

## **HUMBER FREEPORT – CHAIR**

### **ROLE PROFILE**

#### **Purpose of the Role**

The Humber Freeport Board is looking to appoint a highly talented and experienced person to lead the Humber Freeport Board as it completes its formal set up and delivery/operational stages. This strategic leadership role will require an exceptional individual with a collaborative leadership style that gets the very best out of the Board and the partnership arrangements the Humber Freeport develops with its commercial and public sector partners. It will also be responsible for effective governance and performance of the Humber Freeport Board and its sub committees.

The Humber Freeport Chair will be an independent voice for the freeport's stakeholders to provide high quality leadership to Humber Freeport Company Limited (HFCL) Board for the strategic direction of delivering the Freeport, requiring a clear and demonstrable track record of corporate governance. This will be a high-profile role with a complex stakeholder map but the opportunity to help drive investment and significant economic change across a number of industries including energy transition and by supporting collaboration across both public and private sectors.

The role offers the opportunity to be a key advocate and champion for the growth and success of the Humber region. Whilst not needing to currently live or work in the Humber region, the Chair needs to understand the strategic value of the Humber region to the wider UK economy.

The Chair will have access to impartial advice and support through the Humber Freeport Chief Executive, the Accountable Body and Lead Authority, and the Board. The Humber Freeport Chief Executive will report to the Chair. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate that (in line with best practice set out in the UK Corporate Governance Code) they act independently as Chair.

#### **Key responsibilities**

- To lead the Humber Freeport Board and ensure its effectiveness in discharging all aspects of its purpose and responsibilities, including setting the annual strategy and business plan, engaging with Government and other regulatory bodies and stewarding Humber Freeport sustainably
- To play a lead role in the development of the Freeports vision, values, strategic direction, and priorities that will deliver on the Board's objectives
- Promoting the delivery of economic and social benefit to the Humber region in line with Humber Freeport objectives and those of HM Government for the Freeport agenda
- To direct and manage major Board decisions, ensuring that appropriate governance structures are in place and 'due process' has been applied at all stages of decision making
- To lead and direct work within the Humber Freeport and its range of local, regional, and national stakeholders to assure the delivery of the Board's objectives
- To line-manage the Freeport's CEO
- To be an external champion of the Humber Freeport and Board in all public engagement and with HM Government and other statutory bodies, as well as within local and national media.
- To uphold the values of the Humber Freeport, to be an appropriate role model and to ensure that the Board promotes equality and diversity

### **Main Duties**

- To provide overall leadership and strategic direction for the Humber Freeport Board, overseeing robust governance of the Board and sub-committee structures, policy and process
- To confirm the agenda for each Board meeting
- To preside over Board meetings, ensuring that supporting materials are distributed to members and relevant subcommittees in advance of each meeting
- To facilitate Board discussion in an efficient and productive manner, applying Humber Freeport's Conflict of Interest Policy as required
- To ensure the performance of the Humber Freeport's Board is appropriately scrutinised, that Senior Leaders effectively fulfil their responsibilities and discharge their duties
- To provide strategic and independent advice
- To ensure Board regularly reviews escalated risks, issues and associated opportunities
- To keep abreast of all strategic activities of the Humber Freeport
- To support the Humber Freeport Board in development and monitoring of delivery of an annual plan to achieve the Board's objectives

### **Governance**

- To assure that established Governance arrangements, and future evolutions, are reflective of the Nolan Principles of public life – operating on the basis of transparency and accountability
- To sit on subcommittees of the Humber Freeport Board, where nominated by the Humber Freeport Board
- To ensure the Board is high-performing and continues to conform with Government guidance with regard to public-private representation
- To oversee and contribute to the Humber Freeport's annual governance review, assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Board and sub-committees
- To include a rolling programme of Humber Freeport policy and procedure reviews

### **Efficiency & Effectiveness**

- To chair meetings of the Board effectively and efficiently, bringing impartiality and objectivity to the decision-making process
- To monitor the timely implementation of decisions that are taken at Board meetings
- To ensure that communication streams between all aspects Humber Freeport's Governance are conducted seamlessly as required to expedite Humber Freeport's operations
- To be a senior point of contact and line manager for the Freeport CEO
- To act as a point of escalation for Humber Freeport Board around any concerns, issues or key challenges
- To provide strategic support and guidance, as required, to supporting operational delivery of the Board's objectives

### **Stakeholder and Third-Party engagement**

- To support Humber Freeport in developing and managing strong relationships with a diverse group of stakeholders across, local, regional and national government structures and agencies; local, regional and national businesses and other local institutions and agencies
- To support the Board in managing a range of stakeholder relationships and integrating Humber Freeport into other local economic strategies
- To be a key ambassador for Humber Freeport, representing the Freeport's views and objectives with external stakeholders, including engaging with the media as required
- To support Humber Freeport's Directors, Tax Site operators and Executive Delivery Team in engaging with potential investors of the Freeport

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

CRITERIA	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Senior executive experience	<p>Significant senior leadership experience within a complex organisation, ie at board, director, MD or CEO level.</p> <p>Evidence of supporting and holding to account senior officers for the overall performance of the organisation's objectives and plans.</p>	
Chair or NED experience	Previous experience operating as a non executive Chair at Board or Committee level in a complex, challenging, and high-profile environment.	An understanding of the governance issues surrounding a high-profile body, based upon previous NED or Chair experience.
Cross sector experience and understanding	Experience of working strategically with a range of sectors including local and central government (including Ministers), other public agencies as appropriate, and key businesses and business organisations.	
Humber Region	Interest in the Humber region and the key sector focuses of the region, and a commitment to leading and delivering economic change in the Humber region.	An understanding of UK Freeport policy and the opportunities this will present to the Humber region.
Engagement	<p>Strong partnership skills are essential, and the Chair will need to be collaborative in their style and approach and have excellent communication skills.</p> <p>Strong links or the ability to develop such relationships with the business community and the public sectors in the Humber region, with the ability to build coalitions to leverage private and public sector involvement.</p>	Experience of working at a national and international level.

Strategic leadership and risk management	The ability to make informed, balanced and independent judgements on key economic issues for the Humber region and to consider the long-term implications and broad view of issues, identifying opportunities and key risks; including the ability to lead the ongoing development of adequate structures, governance arrangements, and processes for managing risks associated with security and illicit activity, including new, accentuated, and existing risks.	Experience of working within or for a newly formed organisation, and developing the appropriate structures and policies.
Ambassadorial skills	The ability to act as an ambassador for Humber Freeport, utilising and/or developing networks across key sectors and partnerships to enhance the reputation and impact of the Freeport.	
Financial Management	Evidence of a strong understanding of financial management and the ability to read and understand management accounts and identify issues relevant to the CEO and Board.	
Equality and Diversity	A demonstrable commitment to equality and diversity.	
Transparency	The Chair will be expected to adhere to normal conflict of interest arrangements, and any companies in which the Chair holds a position or is a significant shareholder, may be excluded from any contracts where the Humber Freeport has a direct financial or commissioning interest.	
Qualities and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level listening skills, ensuring that all internal and external stakeholders have their say and feel that they have been listened to.</li> <li>• Ability to coalesce differing viewpoints where there is no direct line authority to enforce decisions.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impartiality, fairness, and the ability to respect confidences.</li><li>• Able to display the highest levels of integrity and honesty and conduct themselves in accordance with the Nolan Principles of Public Life.</li></ul>	
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