

AGENDA ITEM 7**REPORT TO TEESSIDE FREEPORT GOVERNANCE BOARD****29th SEPTEMBER 2022****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FREEPORT****UPDATE FROM THE INWARD INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION WORKSTREAM****SUMMARY**

The purpose of this paper is to update the Freeport Governance Board on the activities of the Inward Investment and Innovation workstream.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the updates are noted.

DETAIL

1. The Inward Investment and Innovation workstream met on 23rd August. It was chaired by Andy Preston, Middlesbrough Mayor and was supported by Nolan Gray Director of Freeport.
2. The meeting focused on 3 primary areas:
 - a. Inward Investment and marketing activity
 - b. Innovation activity
 - c. Skills agenda
3. Minutes of the meetings are attached.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. There are no specific risk implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION

7. This meeting represents a stakeholder engagement event, with the minutes from the meeting shared with the Freeport Board.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

8. No specific impacts on groups of people with protected characteristics have been identified

Name of Contact Officer: Nolan Gray
Post Title: Freeport Director
Email Address: Nolan.[Gray@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Nolan.Gray@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk)

Item	Detail	Action
1. Apologies	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	
2. Declarations of Interest		<p>[REDACTED] Declared that he is a member of the Humber Freeport Steering Committee</p>
3. Minutes & Actions of Previous Meeting		
4. Inward Investment & Marketing Activity	<p>[REDACTED] confirmed that the recent ground-breaking event for SeAH wind has led most marketing activity since. Over 280 people in attendance.</p> <p>[REDACTED] confirmed that we continue to work with DIT, Banks, Law Firms etc. To utilise their networks.</p> <p>[REDACTED] confirmed that Freeport continues to be well represented in the press. However, in the past few days a negative piece cropped up in The Guardian. Richard Bannatyne CEO of British Ports Association wrote a counter article. Details include referring to Freeports as “Chartered Cities” which is not in line with the Freeport Policy.</p>	<p>[REDACTED] to share links to articles with minutes</p>

<p>5. Innovation Projects</p>	<p>■ highlighted two main things to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NET ZERO. “20 projects has passed the next stage of the BEIS competition, 14 of which are based in the East Coast Cluster and 8 of these projects are specifically on Teesside”. All of which contributes to us achieving the fully de-carbonisation of the Freeport. This also helps with job retention & creation. ■ ICC Centre. This is fully established with an office based in Teesside University. A few vacancies are live. 	<p>■ asked the workstream to share any interest in the vacancies or direct any queries through to him. The vacancies are live on Tees Valley Jobs.</p>
<p>6. Skills Projects</p>	<p>■ confirmed that the Education, Employment & Skills team in TVCA are the single point of contact for all recruitment. The team are helping with general requests, pulling together JD’s, salary benchmarking, candidate screening etc.</p> <p>■ confirmed 5 vacancies are currently live with 30 more due in the next few months. Likely to be project management/construction focused. Aim is to recruit locally.</p>	<p>■ to share breakdown of job categories if possible.</p>

	<p>■ confirmed that this package of support is also available for any potential inward investors coming through the Freeport Network.</p>	
7. Full Business Case	<p>■ confirmed that we have so far met every deadline set by government in relation to Full Business Case submission including early submission in January and answers to queries in April. There has however been significant delay from government.</p> <p>■ confirmed that expect to receive a letter this week which outlines the reasons for delay in response and to outline any outstanding issues with proposals. We believe the two outstanding issues may be relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation of Customs • Economic Case <p>The final stage in the process is TAP. Treasury Appraisal Process.</p>	
8. AOB	<p>■ had queries on the Secondary Custom Zone.</p>	<p>■ to circulate the draft report with WSP proposition.</p>
9. AOB	<p>Queries were had on the 5G project & Test Bed. ■ confirmed more details will be shared once Seed Funding is in place.</p>	
10. AOB	<p>■ raised queries on custom tax sites.</p> <p>■ confirmed that as part of the Freeport process the</p>	<p>■ and ■ to have follow up conversation.</p>

	“Steel Safeguarding Tariffs” do not apply. ■ also confirmed that this seems to be making its way to developers and encouraging enquiries.	
11. Date of Next Meeting	24 th October 2pm	