



Solent Freeport Consortium Ltd (SFCL) Board Exceptional Meeting Note

**Date:** 28 June 2023  
**Time:** 16:00 - 18:00  
**Venue:** Portico House, Portsmouth / MS Teams

<b>Present</b>	<b>In attendance</b>
James Hassett – Freeport Chief Executive / Senior Responsible Officer (SRO)	Aldred Drummond - Fawley Waterside
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	<b>Executive support for Solent Freeport</b>
Paula Swain - Solent LEP (MS Teams)	Richard Jones
Richard Parkinson - Solent Gateway	Vikki Cherrett
Rob Humby - HCC (MS Teams)	
Sarah Bogle - Southampton CC	<b>Guests</b>
Steve Thurston - Southampton Airport (MS Teams)	Geraint Davies - Interim RRIC Chair
	KPMG - Lewis Atter, Kirsten Saguil and Selorm Davoh (MS TEAMS)
<b>Apologies</b>	
Mike Sellers - Portsmouth International Port	
Victoria Quinn - DLUHC	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	<p><b>Introductions and Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from:                      Mike Sellers (Ian Palacio is the nominated alternate).                      Victoria Quinn (DLUCH)</p>	

2.	<p><b>Notes of the previous meeting of 26 April 2023, matters arising and declarations of interest.</b> The minutes from the Board meeting on 26 April 2023 were <b>Agreed</b>.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising from 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023</u></p> <p>Page 2 Update - Engagement framework with Trade Unions - Brian Johnson remains in regular contact with the Trade Unions.</p> <p><u>SFCL Directors Update</u> 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.</p> <p>The SFCL Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Noted</b> the update in relation to the company Directors.</li></ul> <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u> 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.</p> <p>There were no further interests to note in addition to interests set out in the registers of members.</p>	
3.	<p><b>HM Government update</b> It was noted that there were apologies from HM Government representatives and in their absence the Chair provided an update on the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The Chair and Freeport Chief Executive are having fortnightly meetings with DLUHC for both parties to provide relevant updates.</li><li>•Evidence has been submitted to DLUHC regarding the extension of tax incentives request which has been forwarded to HMT.</li></ul> <p>The Chair and Chief Executive will continue dialogue with DLUHC specifically regarding the extension of Tax incentives.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Report from the Finance Resources and Audit Committee to include:</b> <u>Freeport Status update</u> 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.</p> <p><u>Finance Update</u> 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.</p>	



6.	<p><b>Governance Update</b> 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.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting</b> 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.</p> <p><u>Update on Seed Capital</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The following people also left the meeting; Gavin Parker, Nick Bone, Richard Jones, Lewis Atter, Kirsten Saguil and Selorm Davoh</p> <p>The paper was taken as read.</p> <p>The SFCL Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Agreed</b> the due diligence report and recommended next steps</li><li>• <b>Agreed</b> that outstanding business cases can be submitted by the existing Seed capital projects at any time</li><li>• <b>Noted</b> the update on the Project Change Request</li></ul> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 27 September 2023.</p> <p>No further business.</p>	AB

**Meeting closed at 18:16**