

**Report Title:** Area Report - Southampton Water West

**Reported by:** Paul King

**Date :** 27 Feb 2021

**Area Report - Free text:** Report for SPS council meeting on 2 March 2021  
Southampton Water West

1 Fawley New Town

No new developments except that NFDC asked for an extension to 26 Feb. to decide the application to fully resolve details that need to be secured within section 106 approval. This week they have asked for a further extension to 26 March.

2 Marchwood (Solent Gateway Ltd.) and Freeport

I sent everyone an email on 6 February to follow up on the brief discussion on a possible Freeport in Marchwood. The email included the following.

The government have a plan, which was in their general election manifesto, to create up to 10 Freeports in Britain. They started a consultation in April 2020 and, on 16 November 2020, invited bids and issued a Bidding Prospectus which can be read here:-  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/freeports-bidding-prospectus> Freeports cover up to 45km and extend up to 45 KM inland. The bidding opportunity closed yesterday, 5 Feb 2021.

The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership are the leaders of a group which submitted a bid which is reported on SLEP's website. SLEP do not say which of their members were involved in this bid but we do know their members are 104 business, 10 councils and 3 universities – names on SLEP website. Their report can be read here:- <https://solentlep.org.uk/what-we-do/news/2billion-solent-freeport-bid-submitted/> .

I hope they will soon publish their bid in which they say that Freeport status would help create 50,000 jobs and attract £2billion in extra investment. I assume this bid includes that reported in the Lymington Times about Marchwood but we do not yet know what parts of the Solent are included.

3 Hythe Ferry

Hythe Ferry, which is owned by Blue Funnell Ferries, say they have “run out of money [and]....do not intend to restart”. The ferry has been subsidised in the past by local government. Local interest groups including Hythe Pier Heritage Association are raising money to pay for the re-fit of the ferry and have started a crowd-funding campaign.

Paul King  
26.2.21