



HAMPSHIRE
chamber of commerce

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STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BY
HAMPSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – SOUTHAMPTON OFFICE
FOR COSTCO'S NEW MEMBERSHIP WAREHOUSE CLUB IN SOUTHAMPTON
SCC Planning Application 10/01449/FUL – 29 November 2010

The Southampton Office of Hampshire Chamber of Commerce welcomes the opportunity to express its support for the new Costco membership warehouse club planned on part of the British American Tobacco site in Regents Park Road, Southampton to cover the South of England along with Costco Reading and Costco Croydon.

Costco is a warehouse outlet primarily for its business members rather than retail customers and the Chamber of Commerce considers this fact is reflected in its appropriate location, close to motorway access and to the extensive network of businesses throughout the Southampton area.

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is pleased to see that input from the public during the pre application exhibition of the plans in September has already been addressed in the Costco briefing note of 30 September released to all stakeholders as part of on-going engagement during development of the site. Details of the exhibition were publicised by the Chamber in an ebulletin to its business members throughout Hampshire. Costco has also committed to engage with the local community to realise operational benefits on a reciprocal basis and not least of these is between 160 – 250 local jobs for local people coming at a time of economic uncertainty.

The briefing note of 30 September shows that the main concerns about traffic circulation, access, noise, parking and inconvenience during construction have all been reviewed and solutions proposed by Costco in line with the Noise Assessment and Transport Assessment Reports submitted with the planning application. The Chamber is confident that the transport strategy associated with the Costco Warehouse has the potential to accommodate the increase in traffic and overall provide an improvement to the existing peak period congestion issues. We are also encouraged to know that a Travel Plan will be implemented by Costco with it being compulsory for any staff who drive to park on site, a tight delivery schedule for lorries, enhanced tree screening and the use of a number of sustainability initiatives in the design of the building.

With the recent announcement of the new Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, the prospect of economic recovery for South Hampshire, and Southampton in particular, is strong. This prospect is made even stronger by the support provided by Costco to small to medium size businesses who are its trade members. Costco's extensive product selection and price savings on bulk purchases will directly assist the profitability of a wide range of local businesses, including local shops which will in turn benefit the city and district centres.

Jimmy Chestnutt
Chief Executive

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is the Independent Voice of Local Business across the county and brings together the combined influence, strength and expertise of the county's three former major Chambers of Commerce. This substantial business network engages businesses of all sizes and in all sectors whether throughout Hampshire, or in more focussed groupings, as and when required for areas like South Hampshire, the New Forest, North or East Hampshire.