

An Bord Pleanála
64, Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Ref: 61.PA.0033

06/03/ 2014

To whom it may concern,

We refer to the Planning Application from Galway Harbour Company regarding the extension of Galway Port.

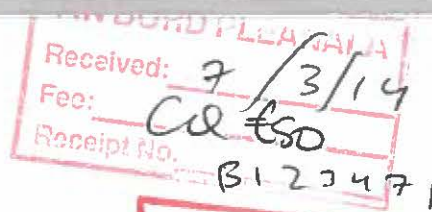
Westport Chamber of Commerce would like to place on record our support for the proposed development from the Galway Harbour company on their foresight in bringing this project to planning stage.

The Westport Chamber was established in 1938. It is the objective of the Westport Chamber to promote business in Westport, attract new businesses to Westport, lobby for business interests, provide services and information for members and to encourage camaraderie and friendship between members and between other organisations. The Chamber is committed to supporting the community and its surrounding area in whatever way it can. The Westport Chamber manages a Community Employment scheme which employs 22 participants in Westport, Murrisk and the Ashleigh Falls area.

All business Sectors in Westport are important to the Westport Chamber, with the Tourism sector one of the main employers in the town. Westport has a population of over 5000 people with small to medium sized industries been the main employers in the town. In Westport alone, there are ten hotels and several restaurants, employing well in excess of 1,000 people, whom are heavily reliant on tourism thriving into the future.

The port will have a great effect on Westport through tourism and local employment opportunities. It will have a,

- Huge boost to local and regional employment ca 200 jobs to be created during the construction phase and up to 800 jobs could eventually result due to the increased activity at the port.
- Economic benefit to Galway City as a direct result of the additional jobs during the Construction phase, which will trickle down to the local communities surrounding Galway City such as Westport Town.
- Potential contribution from the cruise tourism (10,000 visitors expected to visit Galway city on cruise ships this year- recent survey for Port of Cork suggests that 80% of cruise visitors availed of tour opportunities with the crew opting to remain in the vicinity of the souvenir shops near the port). This will increase day trips to Westport and other smaller towns and villages on the tourism path. Increasing tourism numbers hugely.
- This will allow for a more efficient and cost effective import/ export of materials via the port to Galway city and its region.
- Huge economic benefit to the city, region and country as a whole.



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We are looking forward to a successful outcome for this project. As tourism is vital to the future growth and development of Westport this opportunity would have a detrimental effect on Westport if it did not go ahead.

Westport Chamber of Commerce is the voice of industry, business and the retail sector in our area, and we urge the relevant agencies to advance this much-needed port in the region as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,


CEO Westport Chamber

