

**Freeport Board**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Teesworks Skills Academy**  
**8<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

<b>Attendees</b>		<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>Members</b>		<b>Members</b>	
Ben Houchen (Chair)	Tees Valley Mayor	Siobhan McArdle	LEP Board Member
Julie Gilhespie	Operator Representative of Custom Zones and Tax Sites	Neil Etherington	Able Seaton Port
Bill Scott	Port Clarence	Jacob Young	Redcar MP
Jerry Hopkinson	PD Ports	Andrew Koss	Sembcorp
Gary Dawson	Port of Middlesbrough		
Shaun Casey	Redcar Bulk Terminal		
<b>Non-Members</b>		<b>Non-Members</b>	
Emma Simson	Acting Monitoring Officer, TVCA	Brian Archer	Executive Director for Growth, Enterprise and Environment, RCBC
Elizabeth Hutchinson	TVCA		
Gary Macdonald	Group Director Finance & Resources, TVCA		
John Coxon	DLUHC		

No.	Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Actions Required	Responsibility
1.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies were noted as above.		
2.	Declarations of Interest	No new declarations were made.		
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	The minutes of the meeting for 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.		
4.	Freeport Director's Update	<p>The Board were provided with an update from the Chair which included the following summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two new Freeports in Wales and in addition eight Investment Zones have been announced. The Investment Zones are expected to compliment the Freeports.</li> <li>• Following the local elections, there will be a new leader of RCBC who will be invited to join the Freeport Board and chair the Strategy &amp; Accountability workstream.</li> <li>• Media attention has been focussed on the region, with the Freeport being named in ongoing discussions regarding the ownership of Teesworks. The TVCA Mayor has called for the NAO to conduct a full review to resolve the ongoing hyperbole.</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the new leader of RCBC will be appointed to the Freeport Board after the AGM.</p> <p>It was noted that the Terms of Reference for the NAO audit were issued on 07/06/2023. Whilst the NAO audit does not directly impact the Freeport, it will impact STDC.</p>	Presentation on 'sentiment' calculations.	Ian McNeal, Communications Team.

		<p>It was noted that a parliamentary committee investigating the effectiveness of freeports and freeport national policy will visit the Freeport in June.</p> <p>A Chair and Committee Members expressed their thanks to the recently outgoing Freeport Director for his crucial input in establishing the Freeport. The expectation is that the Freeport Ambassador role will be filled in interim by Tees Valley Business Board Members for the next six months until a new Freeport Director is appointed.</p> <p>A committee member questioned why the outgoing Freeport Director's role has been disaggregated, and whether an investment director will now be sought to manage the commercial aspect of the site. They were advised that the intention was always to allow the governance aspect of the role to be absorbed by the Combined Authority, which is no longer required, leaving the titular head role which now requires filling. This may or may not be filled by an investment director, though the position will need to be filled by someone with an understanding of regulatory management and commercial entities.</p> <p>A committee member asked what the meaning of 'sentiment' is in Item 4 Appendix 1, and how it is calculated. They were advised that individual impressions on social media and the press are captured by a complex communications algorithm, which will require separate presentation at a later date.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Board noted the update report.</li></ul>		
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5.	Assurance & Compliance Workstream Update	<p>The Board were provided with an update on the activities of the Assurance &amp; Compliance Workstream.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board noted the update report.</li> </ul>		
6.	Strategy & Accountability for Public Money Workstream Update	<p>The Board were provided with an update on the activities of the Strategy &amp; Accountability for public money workstream.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board noted the update report.</li> </ul>		
7.	Inward Investment Update	<p>The Board were provided with an update on the activities of the Innovation and Inward Investment workstream.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board noted the update report.</li> </ul>		
8.	Innovation & Skills Update	<p>The Board were provided with an update on the key activity in the period.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board noted the update report.</li> </ul>		
9.	Delivery Plan Update	<p>The Board were provided with an update on the freeport delivery plan.</p> <p>A Committee Member commented that seeing the commercial pipeline is useful and creates a sense of momentum, which they trust is the purpose of the report. The Committee Member also commented that it would be helpful to have an indication of when FIDs are anticipated, and asked whether this document shows an extensive rendition of material opportunities. The Chair concurred</p>	<p>The next meeting will require formal appointment of the individual representing the Freeport Board on the HMRC/HMT Customs Group.</p>	<p>Freeport Board Members</p>

		<p>and said that agreements and planning documents will be shared when applicable, however the document does not show an extensive rendition of material opportunities in the context of STDC and to some extent Teesworks.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked whether the exclusion revolves around nondisclosure. The Chair confirmed that although there are not NDAs in place, the exclusion revolves around closing out their finances and not wanting to disclose information on this basis.</p> <p>It was noted that there is a new HMRC/HMT customs group which will require a new appointment in the interim between now and the next Freeport Board meeting, as this position was filled by the outgoing Freeport Director.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board noted the update report.</li> </ul>		
10.	Risk Register	<p>The Board were provided with an update from the Group Risk Manager.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Board noted the update report.</li> </ul>		
11.	Date and Time of Next Meeting	<p>The next four meeting dates will be decided before the next meeting, which is yet to be scheduled. The majority of the Board Members' preference is that meetings be scheduled on Thursdays or Fridays.</p>		