

Solent Freeport Consortium Ltd (SFCL) Board Exceptional Meeting Note

Date: 28 June 2023 Time: 16:00 - 18:00

Venue: Portico House, Portsmouth / MS Teams

Present	In attendance	
James Hassett – Freeport Chief Executive / Senior	Aldred Drummond - Fawley Waterside	
Responsible Officer (SRO)		
Brian Johnson – SFCL Chair	Gavin Parker - NFNPA	
Alastair Welch - ABP	James Fitzgerald – nominated s.151	
	representative for the Accountable Body	
Derek Pretty - Eastleigh Borough Council (MS Teams)	Ian Palacio - Portsmouth International Port	
Gerald Vernon Jackson - PCC	Nick Bone - Exxon Mobil (MS Teams)	
Gwen Robinson - Havant BC		
James Druguid -Eastleigh Borough Council (MS Teams)		
Jill Cleary - NFDC	Executive support for Solent Freeport	
Paula Swain - Solent LEP (MS Teams)	Richard Jones	
Richard Parkinson - Solent Gateway	Vikki Cherrett	
Rob Humby - HCC (MS Teams)		
Sarah Bogle - Southampton CC	Guests	
Steve Thurston - Southampton Airport (MS Teams)	Geraint Davies - Interim RRIC Chair	
	KPMG - Lewis Atter, Kirsten Saguil and Selorm	
	Davoh (MS TEAMS)	
Apologies		
Mike Sellers - Portsmouth International Port		
Victoria Quinn - DLUHC		

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	Introductions and Apologies for Absence The Chair welcomed all to the Solent Freeport Consortium Ltd (SFCL) Board Meeting and introduced James Hassett, Solent Freeport Chief Executive. James Hassett then introduced himself to the Board. Prior to leaving the meeting (16:12), Derek Pretty passed on his thanks to the Board advising it was his last meeting as a Board Member. James Duguid (who was present) will be the new Board representative for Eastleigh Borough Council. The Board passed on their thanks to Derek for his contribution to the Solent Freeport Board.	
	Apologies were noted from: Mike Sellers (Ian Palacio is the nominated alternate). Victoria Quinn (DLUCH)	

2. Notes of the previous meeting of 26 April 2023, matters arising and declarations of interest.

The minutes from the Board meeting on 26 April 2023 were Agreed.

Matters Arising from 26th April 2023

Page 2 Update - Engagement framework with Trade Unions - Brian Johnson remains in regular contact with the Trade Unions.

SFCL Directors Update

An update as per the paper was provided by Richard Jones, highlighting the recent changes in Board Membership and nomination of alternate Directors should main Board members be unable to attend.

The SFCL Board:

• Noted the update in relation to the company Directors.

Declarations of Interest

Item 7 - Seed capital programme

Alastair Welch, Aldred Drummond, Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Ian Palacio, Richard Parkinson, Rob Humby and Steve Thurston.

Richard Jones and Paula Swain - For noting only as the Solent LEP is a previous beneficiary of Seed Capital Funding.

There were no further interests to note in addition to interests set out in the registers of members.

3. HM Government update

It was noted that there were apologies from HM Government representatives and in their absence the Chair provided an update on the following:

- The Chair and Freeport Chief Executive are having fortnightly meetings with DLUHC for both parties to provide relevant updates.
- Evidence has been submitted to DLUHC regarding the extension of tax incentives request which has been forwarded to HMT.

The Chair and Chief Executive will continue dialogue with DLUHC specifically regarding the extension of Tax incentives.

4. Report from the Finance Resources and Audit Committee to include:

Freeport Status update

James Hassett confirmed the custom site at Portsmouth International Port has been formally designated and that the updated case for extending the English freeport tax incentive deadline to HMT/HMRC has been submitted.

Finance Update

James Fitzgerald went through the revised budget and forecast outturn for 2022/23 and indicative budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26, highlighting the main risks and associated migration measures, specifically in respect of the timing and level of retained rates.

Questions and comments were provided on the RAG ratings in the risk re especially in respect of the agility required to deliver the outputs of the Fromatoria Agreed to further review Risk registers and provide update at the next meeting The SFCL Board: • Reviewed the implementation plan in Annexe A and provide any advit. • Noted the updated case for extending the English freeport tax relief deadline in Annexe B. • Noted the update on monitoring and evaluation for the freeport. • Noted the update on progress against delivery milestones under schenge of the HM Government MOU in Annexe C. • Approved the final outturn for 2022/23 as set out in Annexe D, the obudget for the 2023/24 financial year and the forecast budgets for 20 and 2025/26 as set out in Annexe E. • Noted the update in paragraph 10 and associated risks regarding the length of tax incentive windows and the impact on retained rates. • Noted the latest position regarding the SEED capital programme inclinate the risks highlighted around defrayal. • Considered, provided advice as necessary and Agreed the corporate strategic risk register at Annexe F. • Considered, provided advice as necessary and Agreed the retained risk register at Annexe G. • Considered, provided advice as necessary and Agreed the seed carisk register at Annexe H. • Considered a commission-based funding call to directly specify early interventions that would return the most optimum benefits to the Free in the short term to derive the maximum benefits in the longer term. • Noted the Solent Freeport statutory accounts as prepared by the Accountable Body at Annexe I and Agreed for the Chair to sign then	eeport. board rice on edule riginal 024/25 eduding te and I rates pital y eport Chair
5. Report from the Retained Rates Investment Committee Lewis Atter and Kirsten Saguil provided a presentation to update the case break extensions, highlight the associated implications of a range of scenari the wider pipeline development. As part of the discussion regarding the evidence to substantiate the request extension, members of the Board agreed to contact MP's as appropriate. The Retained Rates Investment plan will continue to be developed and be back to future meetings of the Retained Rates Investment Committee, F. Resources and Audit Committee and the main Board as appropriate. As part work, it was agreed the Freeport Executive and Accountable Body would convork to develop a funding call prospectus. The presentation will be shared following the meeting. The SFCL Board: Noted the update in relation to the Retained Rates Investment Plan. Gerald Vernon Jackson left the meeting at 17:50	for tax Board Members prought inance t of this AB

6.	Governance Update James Hassett gave an update to confirm that the NED recruitment was underway and applications had been received and the assessment process is in progress.	
7.	Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting The Chair announced to the Board that Anne-Marie Mountifield will be retiring, and Board registered its thanks and appreciation to Anne-Marie for her huge contribution and commitment to The Solent Freeport.	
	Update on Seed Capital	
	The following members declared an interest in the item and withdrew from the meeting at 18:07 - Alastair Welch, Aldred Drummond, Ian Palacio, Richard Parkinson, Rob Humby and Steve Thurston.	
	The following people also left the meeting; Gavin Parker, Nick Bone, Richard Jones, Lewis Atter, Kirsten Saguil and Selorm Davoh	
	The paper was taken as read.	
	The SFCL Board:	
	 Agreed the due diligence report and recommended next steps Agreed that outstanding business cases can be submitted by the existing Seed capital projects at any time Noted the update on the Project Change Request 	АВ
	The next meeting is scheduled for 27 September 2023.	
	No further business.	

Meeting closed at 18:16