

**To:** Councillor Mary Newton, Business & Economic Growth Portfolio Holder

**From:** Tom Gardiner, Head of Regeneration

**Cc:** Paul Price, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mike Carran, Assistant Director, Economic Growth and Leisure  
Richard Barrett, Assistant Director, Finance and IT

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Councillor Newton

### **HMG Freeports Consultation**

You will recall that in February 2020 Government launched a consultation on the use, designation and application of Freeports in the United Kingdom. The closing date for submissions was 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020, but due to the COVID-19 lockdown Government determined to extend the consultation period to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Following work commissioned last year (circulated in March 2020) to assess the opportunities for Harwich International Port and Bathside Bay, it was agreed that the Council should (in part or in full) prepare a response to the Government's Freeports Consultation, using (as appropriate) the earlier study to inform its position.

As with the HIP/Bathside Bay study, it has been agreed that the Council should work in partnership with Essex County Council in the preparation of a united response to the consultation, and to this end a specification has been prepared (attached at A.1 Appendix A) and a contractor has been identified to assist the two Councils with this work.

The procurement has been managed and administered by Essex County Council, who will be the accountable body for this commission. The cost of this work will be shared on a 50:50 basis by the two authorities. Tendring Council's financial contribution is expected to be in the amount of £3,000. The work is to be undertaken by SQW, the same contractor and consultant that helped prepare the North Essex Economic Strategy. The total study value will not exceed £6,000.

Given the Council's commitment to supporting local businesses, and its leading role in promoting Harwich as a location for business (inward investment), I hereby request your approval to allocate £3,000 from unallocated resources within the Council's Business Investment and Growth Budget to match fund the cost of this work.

Kind regards

Tom Gardiner  
Head of Regeneration  
Tendring District Council

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Dear Tom

**HMG Freeports Consultation**

Thank you for your memorandum dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 requesting approval to allocate and utilise £3,000 from the Business, Investment & Growth Budget to support the cost of a co-funded study to shape the Councils (TDC/ECC) response to the Government's Freeports Consultation as referenced in your memorandum.

I agree that funding in the value of £3,000 can be allocated for the purpose described.

Mary Newton

Kind regards

Councillor Mary Newton  
Business & Economic Growth Portfolio Holder

Date: 15/05/2020