in apprenticeships to ensure a highly skilled workforce for the future, has ambitious plans to employ more apprentices and offer more skills training for young people in the Thames gateway area.

With over 50 apprentices, both male and female, directly or indirectly employed working across the port, undertaking apprenticeship programmes over the last 18 months, The Port of Tilbury is delivering on its commitment to employing apprentices. This commitment is on-going, with the port recruiting 9 more apprentices for a new two-year Conventional Operative Apprenticeship programme, commencing in October and an additional two new students about to commence an advanced apprenticeship in Business Administration.

The apprentices, from diverse backgrounds, are trained at the Port of Tilbury Training Academy, which opened in 2014 and is dedicated to the delivery of ports and logistics skills, education and training for the Port, its

tenants and anyone in the community. With 65% of the Ports workforce living in the local community and a strong record of support for a broad range of community initiatives, one of the main priorities of the new Training Academy is to work closely with the community in relation to education, training and skills.

Commenting on the Port of Tilbury Training Academy, **Perry Glading**, Forth Ports Chief Operating Officer said: “Forth Ports is fully committed to investing in apprenticeships across the group. *Having a strong apprentice training programme is vital to the future success of The Port of Tilbury and our other ports across the UK. The importance of finding talented young individuals from the community and developing their skills so they can take our business forward in the future can't be underestimated. With over 50 apprentices directly or indirectly employed working across the port of Tilbury, undertaking apprenticeships and/or apprenticeship qualifications over the last 18 months, Tilbury can be justifiably proud of its demonstrable commitment to apprenticeships.*”

**Simon Harper**, Training and Development Manager at the Port of Tilbury Training Academy said: “*Through our work with local schools and colleges, it became clear that that young people from all across the community, from different backgrounds and genders needed support in making the transition from full-time education to the workplace, and assistance in improving their long-term employment prospects and aspiration. The port is not only building bright futures for both trainees and apprentices but is also playing an important role in boosting the local economy by providing continued employment opportunities to young people in the Thurrock area.*”

Across the Forth Ports group, there are other well established, successful apprenticeship programmes. In Scotland there is the Engineering Apprenticeship for both electrical and mechanical training. Other qualifications include the SVQ Stevedoring VQ level 2, where 119 **port** operators have successfully completed this with 2 further **port** operators due to complete shortly. The New Modern Apprenticeship VQ Port Operations qualification has 21 operators registered and all, except 4 have started **their Modern Apprenticeship**. In addition, 18 employees have completed a Level 4 SVQ.

In Scotland, Forth Ports has recently launched its first Modern Apprentice Programme working in partnership with SQA (Scottish Qualifications Board), Port Skills & Safety and Unite the Union and RMT trade unions. The new programme has been approved by the Modern Apprenticeship Group (MAG) and more significantly, is the first approval of a modern apprenticeship programme for a Port Operator in the UK. Forth Port's Modern Apprenticeship programme – the Maritime Occupations SCQF Level 5 framework Additional Pathway - will provide the opportunity for individuals, aged 18 or over, to get first class training and mentoring from the business whilst gaining a professional qualification through tailored learning and development.

## **Further information:**

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## **Notes to editors:**

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### **About the Port of Tilbury Training Academy**

The academy is located within the port estate and is a fully equipped Training Centre in a building that was previously used as the London Olympics 2012 logistics hub. Together with a dedicated RTITB registered Forklift Truck Training Centre, The Academy provides a wide range of mandatory, technical and management training, not only for the 135 companies and 3,500 employees on the port estate, but also for the wider Thames Gateway area. The Academy also works closely with port customers to help supply the skills needs for their workforce.

The Academy recently launched the Port of Tilbury Traineeship programme. A Traineeship is a government approved national education and training scheme with work experience placements that give young people the skills and experience that a potential employer are looking for. At its core, is work preparation training, English and Maths for those who need it and a series of work experience placements.

Working closely with the National Apprenticeship Service and Job Centre Plus to bring in young (18 – 24 years) unemployed people as Trainees via the Job Centre, the Port of Tilbury Traineeship programme has given 32 local young people an introduction and feel for the work place and the port sector. In addition, the Ports Training Academy provides them with functional skills learning (Numeracy, Literacy and ICT) plus employability skills and Health & Safety training. 27 of these have proved that they can undertake port work on a shift basis, and have been taken on by the ports main labour supply agency HDS on their 12 month HDS Port Apprenticeship Programme with a view to a longer term future in port operations.

The Port of Tilbury directly employs over 800 people and contributes to the local economy with over 8000 jobs depending the port to continue to be successful. Tilbury plays a pivotal role in supporting the UK economy, from supplying construction materials for housing schemes across the South East and large infrastructure projects like Crossrail to supporting the drive to improve recycling rates with the largest sorting and export facility in Britain.

## **Apprenticeships in Scotland**

In Scotland, Forth Ports has recently launched its first Modern Apprentice Programme working in partnership with SQA (Scottish Qualifications Board), Port Skills & Safety and Unite the Union and RMT trade unions. The new programme has been approved by the Modern Apprenticeship Group (MAG) and more significantly, is the first approval of a modern apprenticeship programme for a Port Operator in the UK. Forth Port's Modern Apprenticeship programme – the Maritime Occupations SCQF Level 5 framework Additional Pathway - will provide the opportunity for individuals, aged 18 or over, to get first class training and mentoring from the business whilst gaining a professional qualification through tailored learning and development. Already 19 existing employees have been registered to undertake the VQ in Port Operations.

In Scotland there is also the Engineering Apprenticeship for both electrical and mechanical training. Other qualifications include the SVQ Stevedoring VQ level 2, where 119 operators have successfully completed this with 2 further operators due to complete shortly. The New Modern Apprenticeship VQ Port Operations qualification has 21 operators registered for SVQ Port Operations and all, except 4 mobile plant operatives have started. The VQ Level 4 apprenticeship has seen 18 employees completing a Level 4 SVQ.

## **About The Port of Tilbury - the major gateway to London and the South East**

The Port of Tilbury is London's major port, providing fast, modern distribution services for the benefit of the south east of England and beyond. A dynamic and diverse port handling the full range of cargoes with specialist expertise in the handling of paper and forest products, containers & Ro Ro, grain and bulk commodities and construction and building materials.

Tilbury's strategic location makes it the natural point for distribution with 18 million people living within 75 miles. Serving the UK's market, the port offers customers excellent transport links to and from the capital and across the South East where over 50% of the population live and work.

The Port is a diverse multi-modal hub, covering over 920 acres and is well positioned to access the M25 orbital motorway and the rest of the UK's national motorway network. In addition, there are direct rail connections within the Port, with access to the whole of the UK and dedicated barge facilities.

London Container Terminal (LCT) provides a unique combination of European Short Sea and Deep Sea services at the same facility. As the UK's third largest container terminal, Tilbury handles over half a million containers per year.

The London Construction Link (LCL) is a collaboration between the Port of Tilbury and S. Walsh, one of the leading construction solutions companies in London. The partnership is seeking to relieve congestion on the capital's roads, with associated cycling safety and CO2 benefits, through promoting greater use of construction consolidation and the use of the river for construction projects on or near the Thames. LCL builds upon the Tilbury's pedigree as the logistics and distribution hub for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and S. Walsh's success as the largest marine operator on the Thames. LCL is supported by British Cycling.

[www.forthports.co.uk](http://www.forthports.co.uk) / [www.londoncontainerterminal.com](http://www.londoncontainerterminal.com) / [www.londondistributionpark.com](http://www.londondistributionpark.com)