



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Dehenna Davison MP
Minister for Levelling Up
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Mark Lemmon,
Chair of Freeport East
Harwich International Station
Parkeston Quay
Harwich
Essex
CO12 4SR

10th January 2023

Dear Mark,

Freeports: Freeport East receives final government approval

I am pleased to inform you that Freeport East (Felixstowe and Harwich) is one of the latest UK Freeports to get fully up-and-running after receiving final government approval. It is a testament to the strong local partnerships across the private and public sectors in the East of England that Freeport East has reached this momentous stage.

As you know, Freeports are a cornerstone of the government's plan to level up the country. This approval is a significant milestone on the Freeports journey and sends a clear message: the UK Government is backing the East of England as a key part of its economic strategy.

Subject to the delivery of agreed milestones, Freeport East will now receive up to £25 million in seed funding over the next few years. This is on top of potentially hundreds of millions in locally retained business rates to upgrade local infrastructure and stimulate regeneration. This is alongside generous tax reliefs and a simplified customs procedure, all backed by a package of trade and innovation support for businesses locating there.

This will allow Freeport East to become a world-leading centre for clean energy production, offering a unique set of opportunities and support for investors, traders, manufacturers, and suppliers. Freeport East will propel the UK's net zero decarbonisation efforts, particularly through its role as a green hydrogen hub.

This is only the beginning of the journey – we will now work closely with your Freeport to ensure it has the support it needs from government to deliver transformational benefits for the local area. We continue to deliver the wider programme at pace, and we expect to announce that the remaining English Freeports have received final approvals in the coming months. We will also shortly be announcing the locations of two Green Freeports in Scotland as well as at least one Freeport in Wales. And we continue discussions with our stakeholders in Northern Ireland about how we can extend the benefits associated with the Freeport programme there.

Freeports will bring opportunity and prosperity to the communities that need it most. We want to raise awareness of these benefits, at home and globally, and challenge some common misconceptions about Freeports. If you would like to be involved and support your Freeport and the wider Freeport programme, please get in touch with my office.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dehenna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DEHENNA DAVISON MP