



## PRESS RELEASE

28 June 2017

### Port of Tilbury unveils plan to reinvigorate rail freight offering

The Port of Tilbury, London's major port, unveiled its plans to reinvigorate its rail offering at the latest Rail Freight Group conference hosted at Orsett Hall, Thurrock, on Wednesday 28th June. With three rail terminals in the port and the Essex Thameside rail corridor already accounting for approximately 10% of the UK's rail freight traffic, the port showcased the three pillars to its strategy to revitalise its rail freight offering to an industry audience of 80 delegates.

In a presentation on behalf of the Forth Ports Group by Ross McKissock, Asset Manager, for the London Container Terminal, Tilbury projected a major uplift in their freight traffic in bulk and intermodal movements. With commercial partners, the port is seeking to:

- introduce regular intermodal services to the Midlands and Scotland
- create a dedicated bulk terminal, and
- establish a rail connection into a new 152-acre deep-water port terminal, Tilbury2

*"As part of our sustainable and multi-modal approach, Tilbury is making the most of its assets and seeking to build afresh to ensure that our customers and tenants think rail, river and road when seeking the most effective delivery solution,"* commented **Peter Ward, Commercial Director, Port of Tilbury**

Peter added: *"We are underway with a major overhaul of our rail offering. This year, the port took possession of the Freightliner operated rail terminal and we have reconfigured the site to create a first for Tilbury, a dedicated bulk materials rail terminal. Initially, the port will be establishing regular movements of recycling glass to Cheshire and other UK locations. In*

*time, we hope to grow the port's rail freight offering across a range of bulk materials, with associated growth in rail movements."*

**Lord Berkeley OBE, Chairman of the Rail Freight Group**, said: "*Intermodal rail freight continues to be a big success story, and Port of Tilbury's developments and future plans are a growing part of that, with the launch of new intermodal services and the lodging of an application for a development consent order with the Planning Inspectorate to permit a new rail connected port terminal, Tilbury2. Our members look forward to supporting the team's efforts in the months and years ahead to continue this success story.*"

**28 June 2017**

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Further information/images:

Debbie Johnston, Spreng Thomson – 0141 548 5191 / [debbie@sprengthomson.com](mailto:debbie@sprengthomson.com)

**Notes to editor:**

1. **Forth Ports Ltd** owns and operates Tilbury, alongside seven other commercial ports on the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Tay: Grangemouth, Dundee, Leith, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.
2. **Tilbury is the number one in the UK** port for forestry products, construction materials, paper, grain, recyclables and warehousing space. London Container Terminal services a mix between short and deep sea container trades. The Port is the UK's number four and the terminal has the greatest reefer point connectivity in Britain. The Port has strong market presence in bulk commodities, ro-ro, cars and cruise vessels.
3. The Port has moved its **intermodal rail freight operations** to the rail head at the London Container Terminal. Alongside existing traffic, Tilbury is seeking to re-establish a regular intermodal service to the Midlands and Scotland.
4. It is envisaged that the **Tilbury2 development consent order** will include provisions to facilitate a new rail connection into the site, utilising the existing Riverside Terminal connection and a new section of track through the proposed infrastructure corridor into the Tilbury2 site. Tilbury is in advanced talks with potential customers about the movement of bulk materials and intermodal traffic to-and-from the site. The Tilbury2 rail terminal is being designed so it is capable of accommodating the longest contemporary freight trains, 775m in length. It is envisaged that Tilbury2 will be operational in Q1 2020. It is envisaged that the site will be a construction materials and short-sea shipping hub, handling imported and exported materials and goods. [www.tilbury2.co.uk](http://www.tilbury2.co.uk)
5. 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. There is an extensive range of ro-ro services through Tilbury. Facilities exist for car carriers, ferries, combi ships and heavy lifts. There are dedicated ro-ro berths in the dock and deepsea berths along the riverside as well as freight ferry services to Europe.

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