

Statement of support for Tilbury 2 proposals by Essex Chambers of Commerce

My name is David Burch. I am Director of Policy for Essex Chambers of Commerce.

We are a countywide business membership organisation of which the Port of Tilbury Limited are members. We have around a thousand members ranging from small businesses through to national and international companies who employ 41,900 people across the county including in and around Thurrock and the wider south Essex corridor.

As part of our support to businesses generally we offer a range of services for exporters and we see the benefits to those businesses of having a major port like Tilbury that offers a range of facilities to exporters and importers.

We have seen the growth in demand for the services that Forth Ports offer through their existing port at Tilbury and from our own experiences and engagement with businesses fully concur with their arguments for the construction of Tilbury 2. There has been a growth in Ro/Ro traffic, which is important for existing and future UK trade with Europe, and this needs to be facilitated, something that Tilbury's scheme will clearly do.

From our own engagement with the construction sector we are aware that there is a need for appropriate materials to be brought into the UK to support developments across not just Essex but also in London and the south east of England. Tilbury 2's proposed construction materials and aggregate terminal will be an important element of delivering the supply chain for those developments.

The development of Tilbury 2 will also bring major economic benefits to Thurrock and the wider area in terms of job creation and security thereby ensuring that the Port of Tilbury's contribution to the local economy continues and is safeguarded. It already supports 8,500 direct and indirect jobs and these proposals will see further jobs created helping to sustain and grow the Thurrock and south Essex economies.

As the UK is negotiating its future relationship with the remaining members of the European Union and considering possible options for trade deals with other countries around the world, it is important that investment continues to take place in what are our gateways to our trading partners in Europe and around the globe.

The Port of Tilbury will continue to be one such gateway and these proposals will enhance its status supporting the local, regional and national economies as well as providing a vital portal for both EU and non EU trade. We are happy to lend our support to Forth Port's scheme and urge that the development consent order is granted.