

**Freeport East
Annual General Meeting
Held on 26 September 2024**

Deben Room, East Suffolk Council, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT

MINUTES OF MEETING

PRESENT:	NAME	POSITION	
	Mark Lemmon	Chair	
	Steve Beel	Chief Executive Officer	
	Cllr Lesley Wagland	Director	
	Dr Robert Singh	Director	
	Cllr Rachel Eburne	Director	
	Cllr David Beavan	Director	
	Sir Christopher Haworth	Director	
	Andrew Lawrence	Director	(Via Ms Teams)
	Cllr Richard Smith	Director	
	Lee Heley	Alternate Director	
IN ATTENDANCE:	NAME	ORGANISATION	
	Paul Wood	East Suffolk Council	
	Jai Raithatha	Suffolk County Council	
	Paul Davey	Hutchison Ports UK	(Via Ms Teams)
	Lorraine Rogers	East Suffolk Council	
	Ben Porter	East Suffolk Council	
	Michelle Burdett	East Suffolk Council	
	Simon Papworth	Freeport East	
	Marie Finbow	Freeport East	
	Steven Wilson	Freeport East	
	Daisy Newton	Freeport East	
APOLOGIES:			
	Clemence Cheng	Director	
	Cllr Ivan Henderson	Director	

1. Welcome

The chair opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees to the Company's first Annual General Meeting.

2. Highlights of Delivery Achievements

The CEO, Steve Beel, presented key highlights from the Company's achievements in its first year against the four delivery priorities agreed by the Supervisory Board:

- Priority 1: Establish Freeport East Ltd
- Priority 2: Establish and deliver an ambitious vision for Freeport East
- Priority 3: Deliver Investment
- Priority 4: Make the Most of our Visibility and Voice

The Company has developed an Annual Report for the period up to 31 March 2024, which will be published on the Company's website following the AGM.

Delivery highlights for 2023/24 include:

Priority 1:

- Freeport East Ltd incorporated on 6 December 2022, with head office established in Harwich.
- Freeport East Full Business Case approved by Government in January 2023.
- Company Articles of Association agreed and published.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Freeport East and Government agreed and published.
- Governance frameworks and key operating policies developed and implemented

Priority 2:

- Plans set out to deliver the 122-hectare Bathside Bay port expansion project, with potential to bring thousands of jobs and a key asset to support the UK's offshore wind objectives.
- Rapidly established Gateway 14 as a key inward investment destination in East Anglia and a driver of local growth.
- Worked with local authorities and skills partners to establish blueprint for a new Skills & Innovation Centre in Stowmarket.
- Established our vision for developing an internationally significant Green Hydrogen Hub, leveraging our location as part of the wider East of England clean energy cluster
- Set out plans for Harwich to act as a nationally significant hub for clean energy and maritime innovation and productivity.

Priority 3:

- First new occupier for Gateway 14 announced – The Range with a £200m investment and set to create 1650 jobs.
- Plans announced for a new £150m Scottish Power green hydrogen facility at the Port of Felixstowe.
- Two further investments approved for Gateway 14 – Bauder from Germany and Assan Panel from Türkiye.

- A strategic partnership signed to support Rux Energy, from Australia, in establishing their novel hydrogen storage technology in the UK.
- Launched our first business support programme, designed to allocate £1million in grant funding to local businesses through our Innovation & Skills and Clean Growth Funds.
- Spread the word internationally – for example, we joined a clean energy trade mission to Türkiye, highlighting opportunities to increase trade and investment with the Freeport East region.

Priority 4:

- Worked with partners to push for key Government investments in the region, most notably new rail enhancements at Ely & Haughley Junction.
- Held two Freeport East launch events – in Westminster and at Suffolk New College in Ipswich.
- Kicked off our engagement with young people with a successful Freight and Logistics hackathon event at the Clacton Coastal Academy.
- Launched our new website to promote Freeport East.
- Launched our series of business engagement seminars to raise our profile amongst local businesses and target sectors.
- Attended and spoke at numerous briefings and engagements with Ministers, MPs, local councillors, chambers of commerce, conservation groups, businesses and skills providers.

3. Delivery priorities for next six months

The CEO presented the Company’s delivery priorities for the next six months which form part of the Company’s Business Plan for 2024/25.

4. Company Accounts

The Company’s accounts were presented, which had been approved by the Supervisory Board.

5. Any Other Business

No further business was disclosed.

Mark Lemmon Chair

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