

**VISIT TO PORT OF SUNDERLAND**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP3: PROSPEROUS CITY**

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focussed Services, C102: Being 'One Council', C103: Efficient and Effective Council, C104: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To receive feedback following the visit of the Committee to the Port of Sunderland.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 On 15 June 2011, the Committee agreed to undertake a visit to the Port of Sunderland as part of its work programme for the year. The visit took place on Wednesday 21 September 2011.
- 2.2 The visit included a full tour of the Port including Corporation Quay, Wear Docks and Hendon Docks. This was followed by a question and answer session. Members were accompanied on the visit by Mathew Hunt, the Port Director:

**3 Current Position**

- 3.1 During the visit of the Port of Sunderland, the following issues were raised and discussed:-
- Corporation Quay is considered a key asset of the Port. The area is buoyant with a lot of activity. The basic infrastructure and location is good. The advantage of being only 10 minutes from the open sea make it a potentially important base for an emerging renewables industry. It is hoped that the facility can be expanded and achieve steady growth with the interest currently being shown by renewable industries.
  - The Hendon Docks still retain its old rail access and again has a lot of potential. While much of the site is currently given over to storage, in the long term there is potential to move to manufacturing and renewable industry. With this in mind, work is ongoing to bring together a 25 acre development site which will hopefully be attractive to the market.
  - A lot of the Port's traditional sources of income have been on the decline and it is important to look to new and emerging markets such as those in renewable energy sector. The development of the offshore wind industry off the North Sea potentially opens up a range of opportunities for the Port in

manufacturing and maintenance work which should be exploited to the maximum.

- It is important that the Docks and the site are promoted and their potential fully harnessed. The Port should be seen as a considerable asset to the city.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the issues raised during visit of the Port of Sunderland.

#### **4. Background Papers**

None

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