

Aberdream: A Post-Oil Future

Opening a New Public Waterfront to Re-Energise Aberdeen Harbour North

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Cities must change in order to respond to the needs of their own people. For decades, Aberdeen Harbour has separated the water's edge from the city as a secured barrier of metal and concrete prioritising industrial/oilfield activity. It became an abrupt edge in the heart of the city, with waterfront access deferred far away to the beach or rivers, severing connections. With the impending/continuing decline and eventual full decommissioning of offshore oilfield industries, the enduring buoyancy of ferry and cargo shipping and the growth of offshore renewable energies, plus the large harbour expansion to the south, Aberdeen Harbour and its neighbours have the rare opportunity to facilitate a public waterfront the coastal city so desperately desires and deserves while consolidating and maintaining a successful working harbour. Through analysis of the existing, historical, and future opportunities, the establishment of a vibrant public waterfront is proposed in a currently closed area with respect to context, forging important new connections and bringing new residences, public spaces, cultural venues and business spaces to the water's edge and its surroundings. This would allow a diverse city life to develop and finally embrace the water at Aberdeen's heart.