

Notice of Motion by Councillor Gifford –

The Chief Executive shall write to Director of the Maritime UK, to add Aberdeenshire Council's support to sign the open letter (as attached) which will be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to seek support for growth in the UK Maritime Industry.

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer,

As an island, the UK has a long, proud history of being a world-leading maritime nation. Maritime is a vital part of our heritage and of our modern economy – supporting jobs, driving innovation, and enabling trade. As the elected representatives and leaders of coastal communities across the UK, we are writing to you to make sure the voices of these communities are heard, and to urge you to ensure that the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review provides much-needed support for the maritime industry.

This is particularly important considering that analysis suggests coastal and ex-industrial towns are most economically at risk from the COVID-19 pandemic. The maritime sector is uniquely positioned to drive new growth opportunities to help these regional economies recover.

A government investment of £1bn to kick-start the UK's maritime decarbonisation programme would directly create 15,200 jobs and a further 58,400 jobs throughout the supply chain. Not only is maritime decarbonisation essential to meeting the legislative target of net zero emissions by 2050, but the right level of investment now will position the UK as the world-leader in this area.

The maritime sector is the fundamental enabler of British global trade and exports its own innovative products and services. With cutting-edge technology, high-quality design and manufacturing, unparalleled expertise in services and major investment opportunities, the UK is the natural home for global maritime business.

Maritime contributes £46.1bn to the UK economy and supports 1 million jobs. It is responsible for keeping the country supplied - 95 percent of British imports and exports in goods are moved by sea, including 25 percent of the UK's energy supply and 48 percent of food supplies. Investment is essential for maintaining these resilient supply chains that every single person across the UK relies upon.

The sector also enables millions of people to enjoy the recreational benefits of the UK's coastal and inland waterways, and the maritime sector has made a significant contribution to the UK's COVID response, by keeping supply chains open, and ensuring access to vital resources across the country including food, fuel, and medicines.

Globally, the maritime sector will double to \$3trn by 2030, and the UK has a unique opportunity to be at the forefront of the growing market for decarbonising the maritime sector, and to export these technologies globally.

But without investment, this opportunity will be missed, and the UK will risk losing its position as a world-leader in maritime. Many other countries around the world are already acting to support the decarbonisation of their maritime industries, and the UK Government must do the same.

We hope that you use your forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review to set out a plan for supporting growth and creating jobs across the UK's maritime industry, and particularly in our coastal communities.

*Yours sincerely,
The undersigned*