

Queensferry Crossing 'boost to business'

The Economy Secretary Keith Brown was in Fife earlier today speaking to Fife Chamber of Commerce, when he said that the Queensferry Crossing is already benefitting business.

Mr Brown went to the newly renovated North Queensferry Hotel which overlooks the new bridge. The hotel is recruiting over 100 new members of staff at the moment.

The Minister explained that the new higher speed limits will be introduced on the bridge and linked roads soon, and the Forth Road Bridge will become a dedicated Public Transport Corridor all within the next few weeks.



Mr Brown said that this will lead to future investment in the area and asked for the Chamber's views on how the Scottish Government can support those opportunities in Fife and Dundee to the north.

Mr Brown said: "This was a fitting location for this meeting – a new development which has created over 100 jobs primarily due to the construction of the impressive new Queensferry Crossing. I believe it will be the first of many new investments in the local and wider economy thanks to improved connectivity and a more resilient infrastructure.

"Recently the Queensferry Crossing experienced winds gusting at over 50 mph. In these conditions the FRB would have closed to high-sided vehicles, however the wind-shielding in place meant that that new structure remained open to all vehicles. Creating a more resilient transport network is crucial to hauliers and Scotland's economy.

“However while we are taking action to improve the opportunities for the Fife economy, we know that the continued uncertainty caused by Brexit is concerning local business. We have [published a paper today](#) looking at what’s at stake for business across Scotland. It’s clear that the impact will be great – affecting recruitment, profits and hampering business growth.

“It was a topic that was discussed at my meeting with the Fife Chamber of Commerce this morning. We must continue to listen to the voices of business as the Brexit process develops, to ensure Scotland’s economy remains strong.”

Alan Mitchell, Chief Executive of Fife Chamber of Commerce, said: “We are delighted to welcome the Cabinet Secretary to Fife today and we are pleased that we were able to have a full and productive discussion with him about so many different issues that are important to businesses in Fife. This aspect of the Chamber’s work is not necessarily well known but it is very significant for us because it gives our members the opportunity to speak directly to the most senior people in government and tell them what support they need to create the jobs and the wealth that Fife depends on.”

Commenting on the opening of the new DoubleTree by Hilton Edinburgh – Queensferry Crossing, General Manager, Stuart Douglas said: “The opening is a huge boost for the local economy. The owners have invested a massive £15 million and this is reflected in the facilities and services that the hotel now offers. This is great news for the local area and the new Queensferry Hotel now employs over 100 local people, in both full and part-time positions. That number will swell in the coming months as we look to recruit local people to bolster the permanent team over the busy festive period. I also anticipate that further permanent positions will be created in the coming 12 to 18 months as the business grows.”