

Transport Minister Visits Tilbury

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PRESS RELEASE

TRANSPORT MINISTER VISITS TILBURY TO SEE IMPACTS OF SIGNIFICANT PORT INVESTMENT

Robert Goodwill MP praises Tilbury's investment in enhancing its connectivity to the Capital and South East, creating nearly 1,000 new jobs in 12 months

The Port of Tilbury, London's major port, welcomed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Robert Goodwill MP, to tour the port this week to see the impacts of the significant investment programme, including the extensions to the port estate to accommodate projected business growth.

The Minister arrived by boat from central London to allow him to see the port's London connection and was briefed en route about Tilbury's role in supporting nationally significant projects, from Crossrail to Tideway. Thurrock MP, Jackie Doyle-Price, joined her Westminster colleague on the visit.

The port, which has doubled in volume size in the past ten years, plays a major role as an economic driver for the local area and for London as a whole. This week the port handled its **one millionth freight unit** with P&O Ferries who operate a successful route at Tilbury to Zeebrugge due the port's connectivity to the Capital. P&O have enjoyed an increase in volumes of almost 300% since the route was launched eight years ago.

The party were taken on a tour of operations to see for themselves the outcome of the investment across the port including London Container Terminal, one of the UK's largest container terminals, which together with the rest of the port, handles over half a million containers each year. The Minister was also briefed on the progress of the new chilled food facility which is under construction at the London Container Terminal. The store, operated in partnership with NFT, will be the largest port-based chill store in Europe, employing nearly 700 people, and is due to open in early 2016.

The party were also updated on The London Construction Link alliance between S Walsh and the port, which offers construction solutions using water transportation for sites near or beside the Thames to relieve truck congestion on the Capital's roads; as well as the Cory Environmental operation that moves and processes the Capital's waste, with the final phase of the operation at Tilbury.

The party visited the new 70-acre distribution park on the outskirts of the port called the London Distribution Park. The park, which already has Travis Perkins operating from the site, is the largest speculative development on the market near London and is expected to bring over 1,100 new jobs to the Thames Gateway regeneration area.

Commenting on the visit **Charles Hammond, Group Chief Executive, Forth Ports** (owners of The Port of Tilbury) said: *"We were thrilled that the Minister joined us for a tour by boat from central London today. The success of the port is our location and connectivity to the Capital. Tilbury's port operations continue to expand to support London and the South East's economic growth - from house building, nationally significant infrastructure projects to increased demand for a wide range of household goods.*

"The Minister saw for himself the extent of our investment programme and new developments, including NFT's large-scale chill store which will open in the coming weeks. Collectively, our new operations are creating large scale job opportunities for Thurrock."

4 December 2015

- ends -

Further information/images:

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Notes

Thurrock terminals - including the Port of Tilbury, Cobelfret and Vopak - handle more freight by volume than the ports of Felixstowe and Dover.

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 850 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 / www.londoncontainerterminal.com / www.londondistributionpark.com