



Fawley Waterside Enabling Works

Summary of Responses

2 June 2023

Background

The March 2021 Budget announced eight freeports in England one of which is the Solent Freeport which received its final designation through the formal approval of its full business case on 7 December 2022.

The [Solent Freeport Business Case](#) demonstrates the Freeport will directly;

- Deliver increased capacity and throughput of international trade
- Leverage significant levels of private investment
- Catalyse the growth of innovative new industries
- Provide a platform and additional funds to deliver supporting infrastructure, innovation, skills and a stepping stone to net zero programmes and investment in natural capital

The approval also confirmed Seed capital funding allocation of £25m.

This Seed capital investment is focused on providing the necessary infrastructure and construction works to unlock land for use within the tax and custom sites, directly delivering material increases in capacity within the UK's premier export ports, to enable increased throughput and trade activity between the UK and the rest of the world.

The projects prioritised by the Board and forming part of the Solent Freeport Capital programme for the £25m Seed Capital funding are now able to submit full business cases for investment consideration. Any full business case considered for investment will also be published for public consultation.

The Solent Freeport will unlock billions of pounds' worth of investment, create tens of thousands of new jobs and level up our important coastal communities. Establishing the Solent Freeport will create up to 30,100 new skilled and semi-skilled jobs including 15,050 direct jobs in the Solent and 15,050 in the wider UK supply chain.

The Solent Freeport will capitalise on local strengths in a highly competitive global market post-Brexit and ensure the unique geographic advantage of the region is maximised for UK plc. A strong track record of international trade through the Solent already evidences the areas credentials as the Nation's global gateway.

Reaching far beyond the South Coast of England, it will also benefit those in the Midlands and North that rely on connectivity to international markets through Solent port; and UK plc will receive an additional £3.57 billion GVA uplift.

Over £77.5 billion worth of goods pass through the ports of Southampton, the UK's number one export port for vehicles, and Portsmouth, including £42.8 billion worth of exports.

Our ports provide UK businesses with the closest direct access to over 70 ports globally. With its unrivalled geographic proximity to the shipping lanes into Europe and unique tides, the Solent is in the strongest possible position to expand the UK's trade with new markets and be a best in class Freeport.

Fawley Waterside Enabling Works

Introduction to Project:

Fawley Waterside, a prioritised project included in the Solent Freeport Capital programme for Seed capital funding, have submitted a [Full Business case](#) which requests £4.7m from Solent Freeports Seed Capital fund towards project works totalling £11.95m.

The investment required is for enabling works taking place at Fawley Waterside site, a major commercial and residential development site in the New Forest. The delivery of the works will enable the development of the Fawley Waterside site and bring forward the commercial development of the Northern Quarter. The package of works include;

- Transport infrastructure - Construction of a new access road in three sections to provide access to development plots in the Northern Quarter (targeted for maritime innovation, skills, and employment uses) and to the dock area (for maritime employment use).
- Site Remediation through the following interventions:
 - Remediation of contaminated land
 - Construction of a flood defence barrier along the northern boundary of the site to protect it from future flooding
 - Demolition of on-site concrete structures to enable an unobstructed site for development.
- Infrastructure such as electric supply which will provide an integrated route for service requirements on the site and the required energy supply

Project Objectives:

The Fawley Waterside enabling works bid has been developed to enable the development at Fawley Waterside to take place and unlock the commercial development in the Northern Quarter area of the site. These are as follows:

- To remediate the brownfield site and complete enabling works by 2024 in order to de-risk investment and attract private funding.
- To unlock 1m sq ft at the Northern Quarter part of the site by 2040.
- To support employment creation of 4,000 jobs in key marine and advanced manufacturing industries at the Northern Quarter by 2040.

Analysis of the Consultation

The Consultation asked the following questions:

Question 1:

Does the project respond to one or more of the following three objectives of the UK Freeport model as outlined by the UK Government and aligned to the Fawley Waterside Enabling Works;

- establish Freeports as national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK
- promote regeneration and job creation
- create hotbeds for innovation

Question 2:

Do you think the project provides sufficient geographic / sector coverage?

Question 3:

Are there any additional comments you would like to make?

A total of 1 response was received during the consultation period, which was submitted using the consultation response form. The respondent was from an Interest Group.

The response is summarised as follows;

Question 1:

Does the project respond to one or more of the following three objectives of the UK Freeport model as outlined by the UK Government and aligned to the Fawley Waterside Enabling Works;

- establish Freeports as national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK
- promote regeneration and job creation
- create hotbeds for innovation

No responses received.

Question 2:

Do you think the project provides sufficient geographic / sector coverage?

No responses received.

Question 3:

Are there any additional comments you would like to make?

Response received	Respondent Group
Concern in respect of the construction of safe cycle and pedestrian route at the correct time in the overall project.	Interest Group