

Tilbury welcomes Housing Minister

Posted: 2017-02-16



PRESS RELEASE

HOUSING MINISTER VISITS TILBURY – THE UK’S NUMBER ONE PORT FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

The Port of Tilbury, London’s major port, welcomed the Minister of State for Housing, Gavin Barwell MP, to the port today (16 February) to see the impacts of the significant investment programme, including two major extensions to the port estate to accommodate projected business growth.

The port has doubled in volume size in the past ten years and plays a major role as an economic driver for the local area and for London as a whole. The Minister was updated on Tilbury’s position as the UK’s number one port for construction materials which handled over 40million bricks last year destined for the housing market (*see image*). The port is also the leader in handling aggregates, construction materials and timber volumes in support of the English house building and wider construction programmes.

The Minister was briefed on the port's £1bn investment programme that includes the creation of a new 152-acre deep-water port facility, Tilbury 2, adjacent to the current port and he was updated on the progress of the construction of the UK's largest warehouse at Tilbury for Amazon UK. These two major projects, coupled with opening of Europe's largest chill store at the port in partnership with NFT and the completion this year of Tilbury Green Power, the 40MW energy-from-waste power facility, will contribute to the rapid growth of this major port.

Commenting on the visit **Charles Hammond, Group Chief Executive, Forth Ports** (owners of the Port of Tilbury) said: *"Tilbury is at the heart of the South East's growth and it was a pleasure to brief the minister responsible on the future of London's major port. He heard for himself about our ambitious growth plans and the importance we play in the construction market as the number one port for handling building materials. This is an exciting time for Tilbury as we drive our expansion plans forward, which will generate further local jobs and substantial economic benefit."*

Housing and Planning Minister Gavin Barwell MP said: *"It's been fantastic to visit the Port of Tilbury to discuss their ambitious plans for growth in the Thames Gateway area. Their planned extension will help make sure the port continues to be the UK's number one supplier of building materials."*

"As we set out in our Housing White Paper, investment in infrastructure is crucial to ensuring that many more homes are built quickly, in the places that people want to live."

16 February 2017

- ends -

Further information/images:

Debbie Johnston, Spreng Thomson – 0141 548 5191 / debbie@sprengthomson.com

Notes

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. The Port of Tilbury is 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 a 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 UK's capital and across the South East where over 50% of the population live and work.

The port is a diverse multi-modal hub, covering around 1,100 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 rail network, and dedicated barge facilities.

Tilbury 2 - 152 acres of land, including a further deep water jetty, close to the east of the port has been acquired. This land acquisition brings the total port acreage to 1,100 acres and Forth Ports intends to use this land to extend their current operations with the creation of a new port, to grow to meet the needs of their customers and market demands. It is anticipated that a development consent order will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in late 2017. It is envisaged that the site will be a construction materials and short-sea shipping hub, handling imported and exported materials and goods.

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. There is an extensive range of ro-ro services through Tilbury. Facilities exist for car carriers, ferries, combi ships and heavy lifts. There are dedicated ro-ro berths in the dock and deepsea berths along the riverside as well as freight ferry services to Europe.

www.forthports.co.uk @forthports