

**AGENDA ITEM 8****REPORT TO TEESSIDE FREEPORT BOARD****24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FREEPORT****UPDATE FROM THE INNOVATION & SKILLS WORKSTREAM****SUMMARY**

The purpose of this paper is to update the Freeport Governance Board on the activities of the Innovation & Skills workstream.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the updates are noted.

**DETAIL**

1. The Innovation & Skills workstream met on 15<sup>th</sup> February. It was chaired by Nolan Gray, Director of Freeport.
2. The meeting focused on:
  - a. A general Freeport outlook and the potential for Scottish and Welsh Freeports to move forward in 2023.
  - b. Innovation update including the Centre for Digital Trade and Innovation, NET zero update and Innovation Launch Pad.
  - c. Skills update including adult education budget and skills bootcamps.
  - d. Partner Update – partners were encouraged to update on the current position and any issues.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

**CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION**

6. This meeting represents a stakeholder engagement event.

## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

7. 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)