

Freeports Team
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Please ask for : Cllr. Mary Newton

8th July 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Freeports Consultation - Boosting Trade, Jobs and Investment Across the UK

Tendring District Council is delighted to respond to the Government's consultation on a proposed new Freeports policy. We believe that a well-designed, ambitious policy could attract additional investment into the UK, enabling and encouraging innovation and delivering benefits to businesses as well as being an important catalyst for the regeneration of deprived, peripheral and left behind communities. On this basis Tendring Council is keen to be a constructive partner of Government in the development and delivery of its national policy framework.

At this stage we understand that the Government is consulting on the design of a potential Freeports policy, rather than seeking proposals for individual Freeport locations. However, we believe that a Freeport linked with the major port operations at Harwich and Felixstowe, combined with the development opportunities afforded by Bathside Bay would make a significant contribution to the UK's economy and could also offer substantial national, regional and local regeneration benefits. The Council's early consideration of these opportunities underpins the attached response.

The Council has worked with Essex County Council in framing this joint response, which has also been informed by wider consultation with Hutchison Ports UK (the owner/operator of the Port of Felixstowe and Harwich International Port), the Harwich Haven Authority, local authority partners representing Suffolk and East Suffolk and the LEPs assigned to South East England, Suffolk and Norfolk.

The Council look forward to receiving details of the Government's settled Freeports policy, which I understand will be published later in the year.

Yours faithfully

Cllr. Mary Newton,

Councillor Mary Newton
Cabinet Member for Business and Economic Growth
Tendring District Council