

ABP News Release

28 May 2019

ABP launches consultation on Port of Lowestoft Master Plan

Associated British Ports (ABP), owner and operator of the Port of Lowestoft, has today, 28th May, launched a consultation on the Port of Lowestoft Master Plan, a document that sets out ABP's future vision for growth and development at the port from now until 2036, inviting stakeholders to have their say on the port's future.

Together with ABP's other two East Anglian ports, King's Lynn and Ipswich, it contributes £360 million to the UK economy every year, supporting 5,300 jobs nationally.

Coupled with ABP's ongoing investment in its infrastructure, the Port of Lowestoft's key location, makes it ideal to service important offshore wind developments off the East Anglian coast. The port supports construction and operational facilities for developments including the East Anglia One project, which will be the world's largest offshore wind farm, set to generate over 700MW and power around 630,000 British homes when it begins operation in 2020.

Lowestoft also serves an increasingly important role in the UK's Oil & Gas and agribulk sectors. Its tenants including Peterson UK Limited, the major logistics and service provider to the offshore energy and oil and gas industries.

ABP Short Sea Ports Director, Andrew Harston, said: "The Port of Lowestoft is a vital component of the local and national economy. Given its significance, and in accordance with government guidance, we believe that it is appropriate to set out our proposals for the future in a comprehensive Master Plan for the port. This document details how the port could develop and what we believe needs to be done between now and 2036 to ensure that the port continues to grow in a sustainable and prosperous way.

"Standing back, one clear message comes out of our Master Plan – that the Port of Lowestoft has a bright future ahead with real development opportunities, not least due to its location directly opposite major continental ports and its excellent links to UK's transport network.

"ABP has long voiced concerns about the construction of the proposed Lake Lothing Third Crossing which will have a significant negative impact on port operations and marine safety if it crosses the centre of the port. We hope that the bridge promoter, Suffolk County Council, will take on board our concerns about the impact of the proposal on the Port. Whilst we are not against the principle of the Third Crossing, the current proposal will not safeguard the future of the port and the economic prosperity of the region."

The Lowestoft Master Plan consultation will provide an opportunity to those who are directly connected with the port and those with a wider interest in the economic development of the

region to submit feedback. Once the consultation is complete, ABP will collate all of the comments received and, where appropriate, incorporate them into the Master Plan with the intention of formally adopting it later this year.

Over the last two years ABP has invested more than £3 million in developing the Port of Lowestoft and its infrastructure to ensure it meets the need of customers and the economy.

ABP's key recent investments include:

- In November 2018, ABP completed the first phase of a £300,000 demolition project to clear a new 13-acre development site has completed at the Port of Lowestoft's Shell Quay.
- £2 million in general improvements including new warehousing, new fendering, new fibre optic internet, new security facilities.
- £670,000 for the purchase of a state-of-the-art locally sourced ORC pilot boat for the Port of Lowestoft
- The Port of Lowestoft has benefited from a £10 million investment by ScottishPower Renewables in a new Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facility.

The Port of Lowestoft Master Plan will be made available at the Lowestoft, Beccles and Kessingland local libraries as well as online at http://www.abports.co.uk/Our_Locations/Short_Sea_Ports/Lowestoft.

The consultation period will be open until Friday 16 August 2019. Please submit any comments to Lowestoft.masterplan@abports.co.uk or send them by post to:

Consultation Office
Associated British Ports
Lowestoft Port Office
North Quay Cargo Terminal
Commercial Road
Lowestoft
NR32 2TE

- Ends -

For more information please contact:

Pressiana Naydenova
Corporate Communications Advisor
Tel: 020 7406 7825
Mob: 07702 900 830
Email: pressiana.naydenova@abports.co.uk

Andrew Dunn
Corporate Communications Manager
Tel: 020 7406 7895
Mob: 07850 500 303
Email: andrew.dunn@abports.co.uk

Notes to editors:

About ABP East Anglia

With the support of its customers, ABP's Ports of East Anglia, King's Lynn, Lowestoft and Ipswich contribute £360 million to the UK economy every year, supporting 3,700 jobs in the region and 5,300 jobs nationally.

- ABP's East Anglia ports handle more than 3 million tonnes of cargo every year
- Ports in East Anglia handle over 2 million tonnes of agribulks and 170,000 tonnes of timber annually
- The Port of Ipswich is the UK's leading export port for agricultural products

About ABP (www.abports.co.uk)

ABP is the UK's leading ports operator with 21 ports and other transport related businesses creating a unique national network capable of handling a vast array of cargo.

The company contributes £7.5 billion to the UK economy every year and supports 119,000 jobs. Our current investment programme promises to further increase our contribution to regional economies around the UK.

ABP:

- Handles over 1.5 million vehicles every year
- Generates around one quarter of the UK's rail freight
- Has 1.4 million square metres of covered storage
- Has 1,000 hectares of open storage
- Handles around 90 million tonnes of cargo each year
- Owns 5,000 hectares of port estate
- Has 87km of quay

Our five-year investment programme across the group is worth £1 billion. Our investment is designed to respond to the needs of our customers whose business relies on our ports for access to international and, in some cases, domestic markets.

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