

SLOUGH CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Address: PO Box 3958, Slough, SL3 3GH
Email: office@sloughconservatives.org.uk

President: Gurcharan Manku
Chairman: Lee Pettman
Deputy Chairman Political: Cllr Anna Wright
Deputy Chairman Membership & Treasurer: Cllr Wayne Strutton
Secretary: Christine Bamigbola

Tuesday 6th August

To: All members of the Freeports Advisory Board

Dear panel members,

I am writing to you today on behalf of all residents and businesses in Slough to urge you to put our town at the top of the consideration list for Freeport locations.

Slough has an extraordinary set of circumstances that set it aside from most other locations when it comes to being considered as not only a desirable place for a Freeport but also one of the best:

- One of the most [diverse](#) and [youngest](#) towns in the country, with residents who have connections all around the world from the Asian sub-continent to Africa.
- Strategic location in the [Thames Valley](#) with Heathrow next door and the town at the centre of the UK's busiest motorways.
- An already strong business and commercial base with a strong mix of large, medium and small enterprises, with [one of the highest start-up rates in the UK](#).
- A strong export-based economy, with the town placed [fourth nationally in terms of the level of exports per job](#).

Despite its strong credentials, Slough has several challenges which Freeport status would help it to address. This includes:

- Helping us to retain the skills of locally-born graduates in the town following the closure of the long-established Thames Valley university campus in the town.
- Attracting new high-tech firms to the town helping to increase the proportion of skilled high-tech jobs for its residents to improve their wealth and quality of life.
- Supporting us attract a greater level of much-needed public and private investment in our transport and local infrastructure after many years of neglect.

Once the board has established itself and set out the criteria and application process for Freeport status in the coming months, we would be honoured to help put Slough at the top of your application list and will work hard locally to forge connections to support it.

I very much look forward to inviting you all to visit Slough so that we can show you what a wonderful opportunity it would be for our country, our town and our residents to put Slough at the centre of an outward looking, Global Britain post-Brexit.

Yours sincerely,



Lee Pettman

Chair, Slough Conservative Association



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