



NET ZERO



SUSTAINABLE PLACES



INCLUSIVE GROWTH

A clear picture of  
infrastructure needs



## Growth Accelerator speeding up investment in Stornoway



**S**TORNOWAY PORT is the primary port for the Outer Hebrides and is one of the largest and busiest on the west coast of Scotland. It is managed by the Stornoway Port Authority whose vision is to build a truly sustainable business that is the economic driver of the Outer Hebrides.

Working towards that vision, the Port Authority needed a new deep water facility to grow operations. The £55m cost of the proposed facility was not affordable for the Authority, so sought support from our Economic Investment team and their Growth Accelerator funding mechanism to deliver the project.

- In 2017, the team began work on a feasibility study which led to a full business case being developed by Stornoway Port Authority and its partners, including Western Isles Council (Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar)

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- During COVID, the team was involved in reworking the agreement to reflect new risks and post COVID, was involved in negotiations with local partners to finalise land agreements, with the team working with Scottish Government to conduct Gateway Reviews pre and post agreement

Built by McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd, the new Deep Water Terminal, which started operating at the end of March, includes a facility for berthing cruise ships up to 360 metres long, a new deep-water berth to cater for larger cargo vessels and a freight ferry berth.

The deep water terminal has been enabled by the Growth Accelerator model of investment and follows on from the success of it being used to enable the St James Quarter in Edinburgh and the Dundee Waterfront development which includes the V&A Dundee.

The outcomes delivered are enshrined in the key Growth Accelerator performance targets for the new Port:

- Cruise passengers of 46,500 by year three, ensuring the outcome of attracting major large cruise liners arriving in the Western Isles to boost tourism
- 180 people completing bespoke training for tourism by year three, ensuring local businesses flourish with the new growing industry

Local retailers in Stornoway are benefitting massively from tourists wanting souvenirs and ship crew needing essentials and across the island, the new facility will bring new revenue streams to the Port and position the Western Isles as a hub for new renewable industry activity including the plans for three offshore farms via the ScotWind framework, new onshore wind facilities and the development of the new interconnector between the islands and mainland.

These opportunities alongside the enhanced tourism offer will deliver supply chain opportunities, new jobs and long-term economic benefits, of c. £5bn over the next ten years.

## Partners

- Stornoway Port Authority
- Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
- Highlands & Islands Enterprise
- The Scottish Government