

**FREEPORT EAST LIMITED  
SUPERVISORY BOARD**

Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors of FREEPORT EAST LIMITED (Company) on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Board Room, RWE Galloper Wind Farm Operations & Maintenance Facility, Phoenix Road, Harwich, Essex, CO12 4GD

**PRESENT:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
Mark Lemmon	Chair
Steve Beel	Chief Executive Officer
Cllr Lesley Wagland	Director
Dr Robert Singh	Director
Clemence Cheng	Director
Cllr Rachel Eburne	Director
Cllr David Beavan	Director
Sir Christopher Haworth	Director
Andrew Lawrence	Director
Cllr Richard Smith	Director
Cllr Ivan Henderson	Director

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	
Paul Wood	East Suffolk Council	(Via Ms Teams)
Paul Davey	Hutchison Ports	(Via Ms Teams)
Jai Raithatha	Suffolk County Council	(Via Ms Teams)
Samantha Jones	Essex County Council	(Via Ms Teams)
Drew Davis	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	(Via Ms Teams)
Paul Davey	Hutchison	(Via Ms Teams)
Lee Heley	Tendring District Council	(Via Ms Teams)
Sarah West	Harwich Haven Authority	
Mark Taylor	Hutchison Port UK	
Lorraine Rogers	East Suffolk Council	(Via Ms Teams)
Simon Papworth	Freeport East	(Via Ms Teams)
Marie Finbow	Freeport East	(Via Ms Teams)
Steven Wilson	Freeport East	(Via Ms Teams)
Daisy Newton	Freeport East	

**APOLOGIES:**

None

**1. Notice and quorum**

The Chair declared the meeting open.

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the Freeport East Supervisory Board meeting and thanked RWE Galloper Offshore Windfarm for hosting us at their offices in Harwich.

**3. Welcome from Ben Donald, RWE and Offshore Wind overview**

Ben Donald, General Manager provided a welcome to the RWE Galloper windfarm offices and provided a general presentation to the Board about some of the latest developments in the offshore wind sector and the windfarm operations and maintenance. The presentation shared the latest updates, health and safety, the offshore assets and the current projects in operation.

Ben Donald then left the meeting.

**4. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by all Board members.

It was highlighted there were no points of concern in relation to the Supervisory Board Action Log.

There were no matters arising.

**5. Declarations of interest**

Rob Singh noted a declaration in relation to the Funds Update agenda item, noting that he was aware that companies connected to University of Essex had made applications to the funds. It was further confirmed however that Mr Singh had had no prior involvement with the funding assessment process and was not aware of the nature of the applications made.

All other Directors present declared that they had no new interest which they were under a duty to disclose in accordance with section 182 of the Companies Act 2006 (The Act) in any existing transaction or arrangement or section 177 of the Act in any proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company or was otherwise required to be disclosed in accordance with the Articles.

Each Director noted their requirement to inform the Company of any situation or transaction that would require further disclosure from them regarding their personal interests and any conflict arising (or potentially arising) from them.

## 6. New Government update

The Chief Executive provided a presentation to the Board on early announcements from the new Government and a plan for ongoing Government engagement.

It was noted from across the Board members that the growth of positive outcomes being delivered by Freeport East in areas such as international inward investment, innovation, green energy and local growth should all fit strongly with the new Government's ambitions.

This Board noted the contents of this update.

It was noted that Freeport East were keen to engage with local MPs as soon as possible but that this may take some time while new MPs settle into their new arrangements.

Sir Christopher Haworth entered the meeting at 14:29.

It was noted that the Freeport East team would provide briefing notes to the Board where useful.

It was noted that a recent meeting took place with all the Freeports Chairs where ongoing engagement with the Government was an important priority.

## 7. General Freeport East Delivery Update

The Board noted the update provided on a number of delivery matters.

New developments were discussed at Gateway 14 particularly in relation to planning consents achieved for the new Bauder and Assan Panel developments. Thanks was provided to Sir Chris Haworth and Jaynic for all their help with the planning consents at Gateway 14 along with the good delivery progress.

As raised in the previous minutes the Skills Levy process has been shared with tax site owners prior to implementation.

The Board noted the Green Freight Corridor MoU has been signed and welcomed the continued contribution from Freeport East to support engagement on the investment case for the Ely / Haughley Junction rail enhancements. It was noted that the next step for the Green Freight Corridor would be the production of a more detailed action plan supported by a range of different partners. All this would help to attract further inward investment as well as progress transport decarbonisation on one of the UK's main transport routes.

**Action: Freeport East to share Freeport East presentation from the East of England Net Zero and Climate Resilience Summit which was attended on 18<sup>th</sup> July.**

It was noted the Freeport East team had undertaken an Annual Review with The Range at their newly developed site at Gateway 14. This was the first such review, designed to monitor delivery progress and identify further opportunities for collaboration and maximising local benefits.

As well as excellent positive progress on the facility, there was also positive progress on workforce recruitment with a substantial proportion of local recruits and active attempts to encourage the economically inactive into suitable roles. There were also further opportunities to collaborate around clean energy production and green logistics between Port of Felixstowe and Gateway 14, both of which would align with the Green Freight Corridor aspirations.

The Freeport East team noted their observation that planning policy may not be enabling the most sustainable and efficient outcomes with possible oversupply of car parking spaces in particular. Councillors Smith (Suffolk) and Eburne (Mid Suffolk) agreed this might be a useful case study to ensure that planning policies maximised support for sustainable travel.

**Action: Cllr Smith to follow up with Council officials in relation to planning policy and car parking spaces at Gateway 14.**

**Action: Freeport East to work with The Range on development of an appropriate updated case study for the Freeport East website.**

## **8. Bathside Bay update/Other Harwich Developments**

The Chief Executive provided a presentation that summarised a number of recent inward investment and innovation cluster developments in Harwich, following by a deep-dive into the Bathside Bay project.

The development of the Innovation Cluster in Harwich would be a unique opportunity to build on the areas maritime and clean energy heritage whilst positioning the area for future growth opportunities. Recent positive investment announcements including the attraction of Australian company Rux Energy to Harwich and new projects involving RWE, Haltermann Carless and Firefly Green Fuels in relation to green hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuels. Collective work between Freeport East, University of Essex and Tendring District Council on shaping and coordinating the cluster had already been very positive and a recent business forum in Harwich had attracted over 80 attendees. Based on the pathways report produced by Opergy the partners were now actively looking at ways to drive the cluster model forwards, including creation of an interim pop-up innovation facility and attracting other new investors to the area. The Business Forum would also be a 6-monthly event.

It was also noted that around £130m had recently been invested by the Harwich Haven Authority into positioning the harbour for supporting vessels for decades to come. The role of the HHA and other local businesses and institutions were critical in terms of building a unique Harwich identity and maximising opportunities.

A recent progress visit to the Centurion Park development at Horsley Cross was also discussed and the important role of Freeport East in attracting new investments in commercial space in the local area which was currently under-supplied.

On Bathside Bay, the Board were updated on the broader Government policy context and the increasing criticality of ports investments to support the scale of ambition for offshore wind delivery. The risks around lack of port capacity were being highlighted in the UK and Europe. The Bathside Bay Green Energy Hub plans were directly targeted at this area of national need. As a significant port expansion that already had full planning consent and a very large associated land area, Bathside Bay was one of the very few port developments that could materially support the new Government's "Clean Power by 2030" ambitions.

An update was provided on new Government proposals in terms of potential financing support for ports through the National Wealth Fund and other mechanisms. It was noted that private sector capital is positioned to invest in the Bathside Bay development and associated new manufacturing sites and that discussions with Government officials were ongoing to clarify the nature of their involvement and support. It was noted that the business rate income from the site had recently been remodelled and it continued to forecast over £100m of future business rate income that could be utilised to support the development.

The Board discussed the importance of continuing to focus and develop on skills needs in parallel to attracting new investments. This would include engagement with schools and colleges and working with a range of other partners to provide both aspiration and inspiration to young people in the area. It was noted that the proposals under the Innovation & Skills Fund (item 9) would be well-placed to progress these needs.

The Board supported the proposed next steps to progress the Bathside Bay development and the wider opportunities outlined in relation to Harwich and the Clean Energy and Maritime Innovation Cluster. These included: ongoing engagement with Government and key partners to progress the Bathside Bay development; identification of a pop-up facility; continuing discussions with parties interested in taking space and making investments in Harwich; and continuing the strong partnership working to support the Harwich innovation cluster developments.

## **9. Freeport East Funds – for approval**

The Board discussed the papers setting out proposals for allocation of the relevant Clean Growth Fund and the Innovation & Skills Fund.

The Board **agreed** the proposed list of projects assessed by the Decision Panel that would be awarded funding under the Clean Growth Fund and Innovation & Skills Fund.

The Board **approved** the allocation of £185,875 from our accrued interest income funds to supplement the existing £800k to support the preferred combination of proposals under the Clean Growth Fund and Innovation & Skills Fund.

It was confirmed that the intent was to disburse the majority of the funds within the current financial year although there was no particular constraint on when the funds would need to be utilised as they are already sitting with the Accountable Body (East Suffolk Council). It was also confirmed that the Freeport East team would continue to

engage closely with all of the recipients in order to maximise impact and cross-cutting benefits between different initiatives.

The Board thanked the team and looked forward to future comms coverage and ongoing monitoring of the projects.

**10. Comms Update (S)**

The Board noted the contents of the Comms Update.

The Board agreed to the proposal for a press release to follow the Board with a particular emphasis on the critical nature of the Bathside Bay development to deliver socio-economic benefits for local, regional and national economies.

**11. Forward Plan (S)**

The Board noted the contents of the Forward Plan.

**12. Any Other Business**

Attendees were offered a chance to visit the Control Room at Galloper Wind Farm.

There was no further business, and the chair declared the meeting closed at 16:08.

**13. Close**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Deben Room, East Suffolk House, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT

Mark Lemmon Chair

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