

## Freeport Board

**Date:** Thursday, 16 January 2025 at 10.00am

**Venue:** Tees Valley Combined Authority (Teesside Airport Business Suite,  
Teesside International Airport, Darlington, DL2 1NJ)

### Membership:

Ben Houchen (Tees Valley Mayor)

Alec Brown (Leader of Redcar and Cleveland Council)

Matthew Ord (Vice-Chair of Tees Valley Business Board)

David Smith (South Tees Development Corporation Board Member)

Julie Gilhespie (Operator representative of Customs Zones and Tax Sites)

Andrew Cottrell (Sembcorp)

Shaun Casey (Redcar Bulk Terminal)

Jerry Hopkinson (PD Ports)

Gary Dawson (Port of Middlesbrough)

Bill Scott (Port Clarence)

Lance Taylor (Seaton Port)

Ian Kirk (Teesworks)

Observer – John Coxon (Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government)

## AGENDA

|           |   |          |                    |             |
|-----------|---|----------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>  | Verbal   | Chair              | Information |
| <b>2.</b> | <p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>To receive any declarations of interest.</p>  | Verbal   | Chair              | Information |
| <b>3.</b> | <p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2024 to be approved as a correct record.</p>   | Attached | Chair              | Approval    |
| <b>4.</b> | <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer Update</b></p> <p>To receive a report from the Senior Responsible Officer presenting an update on Freeport activity and wider Group matters.</p>   | Attached | Julie<br>Gillespie | Information |
| <b>5.</b> | <p><b>Finance, Risk and Accountability Update</b></p> <p>To receive a report from the Group Finance and Resources Director presenting an update on Finance, Risk and Accountability.</p> <p><i>Appendix 1 is confidential and will not be published.</i></p>                      | Attached | Gary<br>Macdonald  | Information |
| <b>6.</b> | <p><b>Inward Investment, Marketing and Economic Growth Update</b></p> <p>To receive a report from the Group Finance and Resources Director presenting an update on Inward Investment, Marketing and Economic Growth.</p>  | Attached | Gary<br>Macdonald  | Information |
| <b>7.</b> | <p><b>Freeport Annual Review: Action Update</b></p> <p>To receive a report from the Group Director of Finance and Resources presenting an update on the actions following the Annual Performance Review.</p> <p><i>This report is confidential and will not be published.</i></p> | Attached | Gary<br>Macdonald  | Information |

| 8. | <b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b> | Verbal | Chair | Information |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------------|
|    | Thursday, 10 April 2025 at 10.00am   |        |       |             |

## Freeport Board

**Venue:** Teesworks Skills Academy, Eston Road, TS6 6UA

**Date:** Monday, 14 October 2024 at 11.00am

(These Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next Freeport Board and are therefore subject to amendments)

| <b>Members Present:</b>       |   | <b>Member Apologies:</b> |                      |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Julie Gilhespie (JG)          | Operator Representative of Custom Zones and Tax Sites | Ben Houchen              | Tees Valley Mayor    |
| Matthew Ord (Vice Chair) (MO) | Tees Valley Business Board                            | Bill Scott               | Port Clarence        |
| Councillor Alec Brown (AB)    | Leader of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council        | David Smith              | STDC Board Member    |
| Ian Kirk (IK)                 | Teesworks   | Shaun Casey              | Redcar Bulk Terminal |
| Andrew Cottrell (AC)          | Sembcorp  |                          |                      |
| Lance Taylor (LT)             | Able Seaton Port                                      |                          |                      |
| Jerry Hopkinson (JH)          | PD Ports  |                          |                      |
| Gary Dawson (GD)              | AV Dawson   |                          |                      |

| <b>Non-Members Present:</b> |   |                    |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Gary Macdonald (GM)         | Group Director of Finance and Resources | Emma Simson (ES)   | Group Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, TVCA |
| Siobhan McArdle (SM)        | Freeport Programme Director             | Connor Malone (CM) | TVCA Governance, Minutes                               |
| John Coxon (JC)             | DLUHC (Observer)                        |                    |  |

| No. | Agenda Item                       | Summary of Discussion  | Actions                                 | Responsibility |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
|     | Welcome and Introductions         | With the absence of the Chair, Julie Gilhespie was asked to chair the meeting.   |   |                |
| 1.  | Apologies for Absence             | <p>Apologies for absence were submitted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ben Houchen,</li> <li>- Bill Scott,</li> <li>- David Smith,</li> <li>- Shaun Casey</li> </ul>   |   |                |
| 2.  | Declarations of Interest          | There were no interests declared   |   |                |
| 3.  | Minutes of Previous Meeting       | The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2023 were approved as correct record.  | To upload final minutes to the website. | CM             |
| 4.  | Senior Responsible Officer Update | <p>Julie Gilhespie presented a report providing general update on Freeport activity and the activities of the wider Tees Valley Combined Authority Group.</p> <p>Julie informed members that the Tees Valley Investment Zone had been paused whilst the Authority underwent the Tees Valley Review. It was further delayed with the General Election; however, Government has confirmed that the Investment Zones will be going forward.</p> <p>Information on the Investment Zones should be available in the coming weeks following response from Government to the Tees Valley Review letter sent by Ben Houchen.</p> <p><b>Resolved that;</b></p> <p>Board note the content of the report.</p> |   |                |

|    |   |  |  |                     |
|----|---|--|--|---------------------|
| 5. | Freeport Delivery Plan Update                     | <p>Members received update on the proposals for Freeport Delivery Planning. Within the update they were provided with a presentation that detailed background information on the freeport itself and progress with the workstreams.</p> <p>Thanks was given to Siobhan McArdle for the detailed information provided.</p> <p><b>*Pursuant to paragraph 3 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, the minutes held on the confidential appendices are exempt from publication*</b></p> <p><b>Resolved that;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Board notes the content of the report;</li> <li>ii) Approves the delivery plan proposed within appendix 1.</li> </ul>  | <p>SM to invite the current CSO (Caspers) representative to the following Freeport Board.</p> <p>To add 'Comparison between Custom Zones and Bonding Warehouses' to next Agenda.</p> | <p>SM</p> <p>CM</p> |
| 6. | Inward Investment and Marketing Workstream Update | <p>Update on the Inward Investment and Marketing Workstream was provided during Item 5. Information is provided below.</p> <p><i>The workstream is chaired by the TVCA's Business Board Chair and includes membership from Landowners and Freeport Representatives. The workstream will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Market the Freeport effectively to attract private investment into the Freeport.</i></li> <li>- <i>Ensure appropriate support is provided to investors who commit to the Freeport to help deliver their investment.</i></li> <li>- <i>Plan / Coordinate Freeport marketing direction.</i></li> <li>- <i>Review alignment with Freeport sectors.</i></li> <li>- <i>Review the creation of new roles associated with the Freeport and identifies the skills gaps.</i></li> <li>- <i>Recommend an action plan to address skills gaps and support a programme of reemployment.</i></li> </ul> |  |                     |

|    |   |   |  |                     |
|----|---|---|--|---------------------|
| 7. | Risk and Accountability Workstream Update | <p>Members received update on the Risk and Accountability Workstream. The papers provided an overview of the activity and gave detailed explanation of the key areas explored by the group.</p> <p>Query was raised on the allocation of the £25 million received by the Freeport with discussion held on the specific areas of the zone that have received funding.</p> <p>Gary Macdonald noted that the allocations of funds had been provided within the approved business case for the Teesside Freeport.</p> <p><b>Resolved that;</b></p> <p>Board notes the content of the report.</p>  |  |                     |
| 8. | Tax Extension                             | <p>Members received a report detailing information on the tax extension delivery plan. The report noted actions required to be completed by the Freeport to allow the progression of the extension.</p> <p>After discussion, members requested amendments to the recommendations to reflect requirements to circulate the completed documentation to board. They noted that there were outstanding elements within that required detail, they felt they would need to review this information before submission.</p> <p>Query on the timescales for progressing the tax extension were raised by members. John Coxon, DLUHC Observer, informed members that they weren't sure on the confirmed deadline and would check.</p> <p>Discussion was held by members on the boundary lines of the exemption zones. Focus was noted on the potential changes within the region since the establishment of the boundaries. They were informed</p> | <p>Coordination with Tax site landowners on the tax site extension requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land Transfer Notification Protocol.</li> <li>- GANTT Chart for Wilton International.</li> </ul> <p>Deadline for the progression of the tax extension to be confirmed.</p> | <p>GM</p> <p>JC</p> |

|     |  |  |   |    |
|-----|--|--|---|----|
|     |  | <p>that there had been requests for changes which were rejected by Government.</p> <p>Within the establishment of the Freeport, there were significant areas of land that would have been considered had they not been constrained by the land limitations. Given the change in Government the board agreed that it was incumbent on them to raise the matter regarding the boundaries with Government.</p> <p><b>Resolved that;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Board notes the content of the report;</li> <li>ii) The recommendations be amended to require that the completed documentation be shared with board before submission.</li> </ul> | To write to Government with the queries of the board.                                       | JG |
| 9.  | Compliance Report including Risk Register and Finance Report | <p>Gary Macdonald provided update on the Compliance Report and the annual reporting outcomes.</p> <p>Members raised concern with quoracy and lack of substitution to the board. They felt that they should have the opportunity to nominate several individuals who could attend based on their subject matter knowledge.</p> <p><b>Resolved that;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii) Board notes the content of the report;</li> <li>iv) The Board recommends that TVCA Cabinet amend the constitution in regard to Freeport to allow named substitutes.</li> </ul>  | To request Cabinet consider the implementation of two named substitutes for Freeport Board. | ES |
| 10. | Tees Valley Review:  | Julie Gilhespie provided update on the response to the Tees Valley Review and the ask of the Freeport Board regarding Governance amendments.   |   |    |



|     |   |  |  |           |
|-----|---|--|--|-----------|
|     | <p>Recommendations for Freeport Board</p> | <p>Members raised query on the Authorities focus on meeting the expectations of the review and the timeline for completion.</p> <p>JG provided an explanation to members that the Authority had already met some of the expectations and had been working for some time to deliver on these. The response to the Secretary of State has been submitted and the Authority awaits the response from them.</p> <p>Secondary query was raised on the volume and size of papers for Freeport Board meetings with members noting that they may not have the available time to review the items in full. They felt that summarised documents or streamlined agenda packs could support their activities, whilst acknowledging the depth of reporting required to meet the requirements if the Independent Review.</p> <p>Members were informed that the format and nature of reporting would be reviewed.</p> <p><b>Resolved that;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Board notes the content of the report; and</li> <li>ii) Agree to the implementation of the recommendations.</li> </ul> | <p>To review the format and volume of papers provided to board in advance of meetings.</p> | <p>ES</p> |
| 11. | Date and Time of Next Meeting             | Thursday 16 January 2025 at 10.00am  |  |           |

**SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER UPDATE****SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide Freeport Members a general update on the Teesside Freeport and wider Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) group activity.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Freeport Board:

- i. Notes the content of this paper.
- ii. Approves the updates to the Tax Site Management Policy Appendix 3.
- iii. Notes the decisions made by the TVCA Cabinet.

**DETAIL****FREEPORT TAX EXTENSION**

1. Following the Government announcement in 2023 of the extension of the window to claim tax reliefs in English Freeports from five to ten years (until September 2031), conditional on agreement of delivery plans with each Freeport. Freeports were asked to submit a return to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Teesside Freeport submitted their delivery plan on 16 February 2024.
2. Following the submission of the delivery plan further updates were required. These were.
  - i. Submit a draft copy of the proposed land transfer notification protocol prior to submission to the Freeport Board for approval. Discussions have been held with the Tax Site landowners and following feedback a protocol is being developed and will be shared the Board once agreed with the landowners.
  - ii. Complete action 2 as per letter of 6 March 2024 (appendix 2), submission of a Gantt chart plan for Wilton International development projects where work is still remaining.

- a. Wilton international have provided information on 10 projects that sit within their tax site. There are currently projected start and end dates for 4 plots within the tax site area.
- iii. Freeports should perform a review of the general principles undertaken by DLUHC (now MHCLG) and make any necessary amendments to their Tax Site Management Plan (TSMP), incorporating proposed mechanisms to mitigate displacement and deadweight as applicable, as soon as possible.
  - a. The TSMP has been updated, appendix 3, two additional lines have been included to explore with the landowners.
  - b. The following has been added under the responsibility of the Board:
    - 1. The Freeport Board will receive information from Landowners in an agreed format sufficient to confirm the strategic fit of business enquiries and offers.
    - 2. The Freeport will securely store enquiry and offer information for audit and reporting purposes.

In the TSMP, the following has been added under the responsibility of the Landowners:

- 1. Landowners will be required to provide the Freeport Board this information in the agreed template provided by the Freeport Board.
- iv. Freeports should ensure full implementation of all agreements and policies, including Retained Business Rates procedures with the Local Billing Authorities, as soon as possible. This should be completed and copies of the updated TSMP to be submitted to DLUHC (now MHCLG).

The Freeport Board is asked to approve the following additions to the TSMP as detailed in appendix 3;

- a. The Business case and assurance process will be followed for the re-investment of all retained business rates. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) will develop a HM Treasury Green Book compliant business case which outlines the case for retained business rate investment. Both the Freeport Board and RCBC's Cabinet will approve the business case before releasing funding for investment. Once funding release has taken place, the Promoter will report to the Freeport in line with the requirements set out by the Programme Management Office.

## **FREEPORT DELIVERY PLAN**

3. The Freeport delivery plan that was presented to the Freeport Board on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 was approved.
4. Following its approval the Freeport Hub Operating Model has started delivery.
5. TVCA, as the lead authority, undertook a procurement exercise for the next tranche of support for Freeport strategic leadership and programme oversight. OCO Global were appointed to undertake this work and will commence in January 2025.
6. The Freeport Hub Core team are now in post and are continuing to work on further developing the Freeport and wider Tees Valley Inward Investment Strategy and delivering the Teesside Freeport Skills and Workforce Strategy. Further updates are provided in a separate agenda item.

## **DIGITAL TEST BED**

7. The Digital Test Bed implementation activity is progressing with a revised delivery date of September 2025 reflecting the formal change request submitted and approved by Government.
8. TVCA continue to work in partnership with Teesside University as local research and innovation specialists for the Digital test bed. Dense Air are providing a 5G network (now operational) for the sole use of the Digital test bed. In addition, the Freeport are working with ICC Centre for Digital Trade and Innovation; they are specialists in digital trade and a champion and customer supplier for the digital test bed. Construction company Rainton Construction Ltd have been procured to undertake the Testbed build.

## **CUSTOMS ZONE BENEFITS**

9. At the last meeting the Board asked for clarification relating to the difference between customs zone and bonding warehouse benefits to understand the benefit of the customs zone. Appendix 1 shows a table that provides the detail but in essence the benefit of the Freeport is that manufacturing and storage can be delivered in one simplified process, whereas without it, business have to apply both the Bonding warehouse rules which allow for storage and more complex processes relating to manufacturing which make the administration of the process much more technically, though not necessarily financially onerous.

## **FREEPORT BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

10. The Member proposed by the Tees Valley Mayor to serve on the Freeport Board following Neil Etherington's resignation is Lance Taylor. TVCA Cabinet ratified the appointment of Lance Taylor at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

## **FREEPORT BOARD SUBSTITUTIONS**

11. At the last Freeport Board meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 the Board agreed unanimously to propose that TVCA Cabinet agree to amend the Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution to permit Freeport Board Members to propose one substitute member for themselves, to the Tees Valley Mayor in order for the Tees Valley Mayor to make an appointment recommendation to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet.
12. At the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 TVCA Cabinet approved the proposal from the Freeport to appoint substitutes and the required constitutional changes have been made.

## **FREEPORT RESOURCES**

13. The Board received an update at the last meeting regarding the procurement of strategic support for the Freeport. As part of this commission, current and future resource requirements would be identified to implement the delivery plan approved by Board at the last meeting. The successful company is OCO Global who have now commenced work with the in-house Freeport team and will be arranging engagement meetings with stakeholders over the coming weeks.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. This report is an update and does not have any direct financial implications.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

15. This report is an update and does not have any direct legal implications.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

16. The risk profile for Teesside Freeport is the subject of a separate agenda item.

## **CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

17. This report is an update and there are no direct consultation and communication requirements.

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

18. Our aim is to ensure that the Teesside Freeport Governing Board and its workstreams will provide equal opportunity for everyone.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Julie Gilhespie  
**Post Title:** Group Chief Executive and SRO of Teesside Freeport  
**Email Address:** [julie.gilhespie@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk](mailto:julie.gilhespie@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk)

**COMPARISON BETWEEN CUSTOM ZONES AND BONDING WAREHOUSES**

| Descriptor                | Custom Zones  | Bonding Warehouses  |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Primary Function</b>   | Manufacturing and value addition  | Storage only  |
| <b>Location</b>           | Within Freeports  | Can be within or outside freeports  |
| <b>Activities Allowed</b> | Processing, assembly, re-export   | Storage, packaging  |
| <b>Duty Payment</b>       | Deferred until goods enter the domestic market  | Deferred until goods leave the warehouse  |
| <b>Tax Benefits</b>       | Comprehensive (manufacturing incentives)  | Limited (storage-related incentives)  |
| <b>Definition</b>         | Custom zones are specific areas within a freeport where businesses can operate with special tax and customs benefits. These zones often serve as industrial hubs, encouraging manufacturing, processing, or assembly. | Bonding warehouses are secure storage facilities where goods can be stored without paying customs duties. They can exist within or outside freeports. |
| <b>Purpose</b>            | Focused on economic activity like manufacturing, re-exporting goods, or adding value to imported goods.   | Primarily for storage rather than production or manufacturing. Goods are held until they are ready to be re-exported or enter the domestic market.    |
| <b>Regulations</b>        | Goods within a custom zone are considered to be outside the country's customs territory, meaning import duties are deferred until goods enter the domestic market.  | Goods remain under customs supervision while in the warehouse, and duties are only paid when goods leave the warehouse for the domestic market.       |
| <b>Taxation</b>           | Businesses often benefit from tax reliefs, such as exemptions on import duties, VAT, and other taxes.   | Similar to custom zones, duties and taxes are deferred, but there are no additional benefits for manufacturing or value addition.                     |
| <b>Customs Oversight</b>  | Requires robust customs control to ensure compliance, especially for goods entering domestic markets.   | Intense customs oversight ensures goods do not leave the warehouse without proper documentation and payment of duties, if required.                   |
| <b>Flexibility</b>        | Designed for large-scale operations, especially those looking to add value before re-exporting goods.   | Limited to storage; not ideal for businesses looking to perform operations on the goods.  |
| <b>Examples</b>           | Zones for assembling electronics, automotive manufacturing, or food processing within a freeport.   | Warehouses for luxury goods, bulk commodities, or products awaiting seasonal demand.  |



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Julie Gilhespie  
Group Chief Executive  
Tees Valley Combined Authority

**Harry Jones**  
UK Freeports Programme Director

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6 March 2024

Dear Julie

Many thanks for your submission of your Delivery Plan. In advance of the Spring Budget 2024 taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> March, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you progress with the Freeports tax reliefs extension process.

I am pleased to confirm we completed our initial assessment of your Delivery Plan, the outcome of which was recently approved by the UK Freeports Programme Board and our Secretary of State. I am pleased to confirm that your Delivery Plan has passed the framework criteria subject to the following actions being undertaken:

| Action  | To Be Completed By: |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Confirmation of a proposed protocol to monitor land and property disposals and the transfer of obligations with Landowners | 28 March 2024       |
| 2. Submission of a gantt chart plan for Wilton International development projects where work is still remaining               | End of April 2024   |
| 3. Action feedback on the Tax Site Management Policy (DLUHC to issue recommendations in week of 11 March 2024)                | End of June 2024    |

Failure to complete action 1 in March could put your extension at risk.

In terms of next steps:

- at Spring Budget 2024, HMG will confirm the extension to the Freeport tax reliefs to September 2031 and will apply once final delivery plans have been agreed, which will be shortly;
- we will notify you the date when the Statutory Instrument for the extension of tax reliefs will be laid, for all three tax sites, expected April;
- we will follow up to discuss how to strengthen Freeports capacity; and
- we will issue a short letter of variation to your Memorandum of Understanding to incorporate the changes following activation of the tax relief extension

In the meantime, should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or John Coxon as your Freeport Lead.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Jones  
UK Freeports Programme Director

# Teesside Freeport

## Tax Site Management Policy

**Document Control:**

|                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Document Title:</b>          | Freeport Tax Site Management Policy |
| <b>Document Version Number:</b> | 0.1 Pending Board Approval          |
| <b>Document Review Date:</b>    | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022     |
| <b>Next Review Date:</b>        | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2023     |
| <b>Document Owner:</b>          | Freeport Director                   |



## **Contents**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Background**
- 3. Purpose**
- 4. Scope**
- 5. Approach**
  - a. Eligibility Criteria**
  - b. Decision making process**
  - c. Exceptions process**
- 6. Responsibilities**
  - a. Freeport Board**
  - b. Landowners and Agents**
  - c. Local Authority – Redcar & Cleveland**
  - d. Tees Valley Combined Authority**
- 7. Reporting**

## Introduction

Freeports are special areas within the UK's borders where different economic regulations apply.

The Freeport model operating in England has 3 key objectives which contribute to the government agendas of build back better, driving clean growth and levelling up:-

- Establish Freeports as national hubs for global trade and investment
- Create hotbeds for innovation
- Promote regeneration

The English Freeports model includes a comprehensive package of measures, comprising tax reliefs, customs, business rates retention, planning, regeneration, innovation and trade and investment support.

Tax reliefs, including enhanced capital allowances, relief from stamp duty and employer national insurance contributions for additional employees, are designed to encourage the maximum number of businesses to open, expand and invest in our Freeports which in turn will boost employment.

## Background

The Teesside Freeport is centred around the seaports along the River Tees and extends to 45 km beyond, including Teesside International Airport.

Three tax sites operate in the Teesside Freeport:

- [Teesworks East](#)
- [Teesworks West](#)
- [Wilton International](#)

All the organisations operating within the Teesside Freeport Tax Sites boundaries are committed to maximising the opportunities presented by Freeport status. This commitment extends across public and private sectors, and includes all landowners, and their agents.

The Teesside Freeport focuses on three key sectors: -

- Clean Energy (including Offshore Wind Assembly and Manufacture)
- Chemicals and Materials Processing
- Bio Life Sciences (Advanced Manufacturing)

These sectors contribute to the development of a Tees Valley Net Zero Cluster and are listed as the key target markets in section 1b of the Teesside Freeport Full Business Case.

## Purpose

The Freeport Board will determine the eligibility of all inward investment proposals against three criteria that ensure alignment with the Full Business Case. These criteria are:

1. Alignment to eligible sectors
2. Growth
3. Location

The purpose of the **Teesside Freeport Tax Site Management Policy** is to:

- Define organisational roles and responsibilities in the management of the tax sites identified in the Teesside Freeport
- Promote knowledge sharing across **all** organisations operating within the Teesside Freeport
- Promote activities to maximise the benefits available from freeport status on the tax sites.
- Ensure appropriate sanctions are considered following an investigation into non compliance to this policy, which may include withholding of marketing support and recommendations to withhold business rate relief.

## Scope

This policy applies to all organisations working at all levels within the Freeport Tax Sites, including all landowners and their agents involved in the attraction of investors and investment into the three tax sites.

This policy sets out the Tax Site Management for the Teesside Freeport and is not intended to provide a comprehensive approach to marketing and inward investment or compliance with HM Government legislation or HMRC regulations.

Non-compliance with this policy will be subjected to investigation and appropriate sanctions will be levied.

## Approach

A business established on any of the agreed tax sites operating within the Teesside Freeport will be able to benefit from the tax incentives listed in the table below:

| Relief         | Description  | From        | To         |
|----------------|--|-------------|------------|
| STDL           | Purchase & Lease   | Designation | 30 Sept 26 |
| ECA            | 100% first year allowance (P&M)  | Designation | 30 Sept 26 |
| ESBA           | 10% rate of SBA for 10 years   | Designation | 30 Sept 26 |
| NIC            | Zero rate of secondary C1 on new hires (£25k cap for 3 years)  | 6 April 22  | 5 April 26 |
| Business Rates | 100% relief from business rates on SIC specified business premises within Freeport tax sites. (Up to 5 years of benefit) | 1 Oct 21    | 30 Sept 26 |

**a. Tax Sites Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to benefit from the Tax Zone incentives available under Teesside Freeport Status, businesses must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

**Criteria 1: Key Sectors**

Businesses must operate in one of the **key / supporting** sectors listed below.

The **key sectors** eligible for the Teesside Freeport tax incentives are classified as follows:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <a href="#">ONS SIC Section &amp; Division Codes</a>                           |  |
| <a href="#">Section C: Manufacturing</a>                                       |  |
| Division 10  | <a href="#">Manufacture of food products</a>   |
| Division 20  | <a href="#">Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products</a>                               |
| Division 21  | <a href="#">Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations</a> |
| Division 24  | <a href="#">Manufacture of basic metals</a>  |
| Division 25  | <a href="#">Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment</a>     |
| Division 27  | <a href="#">Manufacture of electrical equipment</a>  |
| Division 28  | <a href="#">Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.</a>                                |
| <a href="#">Section D: Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply</a> |  |
| Division 35  | <a href="#">Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply</a>                          |

The **supporting sectors** are eligible where they are essential supply chain or enabling services for the key sectors listed above:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <a href="#">ONS SIC Section &amp; Division Codes</a>                         |  |
| <a href="#">Section G: Wholesale and Retail Trade</a>                        |  |
| Division 47  | <a href="#">Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles<sup>1</sup></a> |
| <a href="#">Section H: Transportation and Storage</a>                        |  |
| Division 49  | <a href="#">Land transport and transport via pipelines</a>                         |
| Division 50  | <a href="#">Water transport</a>  |
| Division 52  | <a href="#">Warehousing and support activities for transportation</a>              |
| <a href="#">Section J: Information and Communication</a>                     |  |
| Division 63  | <a href="#">Information service activities</a>                                     |
| <a href="#">Section M: PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES</a> |  |
| <a href="#">Section N: ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES</a>     |  |

**Criteria 2: Growth**

Businesses eligible to benefit from Tax Zone Incentives will need to demonstrate that they are **delivering growth** in jobs to the region. In particular, the investor must provide evidence that it is not displacing jobs from elsewhere in the region or in the UK and that its investment in a Freeport tax site is either new investment or an increase in scale of investment over previous plans.

<sup>1</sup> A section of greenfield land on the tax site at Wilton, known as Roadside, has planning permission granted for retail and hotel accommodation which supports employees and other site users.

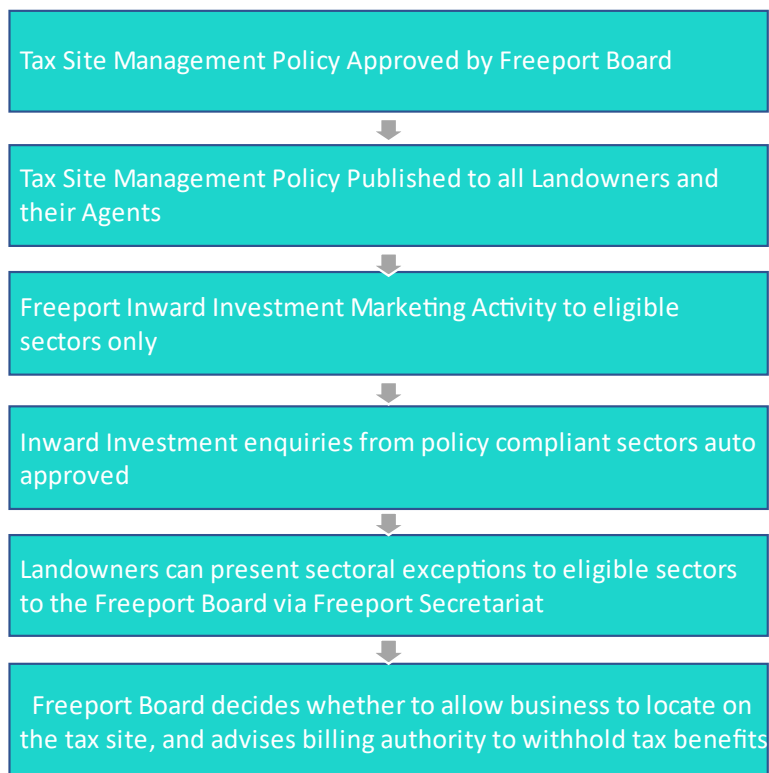
### Criteria 3: Location

Businesses eligible to benefit from Tax Zone Incentives must be **located** in the designated plots of land which have been granted Freeport Tax Sites, as detailed on the [HMRC Website](#):

- [Teesworks East](#)
- [Teesworks West](#)
- [Wilton International](#)

#### b. Decision Making Process

The tax site decision making process is summarised:



#### c. Exceptions Process

It is recognised that there may be instances where there is interest from a business which does not fit the sector eligibility criteria provided above.

In addition to the usual pipeline the landowner or their agent must provide commercial rationale to the board in the form of a written report, to demonstrate why an exception is necessary. The Board will determine whether or not the business should locate on the site, in consideration of the opportunity cost and benefits to the region. The Board will also review the eligibility criteria and recommend any changes as a result.

## Responsibilities

The responsibilities of organisations working within the Freeport Tax sites are listed below:

### a. The Freeport Board

The role of the Board is to: -

- a. establish the Freeport as a national hub for global trade and investment
- b. promote regeneration and job creation
- c. create a hotbed for innovation

This is to be achieved by discharging the following functions: -

- a. Market the Freeport effectively to procure private investment into the Freeport
- b. Provide appropriate support to investors who commit to the Freeport to help deliver their investment
- c. Make use of the public Freeport measures provided to deliver a Freeport (such as regeneration funding and Local Development Orders)
- d. Provide an innovation function which:
  - i. supports innovative businesses where they require input
  - ii. coordinate and facilitate submissions for place-based innovation or challenge funds and regulatory support from Freeport firms
- e. Monitor and maintain integration with local economic strategies
- f. Formally report to MHCLG (now DLUHC) through the area lead periodically and at least annually on how the Freeport is delivering on the strategy set out in their winning bid
- g. Comply with MHCLG's requirements on monitoring and evaluation (such as data collection and provision regarding new jobs, businesses created and private investment attracted)
- h. Actively manage security risks across physical, personnel, and cyber domains, and work with MHCLG, HMRC, Border Force, the NCA, and Home Office to conduct an annual audit of the security measures in place and any breaches

Applying functions c and e above, the Freeport Board will receive information from Landowners in an agreed format sufficient to confirm the strategic fit of business enquiries and offers. It is recognised there is a potential conflict of interest of land-owning board members and the sensitive nature of commercial negotiations, so the Board will not have full visibility of all the details of the investment pipeline. As an example, the landowner would provide information on the type of company (eg Gigafactory, offshore wind manufacturing, lifesciences). This allows the Board to determine which businesses qualify for the Freeport Incentives and ensures the criteria set out above is adhered to. This gateway check ensures the tax incentives are maximising the delivery of the Freeport Policy Objectives. The Freeport will securely store enquiry and offer information for audit and reporting purposes.

Where landowners or their agents wish to provide land for businesses not fitting the eligibility criteria, the Board will review the report provided as set out in the exceptions process.

The Board can amend this list of eligible sectors to ensure the delivery of the Freeport objectives is met and developing a Net Zero Cluster is achieved.

The Freeport Board's eligibility criteria decision is final.

*(The full Terms of Reference of the Role and Functions of the Freeport Governance Board are set out in the Governance arrangements, Annex J of the Freeport Full Business Case).*

**b. The Landowner and their Agent**

It is expected that the landowners and their agents are committed to maximising the opportunities presented by Freeport status. This requires their inward investment marketing activities to be directed on the attraction of eligible businesses to their sites.

Eligible businesses will be able to make use of the tax incentives listed above, and benefit from the freeport policy levers available.

An overview of the planned inward investment activities and a resultant redacted pipeline of interest is required to be made available to the Inward Investment Workstream and Freeport Board. This will ensure that marketing and promotional activities are aligned to best effect across the Freeport, the risk of attracting ineligible businesses is mitigated, and the delivery of the Freeport outcomes is actively managed.

As enquiries mature through the pipeline of interest, prior to formal offer, it is required that the Freeport Board are notified of the incoming occupants of the tax sites, to confirm strategic fit with the Freeport objectives, and to confirm with the Local Authority eligibility for Business Rates Relief. Landowners will be required to provide the Freeport Board this information in the agreed template provided by the Freeport Board.

Should the landowner and their agents not comply, the Freeport Board can withdraw marketing support and will recommend to the Local Authority to withhold Business Rates Relief.

**c. The Local Authority: Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC)**

All Teesside Freeport Tax Sites are located within Redcar and Cleveland Borough. The Council is the Billing Authority which will receive the additional Business Rates that are retained locally as a result of Freeport Status on the tax site at Wilton International.

The Business case and assurance process will be followed for the re-investment of all retained business rates. RCBC will develop a HM Treasury Green Book compliant business case which outlines the case for retained business rate investment. Both the Freeport Board and RCBC's Cabinet will approve the business case before releasing funding for investment. Once funding release has taken place, the Promoter will report to the Freeport in line with the requirements set out by the Programme Management Office.

The Freeport Board will auto approve eligible businesses that will qualify for Business Rates Relief. The Board will advise the billing authority to withhold Business Rates Relief from ineligible businesses that locate, by exception, on the Tax Site. RCBC that the RCBC carry out the activities to collect the rates and provide the appropriate subsidy to businesses and seek their compensation for the subsidy from Central Government.

**d. Tees Valley Combined Authority**



TVCA is the accountable body for the seed capital and revenue funding provided by government to establish the Freeport. TVCA provides the governance and assurance processes, and matrix team resources required to develop and support the delivery of the Freeport.

Expertise in Skills, Innovation, Inward Investment, Net Zero is drawn from thematic teams already established and funded within the TVCA Group structure. Teesside Freeport draws on this expertise to provide the support offer for inward investors to reduce barriers to investment.

The Freeport works on behalf of its members, as a business association, to drive business development opportunities into the region which will lead to inward investment and growth in existing supply chain clusters and export trade growth. It will do this by specifically targeting promotional activities to the eligible sectors listed above and providing a central enquiry handling process to benefit all members.

The Billing Authority, (Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC)), is a member of TVCA, the Leader of RCBC is the Chair of the Strategy & Accountability for Public Money Workstream.

## **Reporting**

Progress will be reported to the board via the governance structure set out at in the Freeport FBC, Annex J. Progress will be reported to central government via the reporting structures set out in the Memorandum of Understanding, Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Inward Investment Workstream receives an overview of the investment pipeline, to review the effectiveness of marketing tactics to grow the pipeline and to coordinate marketing effort across all Freeport partners
- The report of the Inward Investment Workstream is a standard agenda item to the bi-monthly Freeport Board
- The Board receives an overview of the investment pipeline and will auto approve the strategic fit of eligible businesses wishing to locate on the site and, if required, consider any exceptions proposed by a landowner.
- Official government reporting of performance takes place quarterly, half yearly, and annually.





*Appendix 1 of this report is Confidential.*

AGENDA ITEM 5

REPORT TO FREEPORT BOARD

15 JANUARY 2025

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES

FINANCE, RISK AND ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATE

## SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Finance, Risk and Accountability for the Teesside Freeport.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Freeport Board:

- i. Note the content of this paper
- ii. Note the Freeport Risk Register update (Appendix 1)

## DETAIL

### DATA COLLECTION

1. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), require all Freeports to complete and return bi-annual data collection reporting, in November and May, which is submitted in the form of a standardised spreadsheet with specified data to collect.
2. As approved at the last Freeport Board meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October, following a review of the data collection a new reporting approach has been set out by MHCLG, which was implemented in advance of the return due by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Key differences are the introduction of narrative reports, the inclusion of high level programme and individual tax site risks, overview of tax and customs sites and 120 monitoring indicators have been removed from reporting, which is largely demographic information.
3. Teesside Freeport submitted their data collection report on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The data collection period relates to Freeport activity that took place between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

4. The next data collection submission is due 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and will cover the period from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The Freeport Hub will continue to work with Landowners to establish a process and timeline for data collection.

## FINANCE UPDATE

5. Seed funding is comprised of capital and revenue elements and covers the period 2021/22 – 2023/24, and the TVCA also match funded the Government seed revenue contributions.

### i. Capital element of the funding:

- All seed revenue funding for 2021-22 to 2023-24 has been accounted for in full.
- £21.5m has been spent to date and the remaining £3.5m is allocated to the Digital Test Bed project.
- Site remediation into Teesworks West and East has completed to plan.
- Delivery has progressed with the Digital Freeport Test Bed and is planned to go into the next financial year (2024/25).
- Following a formal change request which was submitted to Government the revised delivery date is now September 2025.
- A Delegated Decision for Advanced Funding has been produced to request £300,000 from the £3.5m seed capital funding supplied by MHCLG for the purchase of technology and equipment to fit out the Freeport Digital Testbed.
- This will be provided in a Capital Grant to confirmed operators of the Testbed Teesside University who have the expertise to procure and run the necessary technology and equipment.

### ii. Retained business rates position:

- Work is progressing with modelling the business rates. TVCA are working alongside Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) on the retention and redeployment.
- Actions agreed:
  - Provide a detailed project update on the Digital Freeport Test Bed at the next workstream meeting.
  - Provide a detailed project update on the Investment at the next workstream meeting.
  - GM and AS to meet separately to review progression – GM and AS have met.
  - Digital Freeport Test Bed progression – updates will be provided to the Risk and Accountability for Public Finance workstream. Key progression and milestones will be updated to the Freeport Board.

## APPROACH TO RISK MANAGEMENT

6. The Board agreed to adopt the TVCA Risk Management process at the initial Board meeting in May 2021. This framework has successfully been deployed to deliver the first operational Freeport in the UK and will continue to manage risk during operations.
7. The Risk Management Framework has been written in line with ISO and Orange Book Standards and has been integrated into the automated Risk Management platform which has been developed to capture, monitor and track risk (threats and opportunities).
8. The Risk Management Framework is reviewed on an annual basis, the latest review has been complete, amendments have been made and the refreshed framework will be ratified by Audit and Governance Committee early 2025.

## ALIGNMENT OF TVCA CORPORATE RISK

9. 15 TVCA Corporate Risks aligned to corporate objectives have been identified to ensure core activity performance is monitored in line with TVCA priorities. The Corporate Risk and Objective aligned to the successful delivery of the Teesside Freeport is as follows:

Corporate Objective:

Diversify the economy, support more business start-ups, develop high growth potential businesses and key growth sectors.

Risk-0002724:

As a result of failing to provide a supportive business environment to encourage inward investment, there is a threat that Tees Valley Businesses are unable to grow which will result in the inability to diversify the economy, support more business start-ups, develop high growth potential businesses and key growth sectors.

Treatment Action Plan:

*Supporting Business Growth*

1. Attract and support new businesses to Tees Valley.
2. Support companies to introduce new products or processes.
3. Support start-ups and the growth of new and existing businesses.
4. Offer consistent support in Tees Valley for SMEs and large companies.
5. Build upon the success of Business Compass, by launching the new Tees Valley Business Gateway, supported by new grant and business finance programmes.
6. Freeport Board approval of the Teesside Freeport Delivery plan which allows for further progression.

*Unlock Sites for Business*

1. Secure strategic sites within the South Tees Development Corporation area.
2. Site infrastructure.
3. Business accommodation to unlock key sector's growth.
4. Focus on bringing forward brownfield land.
5. Progress can be made following Freeport Approval of the Teesside Freeport Delivery plan.

In order to measure success moving forward, the primary outputs aligned to this risk are from the Strategic Economic Plan are:

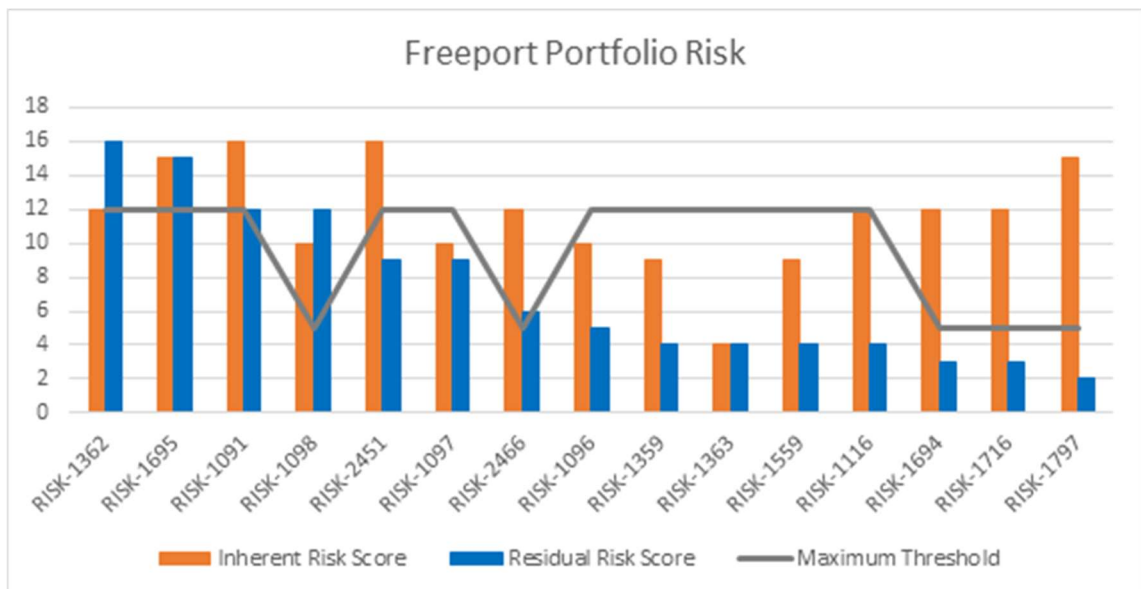
- New startups and business expansion
- GVA per hour worked 30% growth
- Job density 55% growth
- Business density 10% growth

Investment plan output obligations are:

- 4400 jobs
- £277m GVA

**FREEPORT DEPARTMENT RISK**

10. The current Freeport Risk Portfolio is as follows

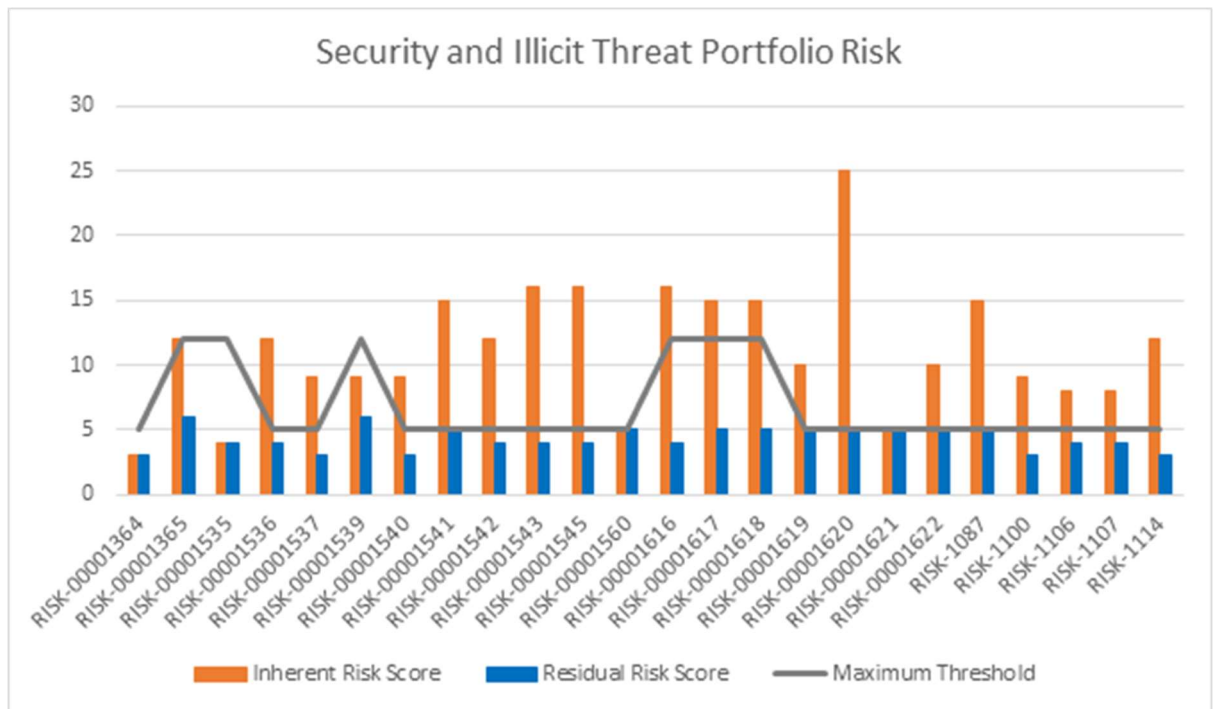


*Graph 1 – Freeport Risk Portfolio, TVCA Risk Management*

11. Reviews are scheduled to complete in depth analysis against Freeport risks, this proactive approach allows preventative measures to be implemented for internal and external risks.

12. The Risk and Accountability for Public Finance workstream members will review all risk register entries at the next meeting.

13. Freeport Risk Portfolio is managing 15 general risks and 24 Security & Illicit threat risks and 27 Digital Test Bed risks. A number of these potential risks have strong mitigations and only become prevalent as the Freeport operations are developed out.
14. The current Security and Illicit threat Risk Portfolio is as follows



Graph 2 – Security and Illicit threat Risk Portfolio, TVCA Risk Management

15. Pre-operational risk assessments completed to ensure that the processes and procedures we have in place are in line with operational and security service requirements.
16. Opportunities for Freeport are currently being reviewed and will be tracked in the same platform as Threats. Assumption that all expressions of interest and enquiries regarding Freeport will be documented and monitored using the Performance Management system which links directly to the existing CRM system.

#### FREEPORT OBLIGATORY REVIEW

17. Responded to Government in relation to actions. Any actions will be managed via the workstream and by exception will be shared with the Board.

#### MANAGING RISK – THE NEXT STEPS

18. Strategic Risk register updates have been made to the risk management system following Board approval of the Teesside Freeport Delivery Plan at the last meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October.
19. As per the SRO update in item 4 of this agenda, the procurement for strategic support for the Freeport has been concluded and awarded to OCO Global. Part of their remit will include further stakeholder engagement and understanding of risk, the impact and probability of those risks along with the proximity that is required to understand those threats and opportunities affecting the successful delivery and operation of Teesside Freeport.

## PERFORMANCE AND ASSURANCE OF THE FREEPORT BUSINESS CASE

20. The following logic model, illustration 1, puts into context the respective outputs, outcomes and impacts for the Freeport as a whole, and assumes full occupation of sites.
21. The arrows indicate the journey from investment, to activities, to outputs, outcomes, and impacts.
22. This demonstrates how the enactment of each tax or customs lever, attracts end users to take up the c600ha of tax land and will make use of the customs sites.
23. It is anticipated there will be a spillover effect to the wider region. The attraction of 41,780 jobs to the site and a further 60,000 indirect and induced jobs created, will have a cumulative impact on the UK economy of £14bn. If only 60% of this is realised in the immediate travel to work catchment of the Freeport, that is still a rise of £8.5bn (or 62% increase in regional GVA). This increase in regional GVA will have a significant uplift to household formation (24,000 more homes needed) and retail expenditure (potentially rising £2.5bn).

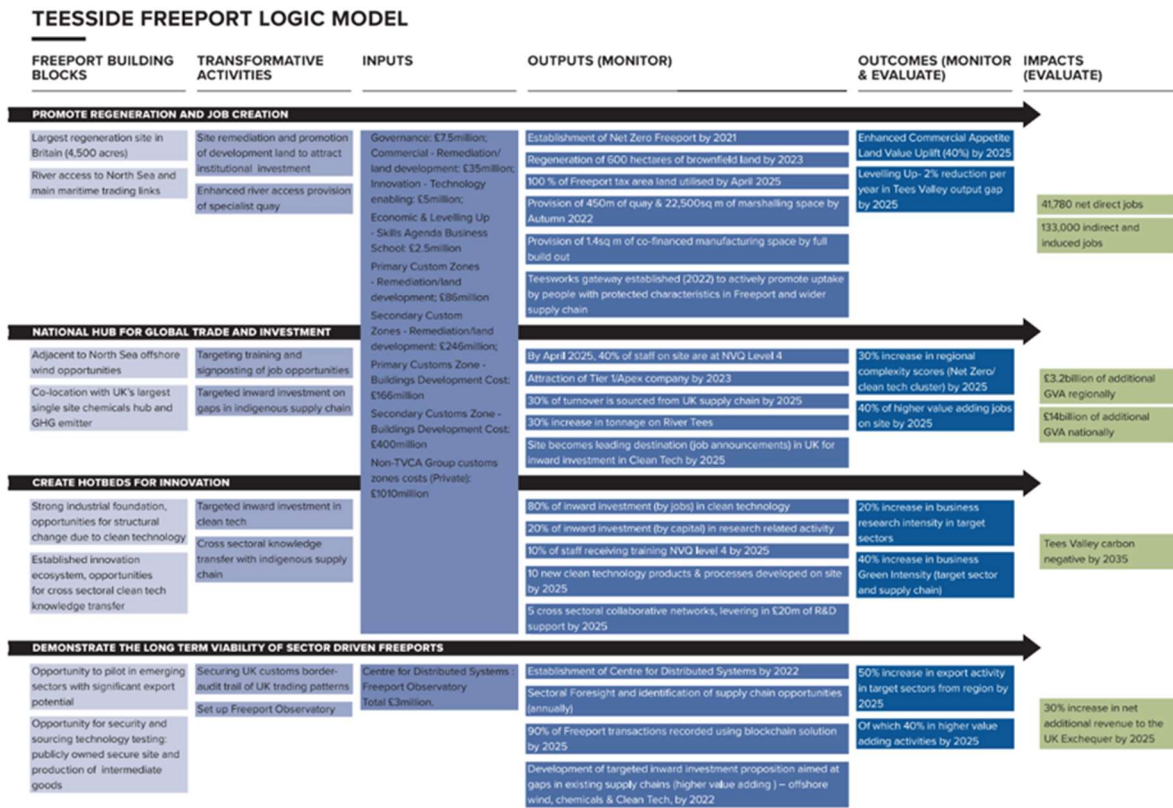


Illustration 2 – Teesside Freeport Logic Model, Freeport Business Case

## RISK AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PUBLIC FINANCE WORKSTREAM

24. Following approval of the delivery plan at the last Freeport Board Correspondence has been sent to members

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

25. All funding claims to Government will be subject to TVCA assurance processes in line with the TVCA Assurance Framework and potentially Government audit

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

26. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report other than the requirement for appropriate arrangements to be in place to safeguard public funds as set out above.

## RISK ASSESSMENT



27. There are no additional risk implications arising from this report, a full review of risks is to be included in the Compliance update.
28. The overall risk portfolio:
- I. Freeport **medium** (average of 6)
  - II. Security and Illicit threat **low** (average of 4)
29. The risks that have been identified and mitigated within this report relating to finance are primarily the accountability for the use of public funds. The arrangements for accountability of public funds have been covered in detail both within the Teesside Freeport bid submission approved by Government and the subsequent Governance proposals also approved by Government.

## CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

30. Stakeholder engagement meetings have taken place with the necessary government departments to ensure the accountability for public funds was appropriately covered in both the Freeport bid and the subsequent Governance dialogue with Government.

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

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

**Name of Contact Officer:** Gary Macdonald  
**Post Title:** Group Director of Finance and Resource  
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**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SOLUTIONS****INWARD INVESTMENT, MARKETING AND ECONOMIC GROWTH UPDATE****SUMMARY**

This report provides a general update on inward Investment, marketing and economic growth in relation to the Freeport and other wider TVCA group activity, where relevant.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Freeport Board notes the content of this paper.

**DETAIL****INWARD INVESTMENT & MARKETING ACTIVITIES**

1. The inward investment and Freeport team have supported the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) inward delegations to the region including a Chinese Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) mission in October, where we promoted the Tees Valley's Net Zero inward investment offer to the attending delegation of businesses, academics and government officials.
2. Senior leaders and investor facing colleagues from the DBT Mobility, Manufacturing and Defence (MMD) sector team, the Office for Investment (OFI) and sector team leads for Automotive and Defence visited the region in November to understand the Tees Valley inward investment offer. A site visit to Teesworks took place to promote the Freeport and inward investment offer, in addition to meetings at the Materials Processing Institute and at Cummins which outlined the innovation assets and manufacturing strengths of the region.
3. The Teesside Freeport was promoted at the Offshore Wind North East event in October. This event enabled new contacts to be made and the Freeport to be promoted to relevant companies within the renewable energy sector and its supply chain.
4. Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and Freeport representatives attended the Smart Cities Expo World Congress in Barcelona in October to promote the Freeport and wider Tees Valley. This again led to new contacts being made and the benefits of the Freeport being outlined.

5. Marketing statistics are provided on a quarterly basis and provided as **Appendix 1** to this report. These are infographics summarising website and communications data for the period July – Sept 2024.

## INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

6. An update on the Digital Test Bed has been provided in the SRO update.
7. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Digital Inclusion project Growing in IT, named DIG-IT has been delivered. A 12-month project that was delivered by Teesside University in partnership with The Hope Foundation and Good Things Foundation. The project successfully delivered against three key areas
  - i. digital equipment,
  - ii. digital skills,
  - iii. confidence and security and digital connectivity.

A full research report including project outcomes and recommendations is now available and can be seen here: [UKSPF DIG-IT \(Digital Inclusion – Growing in IT\) - Teesside University's Research Portal](#)

## NET ZERO

8. The Government have confirmed funding for the Net Zero Teesside Power Project (NZZT Power). This is part of a £21.7bn allocation for Carbon Capture projects in Tees Valley and the North West. It is a first-of-a-kind fully integrated gas-fired power and carbon capture project and a key driving force behind plans to make Teesside the UK's first decarbonized industrial cluster. Once operational, Net Zero Teesside Power's combined cycle gas turbine electricity generating station could produce up to 742 megawatts of flexible, dispatchable low-carbon power, equivalent to the average annual electricity requirements of more than 1 million UK homes.
9. Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) is the CO<sub>2</sub> transportation and storage provider for the East Coast Cluster and will provide the infrastructure that will serve three initial carbon capture projects on Teesside: NZZT Power, H<sub>2</sub>Teesside and Teesside Hydrogen CO<sub>2</sub> Capture.
10. The infrastructure will include a CO<sub>2</sub> gathering network and onshore compression facilities as well as a 145km offshore pipeline and subsea injection and monitoring facilities for the Endurance saline aquifer located around 1000m below the seabed. The infrastructure will transport and permanently store up to an initial 4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

## CLUSTER PROJECTS

11. If all planned projects are realised there will be a cluster of Hydrogen businesses in Teesworks East adjacent to the Net Zero Power project. There will be Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) plants at Teesworks West and a combination of Waste to Energy, Green hydrogen and SAF facilities all at Wilton International.

## **SKILLS**

12. Contact has been made to companies across the Freeport area to discuss their future workforce and skills needs. To date meetings have been held with Redcar Bulk Terminal (RBT) and Liberty Steel to discuss their current provision, needs, opportunities to recruit and upskill their current workforce. Further outreach will be undertaken which will include the wider supply chain to begin to understand and establish the needs and wants alongside any gaps.
13. Work is continuing with businesses in the Freeport area, including SeAH Wind, BP – Net Zero Teesside, ASCo/Steel River Quay & Electricity North East Limited/Steel River Power, to establish individual workforce and skills plans, this will enable us to support the companies with any recruitment needs, apprenticeship opportunities, alongside discussions with the companies and local providers to identify who is best placed to provide the training necessary to upskill, re-skill and in some aspects develop programmes around existing and new technologies.
14. We are working closely with FE+ Group locally alongside BP, Balfour Beatty, Costain and the other 8 contractors who will be constructing the CCUS plant to ensure we have a robust programme of learning and skill development alongside recruitment in place. The programme will look at an umbrella approach to bring all contractors and sub-contractors into play to develop over 100 apprenticeship opportunities, job opportunities for Tees Valley residents and beyond alongside skill programmes utilising local providers who can offer the training and development needs of new and existing staff.
15. In the last reporting period, 55 individuals undertook accredited training courses including Employer Specific Welding Programmes, Rigging, Banksman and Slinger with GWO and FCAW Welding testing out.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

16. This report is an update and does not have any direct financial implications

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

17. This report is an update and does not have any direct legal implications.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

18. The risk profile for Teesside Freeport is the subject of a separate agenda item

## **CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**









19. This report is an update and there are no direct consultation and communication requirements.



#### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY





20. Our aim is to ensure that the Teesside Freeport Governing Board and its workstreams will provide equal opportunity for everyone.

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Post Title: Director of Business Solutions  
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# Freeport Website and PR Statistics, Q2 (July – September 2024)

| WEBSITE                     |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Website Hits <b>Q2 2024</b> | Versus Q2 2023  | Versus Q1 2024  |
| <b>903</b>                  | <b>-40%</b>    | <b>-55%</b>     |
| Page views                  |   |                 |
| <b>2,553</b>                | <b>-51%</b>    | <b>-49%</b>     |
| New visitors                |   |                 |
| <b>845</b>                  | <b>-41%</b>  | <b>-57%</b>   |

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PR**  

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  Issued <b>6</b> press releases |  <b>82.6%</b>                  |
| <b>AVE £63.1m</b>               | <b>2,388</b> media articles  |

