



PRESS RELEASE
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FORTH PORTS PLC

Forth Ports welcomes City of Edinburgh Council's decision on Leith Docks planning application

Forth Ports PLC has today welcomed the approval of the City of Edinburgh Council's Planning Committee for its Leith Docks Outline Planning Application. The application, submitted last September, sets out a vision to create a thriving, sustainable urban place at Edinburgh's waterfront where people will want to live, work and visit and is the largest planning application in Edinburgh's history.

The Leith Docks development will accommodate up to 15,000 townhouses and flats and is expected to create almost 12,000 jobs in Edinburgh. The regeneration is a phased process, which is expected to take up to 30 years to be fully completed and will feature nine 'urban villages' including a mix of commercial, retail, industrial and leisure uses at the heart of the area. This encompasses a new office quarter extending to 130,000 sq.m and over 90,000 sq.m of retail, cultural, community and leisure facilities.

Approval of the outline plans reflects the City of Edinburgh Council's agreement to the broad principles for redeveloping Leith Docks. These include the location for key public transport infrastructure, main roads and an indication of the type and density of development that can be achieved. This content reflects the direct input from hundreds of people within the local community including community councils, community groups and local schools.

Today's announcement to approve the plans has been welcomed by Forth Ports Group Chief Executive, Charles Hammond. He said: "This is a huge step forward for both our regeneration plans and the City of Edinburgh. It will have a positive impact on the wider Scottish economy over the next 30 years and beyond. As well as creating a vibrant and accessible waterfront for the people of Edinburgh, this project will allow the city to meet its future housing requirements and create a strong platform for sustained economic growth.

Ron Hewitt, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce also welcomed the plans, saying: "This is excellent news as this is a hugely important project which is integral to the continued economic development of the city. The redevelopment plans for Leith Docks will deliver an accessible, high quality public waterfront and at the same time deliver much needed housing, space for new business, retail, leisure and industrial uses."

Graham Chapman of the Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council said: "We have been part of Forth Ports extensive public consultation process and are delighted to acknowledge the considerable benefits that today's approval will bring to the local community as well as the City of Edinburgh".

City Economic Development Leader, Tom Buchanan added 'As Edinburgh continues to grow, the regeneration of the waterfront will be of strategic importance and will play a role in the future economic, social and cultural life of the city which will undoubtedly benefit Scotland as a whole'.

Following on from today's decision, the application will be referred to the Scottish Government for its consideration. At the same time, Forth Ports will produce a more

detailed masterplan for the first two villages at the heart of the development. This masterplan will identify the potential use, location and size of the buildings and be produced in association with international masterplanners, RTKL. Forth Ports aims to submit this masterplan later this year.

Forth Ports has been working with the City of Edinburgh Council towards this application for a number of years and have already invested significantly in the regeneration of Edinburgh's waterfront. Today's approval creates a platform for further discussion and momentum to explore public and private financing options including the submission to the Scottish Government of a joint initiative for infrastructure funding.

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