

Minutes of a meeting of the East Midlands Freeport Board held on 12 November 2024 at County Hall, Glenfield.

PRESENT

Nora Senior – Independent Chair

Landowners/Developers

Phil Canning – Uniper

Steve Griffiths – East Midlands Airport (EMA)

Peter Ralston – Goodman (Via Microsoft Teams from 11.45am)

Ben Green (substituting for Andrew Pilsworth) – SEGRO

Frank Robotham – Maritime Transport (Via Microsoft Teams)

Julie Rossiter – Etwall Land Limited

Local Authorities

Councillor Keith Girling – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor Neil Clarke – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Councillor Tony King – Derbyshire County Council

Councillor Stephen Taylor – South Derbyshire District Council

Councillor Keith Merrie – North West Leicestershire District Council

Mr Lee Breckon JP CC – Leicestershire County Council

Accountable Body Officers

John Sinnott – Chief Executive

Nick Wash – Head of Service, Finance

Executive Delivery Team

Dan Cooper – Head of Communications and Marketing

Naomi Kwasa – Governance and Committees Lead

Paul Miller – Head of Operations and Programmes

Tom Newman-Taylor – Chief Executive

Also in Attendance

James Arnold – Strategic Director of Place, North West Leicestershire District Council

Wayne Bexton – Nottinghamshire County Council (Via Microsoft Teams)

Richard Hiscoke – Bevan Brittan for item 7: Governance Update (Via Microsoft Teams)

Carrie Hodge – Manchester Airports Group (Via Microsoft Teams)

Justin Ives - Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council (Via Microsoft Teams)

Sara Pregon – Rushcliffe Borough Council

1.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Andrew Pillsworth who was represented by Ben Green.</p> <p>Apologies were also received from colleagues from the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest.</u></p> <p>The Chair invited members who wished to do so to declare an interest in respect of items on the agenda. No declarations were made.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes.</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Board meeting held on 10 October 2024 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chair confirmed that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 24 October 2024 would be circulated to the Board and formally approved at the Board meeting in December.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Action Log.</u></p> <p>Board NOTED the list of outstanding and completed actions since the last meeting.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Chair's Update.</u></p> <p>The Chair provided the Board with an update and highlighted that it was disappointing to note that the East Midlands has only been mentioned once in the Government's Industrial Strategy. She felt there needs to be a coordinated plan of action with EMF and other key local authorities to collectively raise our voices and ensure the East Midlands is being sighted by the Government in the way that it should. EMF CEO noted that EMF will be responding to the Industrial Strategy as a collective of Freeports.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Chief Executive's Update.</u></p> <p>The CEO provided the Board with an update on activity since the last meeting including that the recent Government announcement on freeports reaffirmed their commitment to the programme and the Budget was broadly positive. He noted that EMF wants to ensure it is sufficiently represented in the Combined Authority's Growth Plan and therefore will be inviting EMCCA colleagues to give an update on this to Board. Regarding recent events he highlighted that a number of community forums with residents had taken place and that EMF had exhibited at Advanced Engineering 2024 and had given a keynote speech at the East Midlands Hydrogen Summit. EMF had committed to an ongoing series of local community engagement.</p>	

7.	<p><u>Governance Update</u></p> <p>The Board received an update on the EMF's governance documents. Following the discussion it was;</p> <p>RESOLVED that the governance documents be agreed in principle, subject to advice on specific drafting.</p> <p>The Board then took a short break.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Policy and Public Affairs Update</u></p> <p>The meeting restarted at 12.26pm.</p> <p>The Chair introduced the report which provided the Board with an overview of the key outcomes from the Budget that impact EMF and the approach for MHCLG's review of the freeport policy.</p> <p>EMF CEO commented that he has been speaking with his counterparts across other freeports and there is a desire to work with Government, but all are keen for the Government to engage with freeports in the details when setting policy.</p> <p>The Chair noted that it was important for EMF to provide a response to the Government's Industrial Strategy and policy document on freeports once it has been published.</p> <p>Following the discussion it was;</p> <p>AGREED that Board;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved EMF's Executive Delivery Team to continue to push for collective cross-freeport engagement with Government. • Agreed that EMF Executive Delivery Team work constructively with MHCLG on this, and broadly support the Government's approach. • Noted the Budget update provided. 	
9.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There was none.</p>	
	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next Ordinary meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on 12 December 2024 at 1pm at Uniper, Ratcliffe on Soar.</p>	