

**PR 3233**

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**For Immediate Release**

## **Royal visit to Halton.**

His Royal Highness the Duke of York came to Halton this week to visit Stobart's new development at the Mersey Multi-Modal Gateway (3MG) in Widnes and Daresbury Laboratory.

In his role as the UK's special representative for international trade and investment, His Royal Highness recognises the importance of business and industry helps promote the UK as an attractive inward investment destination for foreign investors, creating more positive business conditions for British businesses investing overseas and helping UK companies export their products to emerging and established markets.

While in Halton The Duke met the Council's representatives, Halton's Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Frank Fraser and Mrs Irene Fraser, Leader Cllr Tony McDermott, Deputy Leader Cllr Rob Polhill and Chief Executive David Parr.

The Duke toured Stobart container terminal at 3MG, following a briefing about the company's newest development, a giant Tesco distribution centre which will supply chilled fresh food to Tesco stores across the north west.

This is the first phase of the 3MG project which, when completed, will create up to 5,000 jobs.

At Daresbury Laboratory gained an insight into the breadth and impact of the laboratory's world leading science and technology and its important contribution to the ongoing success and growth of the science and innovation campus, and visited a number of the high-tech companies based on the campus.

Before leaving, The Duke presented a commemorative certificate to mark the 100th tenancy at the innovation centre.

Halton Borough Council welcomed The Duke's visit and the interest in showed in the borough's business and industry: "We are delighted His Royal Highness came to Halton

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and saw for himself two of the borough's major developments. He was impressed by what he saw and recognises their significance as sites of regional and national importance."

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**It really is all happening in Halton!**

**Located between Liverpool and Manchester, the borough of Halton is made up of two main towns, Runcorn and Widnes, straddling the River Mersey. Halton is a vibrant, modern borough with bustling town centres, business and employment opportunities, excellent transport and communication links.**



**With an environment that boasts quality parks, nature reserves and conservation areas, affordable and exclusive housing and learning opportunities for everyone, our borough is a great place to live.**

**Independent inspectors, the Audit Commission recently awarded us top marks for the services we provide. We have 10 Green Flag Award winning parks, achieved Beacon Status for Accessible Transport and have won numerous awards for innovation and excellence.**

**There are 51,350 households in our borough with a population of just over 118,000.**

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