



## Thames Freeport Board

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, at 15:00pm  
Old Courthouse, Grays, Thurrock RM17 5DD

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#### Present:

Rt Hon Ruth Kelly	Chair
Cllr Darren Rodwell	London Borough of Barking & Dagenham
Cllr Ray Morgan	London Borough of Havering
Alan Shaoul	DP World
Martin Everett	Ford
Peter Ward	Port of Tilbury
Joan MacNaughton	Non-Executive Director
Matt Hamnett	Non-Executive Director
Robin Mortimer	Port of London Authority
Cllr George Coxhall	Thurrock Council (Representing Cllr Jefferies)
 Martin Whiteley	 Thames Freeport

#### Observers:

Jackie Doyle-Price	MP
Cassandra Bushell	DLUHC
Dave Smith	Thurrock Council
Liz Beadle	Thames Freeport
Liam Quigg	Thames Freeport (actions & decisions)
Stephen Taylor	Thurrock Council
Athen Mandis	We Are Tilbury
Billie Forbes	We Are Tilbury

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## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Andrew Jefferies	Thurrock Council
Paul Livingston	Non-Executive Director
Kate Willard	Thames Estuary Envoy
Fiona Taylor	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Andrew Blake-Herbert	London Borough of Havering

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES / ACTION AND DECISION LOG REVIEW

The minutes of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were agreed. They will be published on the Thames Freeport website.

**Action Point 1:** Liz Beadle confirmed that she would post all Board Member Declarations of Interest on the Thames Freeport website.

### **3. REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES** Paper 1

The Board noted that all the Sub-committees had held their first meetings. There were no matters arising.

### **4. THAMES FREEPORT 2030**

The Chief Executive took the Board through a presentation which depicted the Freeport's collective ambition for 2030 and the strategy in place to ensure success.

**DECISION 1:** The Board agreed that the slides provide a great starting point to be expanded upon and developed into further narratives intended for different levels.

**Action Point 2:** John Stasi to expand upon the benefits of SMART Cities within this narrative, giving more description on how it will benefit local residents and communities, develop the impact of low carbon, and the regeneration element beyond skills and employment benefits.

**Action Point 3:** Martin Whiteley & Robin Mortimer have agreed to meet to discuss what Thames Freeport and Port of London Authority roles are in river freight projects.

### **5. OUTLINE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25** Paper 2

The Board were provided with the Business and Financial Plan 2024/25.

**DECISION 2:** The board agreed that the Freeport team will commission external support to develop the retained business rates strategy and to maximise private investment.

**DECISION 3:** The board agreed to delegate the authority to approve the requested budget at the next General Purposes and Resources Sub-committee meeting.

**Action Point 4:** Thames Freeport team to pursue creating a Performance Management Pack for the Board.

**Action Point 5:** Peter Ward & Martin Whiteley agreed to discuss further ways in which the Port of Tilbury can provide resources to support the Freeport.

## **6. Chief Executive's Report** Paper 3

The Board was asked to reflect upon some key points from the Chief Executive's report including the updated position on the Tax Site Extensions and of the Seed Capital Projects.

**DECISION 4:** The Board agreed to support the work required to pursue the extension of the window for all three of the tax sites.

**DECISION 5:** The Board has agreed to use the funding originally intended for the Kent Avenue Bridge project for the innovation hubs programme.

**Action Point 6:** The Thames Freeport Team will complete the process and information required by DLUHC for the tax site extensions, receiving support where necessary from each of the tax sites and the local authorities.

**Action Point 7:** Peter Ward and Dame Doyle-Price will speak to senior representatives of Network Rail to expedite the Ripple Lane Seed Capital project.

## **7. DLUHC MOU** Paper 4

The Board were presented with a copy of the draft MOU that Thames Freeport have received from DLUHC. This is to be signed by 16<sup>th</sup> February to ensure that the tax benefits can be received.

**DECISION 6:** The Board has come to conditional agreement of granting the Chair the authority to sign the MOU on their behalf provided all legal teams have approved the contents of the final version.

## **8. "WE ARE TILBURY"**

Those leading the "We are Tilbury" programme were invited to present to the board some of their findings, the work that they have done so far as well as the strategy for implementing change going forward.

**DECISION 7:** The board supports the continuation of the work and that it should be undertaken to support other initiatives already underway to ensure there is no overlap or duplication.

## **9. MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS PLAN** Paper 5

The board were presented with an overview of the Freeport's Marketing and Communications plan for information.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**DECISION 8:** The Board has agreed to extend future meetings to three hours each.

**Action Point 8:** The Thames Freeport team will explore the options of supporting the Tilbury Ferry.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Conference Room 2, Barking Town Hall, 1 Town Square, IG11 7LU**