



FORTH PORTS PLC

PRESS RELEASE
08 December 2008

Forth Ports reveal the future today

Forth Ports reveals new-look waterfront with Edinburgh Harbour masterplan

The vision for Edinburgh's waterfront for the next two decades will be formally revealed on Wednesday this week by Forth Ports, with the launch of the masterplan covering the first two urban villages at Leith Docks.

Following City of Edinburgh Council's approval in August for the Leith Docks outline planning application, the 26- hectare Edinburgh Harbour masterplan draws on the best examples of vibrant, flourishing waterfront cities around the world and provides a more detailed framework for long term regeneration.

Already anchored by Ocean Terminal, the Royal Yacht Britannia and the Scottish Government offices, the masterplan for the surrounding brownfield site will create a commercial, leisure and retail hub for Edinburgh's vital waterfront. Key features include:

- A new cruise liner terminal and visitor centre for The Royal Yacht Britannia
- A waterside esplanade and two new piers creating an important public space for local people and visitors
- A new tram terminus and European plaza-style public transport interchange
- Provision for a landmark cultural venue such as an international concert hall
- Up to five new hotels providing Edinburgh with an extra 1,000 much-needed rooms
- New leisure, restaurant and retail space centred around Ocean Terminal
- A new office district extending to up to 99,000 square metres, flexible enough to accommodate small offices and larger business facilities
- 1,870 new homes, 25% of which will be affordable
- A marina and cross-Forth ferry berth

Edinburgh Harbour will deliver significant economic benefit for the city and Scotland as a whole, adding over £200m annually to the Scottish economy and creating an estimated 8,300 jobs on completion. In addition, there will be 2,500 new construction jobs created during the construction phase. Forth Ports will be seeking an international partner for the development.

Speaking in advance of this week's submission, Forth Ports Group Chief Executive Charles Hammond said: "It is important to have a vision in difficult times. Edinburgh Harbour sits at the heart of the largest expansion of Edinburgh for 300 years. It will create a destination that anchors the waterfront development and delivers significant economic benefit to the Edinburgh and Scottish economies. As a consequence, it creates a platform for the private and public sectors in Scotland to work together for the long term and will help to make Edinburgh a leading waterfront city on the world stage."

Ron Hewitt, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce said: "This opportunity to launch our capital city into the premier league of European cities which capitalise on their natural environments also meets the city's need for affordable housing, new business space and all the services needed to support these. Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce believes passionately in this proposal as a key building block in the development of Edinburgh's waterfront".

International waterfront development experts RTKL created the masterplan for Edinburgh Harbour. Their extensive experience of waterfront environments including Baltimore's famous Inner Harbour helped inform their thinking.

Leith residents also played a significant role in shaping the latest Forth Ports' masterplan for Edinburgh Harbour. Following a 'design day' and a series of workshops involving local residents and schools, a range of common themes were identified and incorporated into the masterplan.

Creating a sustainable place has been a key consideration in developing the latest plans. With an ambition to take a lead role in the development of green energy solutions, Forth Ports will continue to explore projects to deliver district-wide low carbon energy solutions. At the same time, the proposed mix of residential, commercial and leisure space will reduce the need for travel and commuting with a new transport interchange and tram terminus also expected to encourage greater use of public transport.

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Notes : In September 2007, Forth Ports PLC submitted the largest planning application in Edinburgh's history for the regeneration of Leith Docks. Featuring nine 'urban villages across the 153 hectare site, the application set out a vision to create a thriving, sustainable urban place at Edinburgh's waterfront where people will want to live, work and visit. The Leith Docks development will accommodate up 15,000 townhouses and flats, new office space extending to 130,000 square metres and over 90,000 square metres of retail, cultural, community and leisure facilities. The City of Edinburgh Council approved these outline plans in August 2008. The Edinburgh Harbour masterplan is for the first two villages at Leith Docks.