



A Brookfield Ports Company

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Mayor Houchen  
Tees Valley Combined Authority  
Cavendish House  
Teesdale Business Park  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS17 6QY

Dear Mayor Houchen,

I am writing as Chief Operating Officer of PD Ports, and also in my capacity as member of the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, to support Tees Valley Combined Authority's bid to the National Productivity Investment Fund for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

As you are aware, PD Ports is the statutory harbour authority for the deep-sea ports of Tees and Hartlepool and also operator of PD Teesport. We are responsible for a ten-mile stretch of operational river which, together with the harbour at Hartlepool, provides eighty individual berths for shipping and handles 4000 ship arrivals each year. The two ports provide a key strategic role for international trade, and have helped to position the Tees Valley as a major UK gateway for consumer goods, attracting major distribution centres for high street names such as Tesco, Asda, Argos, Sainsbury and Taylors of Harrogate. PD Ports has invested significantly in its own container handling facilities at Teesport and enjoyed a rise in container throughput of more than 20% since 2013.

A robust road network is vital to our business and that of the wider shipping community and local economy. We welcome the package of improvement schemes proposed by the Tees Valley Combined Authority and feel this will significantly improve resilience of the Tees Valley's Key Route Network (KRN), ensuring an appropriate level of capacity to handle freight movements so PD Ports may continue to invest confidently in its own world class facilities.

I would like to wish you every success with the bid and look forward to hearing the outcome in due course.

Yours sincerely,

**Jerry Hopkinson**  
Chief Operating Officer and Vice Chairman

