

THAMES FREEPORT BOARD
 10th June 2025 12:00pm-2:00pm
 70 Mark Lane, EC3R 7NQ, London

AGENDA

Membership

Rt Hon Ruth Kelly	Chair
Alan Shaoul	DP World
Peter Ward	Port of Tilbury
Wendy Graham	Ford
Paul Livingston	Non-Executive Director
Robin Mortimer	Port of London Authority
Martin Whiteley	Thames Freeport
Cllr Graham Williamson	Leader London Borough of Havering (Representing Cllr Morgan)

Observers:

Dave Smith	Thurrock Council
Howard Swift	London Borough of Havering
David Webster	Port of Tilbury
Tim Amos	Ford
Stuart Rimmer	Thames Freeport
Liam Quigg	Thames Freeport (actions & decisions)

Apologies:

Cllr Ray Morgan	Leader London Borough of Havering
Dawn Calvert	Thurrock Council (s151)
Cllr Dominic Twomey	Leader London Borough of Barking & Dagenham
Cllr Lynn Worrall	Leader Thurrock Council
Joan MacNaughton	Non-Executive Director

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES / ACTION & DECISION LOG REVIEW

DECISION 1: The Board approves the actions and decisions that were taken at the last meeting.

2. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair provided an update to the Board regarding recent changes to Board membership and attendance:

- Peter Ward has stepped down from his position on the Board and will be succeeded by David Webster.
- Matt Hamnet has resigned from his role as a Non-Executive Member of the Board.
- Kate Willard will attend all future Thames Freeport Board meetings in the capacity of an observer.
- John Coxon will no longer attend Board meetings as the representative of MHCLG. Government representation will instead be provided by Bex Colam.

3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board were invited to discuss and approve the Performance Management & Quarterly Performance Report.

The CEO provided the following updates to the Board:

- The Chinook Hydrogen announcement has now formally been made.
- Progress on the Verizon legal process means that the organisation is able to move forward with the 5G programme.
- The RSA will continue to advance the work of the Social Connection Commission, which will be aligned with the Masterplan and will provide the necessary oversight. This approach will provide a clear framework to ensure that the regeneration objectives are being met.

The Board queried why the Freeport has ended its work with the Victoria Harbour Group. It was explained that, although outline plans and corporate information had been provided, the level of concrete detail required for investment was not available; however, the Freeport would be open to re-engaging with the organisation should this position change. The Board also asked what had been learned from the experience, and it was noted that there had been numerous projects running concurrently and that the project in question should have been discontinued at an earlier stage.

Action Point 1: The Freeport team will update the performance management framework so that when it is presented to the board it clearly outlines the areas of risk and what it wants to escalate to the board.

DECISION 2: The board notes the progress made and approves conducted strategy of work.

4. AI GROWTH ZONE

The CEO invited the Board to review the AI Growth Zone proposal brought forward in agenda item 5. It was explained that the AI Growth Zone remains a hugely advantageous offer and positions Thames Freeport at the centre of high value job creation. To make this proposition possible, Thames Freeport have engaged with senior leadership at Dell, Nvidia and Verizon and have put together a consortium to fund this.

The Board raised the question on whether the technology generated as a part of the AI Growth Zone could become obsolete. It was explained that there is minimal risk of this within the next 10 years, and sovereign data processing will likely be a government requirement.

The Chair reminded the Board that the freeport position in line with the AI Growth Zone is to ensure that the local areas get the maximum benefit that it can from this investment.

Action Point 2: The Freeport will take away the proposition and will develop the continual governance arrangements to be presented to the board at a later date.

DECISION 3: The board notes and approves the strategy that the Freeport team has presented.

5. BOARD EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

The CEO explained that a third-party organisation, will be invited to review the effectiveness of the Board, with findings to be reported back to the Board by the 2 September Strategy Day. Further details of the framework for this review have been covered within the supporting paper.

DECISION 4: The board agrees that the September meeting will now be replaced with a strategy meeting.

DECISION 5: The board agrees to the basis of the Board Effectiveness Review.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The CEO reported to the Board that a recent MHCLG annual review had highlighted the work of Thames Freeport as exemplary.

DECISION 6: The board is content that all future meetings are to be held at the Freeport offices going forward.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2 September 2025 – Strategy Away Day
11 December 2025 – Thames Freeport Board