

Councillor Susan Aitken
Scottish National Party
LANGSIDE - WARD 7
Leader of the Council
E-mail: susan.aitken@glasgow.gov.uk



Our Ref: SA/PS/0810/GREE

10 June 2022

Kevin Rush
Bid SRO
Director of Regional Economic Growth
Glasgow City Region

By email only: kevin.rush@glasgow.gov.uk

Dear Kevin

I am writing on behalf of Glasgow City Council to express the Council's support for the bid to the UK and Scottish Governments for a new Green Freeport to be based in the Glasgow City Region. This has the potential to ensure that businesses dealing in trade and goods remain competitive. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am aware that commitments have been made throughout the process that fair work practices will be embedded in the structure of the Green Freeports in Scotland. These assurances are critical to ensure that a Green Freeport in the region provides inclusive economic growth and aids our recovery from the pandemic.

I look forward to hearing about the outcome of the bidding process.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Councillor Susan Aitken
Leader of the Council

Dear Kevin,

Clyde Green Freeport Bid

I am writing on behalf of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, the membership of which consists of the 8 local authority leaders from Glasgow City Region (East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, and West Dunbartonshire Council).

I am delighted to express our support for the submission of the Clyde Green Freeport bid that has been prepared in partnership between public and private sector partners within the City Region.

Promoting regeneration and high-quality job creation is the driver of our bid – unlocking development sites, many of which have been vacant and derelict for decades due to the industrial legacy on the Clyde and the West of Scotland, and bringing new employment opportunities that will benefit our residents.

As the COP26 host city, we are determined to achieve our ambitious decarbonisation and net zero targets and our Green Freeport bid has decarbonisation at its core. It will reduce the carbon emissions of our partner rail, air and sea ports, and will create new green jobs on the land that we develop and bring back into use. Scotland will only achieve its net zero ambitions if Glasgow City Region succeeds.

Our ambitious tri-modal bid - rail, maritime, and aviation - is a unique proposal that demonstrates the unparalleled connectivity of Glasgow City Region and our position as a gateway for global trade and investment that will unlock benefits across Scotland and the UK. We will build on our sector expertise in Aerospace, Advanced Engineering, Maritime, Rail and Medical, where over 50% of our current output is already exported outside Scotland. Glasgow City Region is already home to 3 innovation districts, supported by our universities, and we have been designated one of the UK's three Innovation Accelerators as part of the Levelling Up programme.

The Clyde Green Freeport will create opportunities that will address the legacy of deprivation and poverty that disproportionately impacts too many of our residents. That relative deprivation can only be addressed by levelling up and activating the formidable underlying economic potential of Glasgow City Region.

Glasgow City Region is trusted partner for both the Scottish and UK governments. We have a proven track record of delivery on major economic programmes, as shown by the success of our £1.13bn City Deal. We have the most mature and active Regional Economic Partnership in Scotland, founded on the strength of our relationships with the private sector, third sector, and academia. The bid has been founded on a strong public-private partnership and we have demonstrated the support from a wide range of businesses and partners throughout the City Region.

The Clyde Green Freeport will complement, not compete with other Scottish and UK freeports. The scale of Glasgow City Region ensures that we can deliver greater economic, social and environmental benefits for Scotland and the UK than any other proposition.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Councillor Susan Aitken,

Chair of Glasgow City Region Cabinet





13 June 2022

BY EMAIL

Richard Muir
Glasgow Chamber of Commerce

Your ref: [REDACTED]
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@spt.co.uk

Dear Richard

Clyde Green Freeport Bid

SPT is delighted to endorse the regional bid for Clyde Green Freeport and become an official supporter of the project.

As the Regional Transport Partnership for the west of Scotland operating services such as the Subway in Glasgow, bus services and stations (including Buchanan Bus Station, the biggest in Scotland, smartcard ticketing, MyBus, school transport and much more) and delivering projects and initiatives in partnership with our councils and others in line with the Regional Transport Strategy, SPT is proud to be at the heart of the region's transport network, helping to keep our economy thriving, reducing our environmental impact and above all, getting people and goods where they need to go.

But as you know, we face challenging times. That's why we believe an innovative and transformational project such as the Clyde Green Freeport is exactly the kind of economic, social and environmental stimulus that the west of Scotland now needs to recover and grow economically, generate employment, and help reduce our impact on the environment. The Freeport will go a long way in positioning our region as an ambitious, sustainable place where people want to live, work and play.

We wish you and the partners the best of luck with the bid, and look forward to further discussions seeking to ensure sustainable transport access is a core part of the Clyde Green Freeport's future success.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Valerie Davidson
Chief Executive



Chief Executive's Office
Glasgow City Council
City Chambers
George Square
Glasgow G2 1DU
[REDACTED]@
glasgow.gov.uk
www.glasgow.gov.uk

Our ref amod/db/rush Your ref

14 June 2022

Chief Executive
Annemarie O'Donnell
LLB DipLP

BY EMAIL

Kevin Rush
Senior Responsible Officer for the Clyde Green Freeport Bid
Kevin.Rush@glasgow.gov.uk

Dear Kevin

Clyde Green Freeport Bid

I am writing on behalf of the Glasgow City Regional Economic Partnership, the membership of which consists of the eight local authority leaders from Glasgow City Region (East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, and West Dunbartonshire Council) plus business, private and third sector representatives.

I am delighted to express our support for the submission of the Clyde Green Freeport bid which has been prepared in partnership between public and private sector partners across the City Region.

Glasgow City Region is trusted partner of both the Scottish and UK Governments. We have a proven track record of delivery working successfully with a range of partners across public, private, academic, government and third sectors. We continue to lead the way in the management, governance and delivery of our UK and Scottish Government funded £1.13 billion City Deal which is one of the largest and the most advanced in the UK. The bid has been founded on a strong public-private partnership and we have demonstrated the support from a wide range of businesses and partners throughout the City Region.

The Region is home to a burgeoning innovation eco-system and three world-class innovation districts and has been designated to host one of the UK's three Innovation Accelerators, sharing funding of £100 million, as part of the UK Government Levelling Up programme.

Glasgow - proud Host City of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) - UK2021 Glasgow - Supporting the Gaelic language Glaschu - a' toirt taic dhan Ghàidhlig
Glasgow City Council is an equal opportunities employer

As appointed host COP26, we are determined to achieve our ambitious decarbonisation and net zero targets. Our Green Freeport bid has decarbonisation at its core. It will reduce the carbon emissions of our partner rail, air and sea ports and will create new green jobs on the land that we develop and bring back into productive use. Scotland will only achieve its net zero ambitions if Glasgow City Region succeeds.

Promoting regeneration and high-quality job creation is the driver of our bid – unlocking development sites, many of which have been vacant and derelict for decades due to the industrial legacy on the Clyde and bringing new employment opportunities that will benefit our residents.

Our ambitious tri-modal bid - rail, maritime, and aviation - is a unique proposal that demonstrates the unparalleled connectivity of the Region and our position as a gateway for global trade and investment that will unlock benefits across Scotland and the UK.

The Clyde Green Freeport will create opportunities that will address the legacy of deprivation and poverty that disproportionately impacts too many of our residents. That relative deprivation can only be addressed by levelling up and activating the formidable underlying economic potential of Glasgow City Region, and alignment with local national and UK economic strategy and policy.

We firmly believe that Green Freeport status is vital to the Region's future resilience and would accelerate and complement our ambitious plans for economic renaissance and post Covid recovery.

I look forward to the submission of a successful nomination for Glasgow City Region.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

ANNEMARIE O'DONNELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

West Dunbartonshire Council
Councillor Martin Rooney B.Sc. (Hons) Soc Pol(Open)
Leader of the Council

Municipal Buildings
College Street
Dumbarton G82 1NR
Tel: (01389) 737579
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June 15th 2022

Kevin Rush
Director of Regional Economic Growth
Glasgow City Region

Dear Kevin,

GLASGOW CITY REGION FREEPORT BID

Thank you for your email of 13 June. I confirm, on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council, that the Council supports the bid to the UK and Scottish Governments for a new Green Freeport to be based in the Glasgow City Region.

This has the potential to ensure that businesses dealing in trade and goods remain competitive.
[REDACTED]

I am aware that commitments have been made throughout the process that fair work practices will be embedded in the structure of the Green Freeports in Scotland. These assurances are critical to ensure that a Green Freeport in the region provides inclusive economic growth and aids our recovery from the pandemic.

I look forward to hearing about the outcome of the bidding process.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

COUNCILLOR MARTIN ROONEY
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

My Ref:
Your Ref:
Contact: Councillor Iain Nicolson
Telephone: [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]
Date: 14 June 2021



Kevin Rush
Regional Director
Glasgow City Region

Dear Kevin

Clyde Green Freeport

I write as the Leader of Renfrewshire Council to offer my support for the bid to the UK and Scottish Governments for the designation of the Clyde Green Freeport.

Renfrewshire plays a key role in the Glasgow city region economy and is home to almost 4,500 companies and a very significant and established manufacturing sector. As well as Glasgow Airport, Renfrewshire offers 3 nationally important research and innovation centres (AFRC, NMIS and MMIC) as well as large scale investment opportunities such as Hillington, Inchinnan and Westway business parks and the newly established Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I can confirm that Renfrewshire Council is supportive of the Glasgow City Region's vision for the Clyde Green Freeport tax site and associated land use.

I can also confirm that our local authority will take appropriate steps to ensure development on the site aligns with the Green Freeport's objectives and those of the wider Green Freeports policy.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Councillor Iain Nicolson
Leader of Renfrewshire Council



Chief Executive: Alan Russell CPFA
Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1WB
www.renfrewshire.gov.uk



Our Ref: CGF/LofS
Your Ref:
Contact: Allan Conry
Tel: 07 [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]@northlan.gov.uk
Date: 10 June 2022



Councillor Jordan James Linden
Leader of the Council
Civic Centre
Windmillhill Street
Motherwell
ML1 1AB
www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

Dear Mr Rush

CLYDE GREEN FREEPORT – LETTER OF SUPPORT

We are jointly writing to support the submission being made by Glasgow City Region and partners for a Green Freeport, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

North Lanarkshire Council has worked closely [REDACTED] to discuss the benefits and practical steps we could take to help deliver Clyde Green Freeport's programme and the benefits it would bring to North Lanarkshire, the wider Glasgow City Region and indeed the rest of Scotland, given the site's unique location which offers unparalleled connectivity across the central belt of Scotland and beyond.

The Council has also discussed the site's ability to access and collaborate with a wide range of businesses, services and sectors to develop a strong supply chain; its ability to access and attract available skilled labour; and its opportunity to collaborate closely with education, training and employability partners to deliver a range of training and employability opportunities. All these factors clearly demonstrate that this site has the location, ability and capacity to support the objectives of the Green Freeport programme [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

North Lanarkshire is the fourth most populous area in Scotland, with 341,140 residents, and by comparison to the rest of Scotland, North Lanarkshire has one of the fastest growing economies in Scotland with a 50% increase in Gross Value Added (GVA) between the years of 2009 and 2019. This illustrates North Lanarkshire is a highly valued area for business and employment growth that is also on the cusp of one of the biggest and most ambitious regeneration and infrastructure programmes in Scotland.

North Lanarkshire Council is developing and delivering an ambitious [Plan for North Lanarkshire](#) which aims to tackle wider economic and social disparities with an ambitious programme of housing and infrastructure development planned over the next 10 to 15 years. The Plan for North Lanarkshire is a long term, holistic regeneration and infrastructure programme that supports the regeneration of place – reinvigorating land, buildings and housing, and re-provisioning town centres, and the delivery of inclusive economic growth – focussing on businesses and people through business development, increasing jobs, attracting investment, supporting key sectors, and improving employability, particularly for those furthest from the labour market. The location of a Green Freeport within North Lanarkshire fully supports the key vision and objectives in The Plan for North Lanarkshire.

[REDACTED] North Lanarkshire, at the heart of Scotland, provides access to the rest of Scotland through the motorway and rail network with direct access to the M8 which links the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, the M73/M74 which provides access to the south of Scotland/England and the M80 which links North Lanarkshire to Stirling and the North of Scotland. The [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also connects directly to the West Coast Main Line providing a fast and electrified connection to Freeport sites in England and the rest of Scotland.

[REDACTED]

North Lanarkshire Council is therefore pleased to support the Clyde Green Freeport submission and welcomes the opportunity to work with both the UK and Scottish Government, [REDACTED] supply chain companies, our public sector partners and education bodies to bring our collective ambition for a Green Freeport to reality.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Councillor Jordan Linden
Leader of the Council

Des Murray
Chief Executive

15th June 2022

Kevin Rush
Clyde Green Freeport Bid Senior Responsible Officer
& Director of Regional Growth for Glasgow City Region

Dear Kevin

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce I wanted to send an official letter of support from Glasgow Chamber of Commerce in favour of the Clyde Green Freeport Bid.

As a business membership organisation with over 1200 members of all sizes and from all sectors in the Greater Glasgow area and with long-established roots and an as integral part of the local economy we are keen to support the compelling case for a Clyde Green Freeport bid.

We believe that you have assembled a very strong case with a dynamic public-private partnership of the Region's councils, together with [REDACTED] along with many other supporters including businesses and all of the Chambers of Commerce in the West of Scotland including Renfrewshire, Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde and Lanarkshire.

Green Freeport status would bring enormous benefits to the business community in the Glasgow City Region and has the potential to transform the region's social, physical and economic landscape.

We believe through our consultations with businesses that you have their overwhelming support and congratulations on putting such a compelling case together for the Clyde Green Freeport bid.

Do let us know if there is anything else we can do to support this vitally important bid.

Richard Muir

Deputy Chief Executive

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
30 George Square, Glasgow G2 1EQ

Response ID ANON-3DZF-Y4WP-B

Submitted to Green Freeports in Scotland bidding portal
Submitted on 2022-06-20 08:44:42

Before you start

Introduction

Do you agree to the privacy notice?

I have read and agree to the privacy notice:
Yes

Applicant information (1/2)

What is your name?

This should be the name of the person who will be filling in the Green Freeports application form.:

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

All correspondence will be sent to this email address.:
[REDACTED]@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Applicant information (2/2)

1.1 Please submit a proposed name for your Green Freeport. This should clearly distinguish it from any other potential Green Freeport proposals.

Green Freeport Name :
North East Scotland Green Freeport

1.2 Please provide the name and contact details for the Senior Responsible Officer for the programme.

Enter the officer's name and contact details here::

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@aberdeencity.gov.uk
+44 (0)[REDACTED]

1.3 To assist us in considering the impacts of your proposal, please provide us with information on the impacts you have identified against each of the nine protected characteristics. This information will not be subject to an assessment process. If you have any supporting documentation on the impact of your proposal please upload it to the SharePoint folder (optional).

Please enter your answer here (250 words max.) :

The regional transformation driven by NESGF will be underpinned by a commitment from NESGF's governing body to initiate a programme of collaborative, progressive excellence in terms of equalities which will embrace all protected characteristics and socio-economic disadvantage. In particular, the attached Integrated Impact Assessment considers the Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty, identifying impacts (positive/negative/neutral) and applicable mitigation measures. NESGF will look to maximise and amplify the positive impacts seen in well-established local partnerships such the Aberdeen City Region Deal, ABZ Works and other connected stakeholders.

The overarching aim and commitment for NESGF is total inclusivity and equality of opportunity in terms of employability and skills, promoting gateways to high quality, sustainable, accessible, and stable employment. Aims will be achieved by leveraging additional funding and pooling expertise to undertake proactive outreach work, targeting potential barriers for individuals/groups furthest from the employment/training markets. Outreach work builds on successful pilots like North East Economic Recovery Skills Fund (NERSF). Compassionate and considerate approaches to physical, social and information accessibility will be integral to our commitments.

The Accountable Body's success in the procurement "Go Awards" (Social Value Category) demonstrates robust and progressive approaches to fair work practices (including Real Living Wage, well-being and all protected characteristics). These values will permeate all key dealings and relationships e.g. contract, SLA, MOU etc. School/ Higher/FE engagement activities will be underpinned by early intervention principles i.e. cover gender representation, pay gaps and the disability employment gap, and supplement generic career opportunity material in particular industry/sectors.

Gateway Criteria (1/5)

1.4 Please upload the following pdf files legible at A3 to the SharePoint folder you have received a link for:

1.5 Please also upload an ESRI Shapefile or Vector Geopackage version of each map uploaded at 1.4 to the SharePoint site.

1.6 Please provide evidence (e.g. letters) that landowners have signed up to your vision for the proposed tax site, associated land use, and will take appropriate steps to ensure development on the site aligns with the Green Freeport's objectives and those of the wider Green Freeports policy. Evidence should be uploaded to the SharePoint folder.

Please explain how and why government can have confidence that the tax site will be delivered in line with your vision. (250 words max.):

We have provided letters from landowners across NESGF's tax sites, evidencing clear and comprehensive alignment and commitment to NESGF's vision and the role of the tax sites in delivering that.

As a region, we have a very strong track record of collaborating to deliver against ambitious targets (such as the Aberdeen City Region Deal) and both Governments can have confidence from our experience of working across two governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to deliver complex and innovative interventions for the benefit of our local communities.

[REDACTED]

This robust governance and transparent approach to the tax sites has been established during the bid stage and will be maintained throughout NESGF's set up and delivery.

Gateway Criteria (2/5)

1.7 For each customs site, please upload a signed letter from the site operator confirming that:

1.8 Please upload written confirmation of support for your application from your local authority or local authorities and (if you have their endorsement) Regional Economic Partnership (REP). The only mandatory signatories required from the leader of local authorities to pass the pass/fail are:

1.9 Explain how your Green Freeport Outer Boundary represents a credible, coherent economic geography? Please provide clear rationale.

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It aims to comprehensively mitigate the economic decline that would ensue without intervention due to the winding down of the Oil and Gas industry.

The economic catchment of NESGF will, however, extend beyond the 45km Outer Boundary. In the Outer Boundary map provided (see 1.4), we have defined a wider Economic Catchment Area of NESGF based on the following rationale:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Gateway Criteria (3/5)

1.10 Please provide rationale for all proposed customs sites, including:

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.11 Does your Green Freeport propose any customs sites outside the Outer Boundary? If yes, please provide a written submission with clear and specific reasoning justifying such additional proposals and how it relates to the wider Green Freeport.

If yes, please provide a written submission with clear and specific reasoning justifying having a customs site outside the outer boundary (300 words max.):

[REDACTED]

1.12 N.B: This question has been deleted. Please refer to the clarification questions published on the 19th of April 2022 for details.

Gateway Criteria (4/5)

1.13a Please provide clear economic rationale for the tax site(s), including an explanation for the proposed location(s) and why it represents good value for money.

Please enter your answer here (200 words max.):

NESGF's three tax sites are complementary, collectively representing value for money through the multiplier effect of aligned investment activity across the region, specifically:

[REDACTED]

1.13b Please provide the management approach to each tax site.

Please enter your answer here (200 words max.) :

The NESGF Board will be responsible for oversight and management of the tax sites, supported by NESGF's executive function. A lead stakeholder from each tax site will be represented on the Board, along with full representation of all significant tax site stakeholders on the Sites and Infrastructure sub-committee.

[REDACTED]

1.13c Please provide clear economic rationale for how tax measures will generate additional economic activity and how this aligns with the local sectoral vision.

Please enter your answer here (200 words max.) :

All tax levers will deliver additional economic activity across all tax sites. Key examples include:

[REDACTED]

1.13d Please provide clear economic rationale for how your proposed tax sites meet the criteria for being underdeveloped and what works are required on the tax sites.

Please enter your answer here (200 words max.):

[REDACTED]

Gateway Criteria (5/5)

1.14 How does the tax site locations mitigate displacement of local economic activity from disadvantaged areas?

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NESGF focuses on establishing and scaling new industries whilst managing the decline from more traditional industries, providing access to new opportunities for more disadvantaged areas, enabling just transition. NESGF's Economic Catchment Area encompasses disadvantaged areas in the region, in proximity to sites generating key economic activity.

RGU's workforce transferability report recognises the region's credentials in the energy sector, positioning it as a prime location for energy transition investment. It is home to a world-renowned subsea engineering supply chain which has pioneered new technologies in Offshore Wind CCUS and Hydrogen [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This creates an opportunity to alleviate pockets of social deprivation and poverty in the region through creating new jobs in innovative sectors. SIMD data indicates that there are acute areas of deprivation to the east and north of the city. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Historical movements in GDP per capita in the region have demonstrated the sensitivity of its output to decline in the Oil and Gas sector. Most notably, a 9.7% decline was observed in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire between 2015 and 2016 due to a significant reduction in oil prices and an associated reduction in capital investment. Given that Oil and Gas production is forecast to halve by 2035 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NESGF will address current and potential unemployment and create Fair Work opportunities. Including renewables, 50% of all Scottish energy jobs are located within the city region. It is estimated that 80% of workforce skills in the sector will be transferable to sustainable energy jobs, according to the RGU work. Investment in re/up-skilling programmes and work with secondary schools to support pathways into low-carbon jobs will help to prevent an increase in unemployment and loss of talent, whilst creating new jobs without potential displacement.

[REDACTED]

1.15 Please set out how you will meet the minimum standard of security and infrastructure required in customs and tax sites before being able to operate as a Green Freeport.

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

Organisations operating within Customs and Tax Sites will be required to meet overarching security principles to safeguard movement of goods and people and deter illicit activity. This will include supporting NESGF conducting an annual security audit.

NESGF will oversee security, risk and supporting infrastructure through the Security & Compliance subcommittee, which will include local police force representatives. This group will bring together the cohort of Customs Site Operators (CSOs) and Tax Site Operators (TSOs) to track and mitigate risk in a collaborative way, enabling NESGF to have a holistic view of security across the Green Freeport and escalate security risks as required. Local law enforcement and other agencies will be a crucial part of this subcommittee, to ensure NESGF has the tools and expertise to effectively mitigate risks and security threats. This group will ensure that NESGF, within its remit, is compliant with regulations from various Government agencies, including ensuring the right to audit is upheld. It will maintain a record of all business operating or applying to operate on NESGF and will aim to verify the beneficial owners of businesses, providing such information to HMRC and Border Force. The subcommittee will ensure compliance with the OECD Clean Free Trade Zones and obligations in the UK's Money Laundering Regulations 2017, reporting to NESGF's Board and Government on compliance and associated risks and mitigations.

Focus will be applied to NESGF's ports - with NESGF providing support through the subcommittee and ensuring that security measures are collaborative and complementary to each port's existing, high-quality security provisions.

Within Tax Sites, TSOs will be ultimately responsible for the security on their sites along with their respective tenants. TSOs and tenants will be obligated to feed into NESGF's risk management protocol, which will bring together activities to counter security risks and threats from illicit activity. TSOs will form integral parts of the Security & Compliance subcommittee, ensuring risks are accurately tracked and appropriately mitigated.

All CSOs must be authorised by HMRC and each prospective operator of a customs site within NESGF has confirmed they are willing and able to undergo the authorisation process and meet Authorised Economic Operator standards for security and safety. CSOs must also accept responsibility for the control of goods and people in/out of the sites and assign a security lead responsible for site integrity. Entry to and exit from each site will only be allowed at designated points.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Detailed application information - Criteria A, B, C, & D

2.1 Please upload a diagram of a logic model which gives an overview of the links between the activities and inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact of your proposed Green Freeport model. (max. 50Mb file limit.)

Please confirm this has been completed :

Yes

2.2 Referring to the logic model and section 2 of the prospectus, please explain how your Green Freeport proposal will meet Scottish and UK Government objectives and achieve the desired outcomes listed in this prospectus? Please complete this as a Word document and upload to the SharePoint (max. 5000 words incl. 250 word executive summary). As part of your answer, please cover:

Please confirm this has been completed :

Yes

Detailed application information - Criterion E (1/4)

3.1 Describe the local authority current or planned planning applications for each tax, custom and key investment site. For each site please provide the following:

3.2 Please upload an Implementation Plan. This could take the form of a pictorial diagram, Gantt chart, timeline, flowchart or other graphical representation. (max. 50Mb file limit)

3.3 Please provide a written submission contextualising your Implementation plan, which sets out:

Please enter your answer here (1000 words max.):

Implementation Milestones and Timings

Our Implementation Plan is founded upon four phases:

[REDACTED]

Detailed bottom-up activities will work towards core milestones, acting as anchors for implementation activities. Set Up phase milestones include:

[REDACTED]

The current prospectus proposes that tax benefits will close in September 2025. We note that the Government will review this window; however, NESGF's tax sites are undertaking delivery planning to ensure that development activities can be progressed within the existing window if required.

NESGF's delivery against milestones will be undertaken in full transparency and collaboration with Government, ensuring flexibility and sustainable implementation of the activities.

The timing of activities and core milestones have been established and tested through a rigorous planning process during the Bid Phase. We have an established Programme Structure, providing confidence in our ability to maintain momentum and commence necessary set up activities. Key Set Up and Delivery factors include:

- We have fully assessed the activities required to deliver the OBC and FBC according to the current English Freeport guidance, with clarity over capacity, capability and dependencies. An assessment of expected refined business case guidance is factored into delivery plans to mitigate impact on timelines.
- We are clear on all activities required to establish NESGF, having factored in key workstreams such as development of a necessary operating manual, recruitment of the Executive Delivery Team, transition to Delivery Governance and processes supporting required CSO authorisation.
- Tax site delivery plans consider necessary activities to progress and conclude planning steps along with required procurement and development timelines.

Our Set Up Programme structure will maintain oversight of all implementation activities, proactively managing dependencies and mitigating risk. The transition to formal governance and operating company will benefit from the experience of setting up similar processes for Aberdeen City Region Deal and its projects, and the Joint Committee of political and business leaders.

Implementation Costings

Set Up and Operational costs, provided within 3.9, have been estimated through a bottom-up assessment of capability and capacity requirements. In transition to the Set Up phase, further scrutiny of activities and costs will be undertaken, including thorough optimism bias analysis. Similarly, operational costs will be further scrutinised prior to the Delivery Phase, including full market testing and benchmarking to ensure value for money.

Operational and Set Up costs will be a key part of the Board's reporting metrics. Monthly Set Up phase cost management reports will be provided to Board, monitoring costs incurred along with forecast costs to conclude the phase, with variances investigated and mitigated where necessary. Any increase in Set Up cost will require approval from the Accountable Body.

Risk Management

Delivery risks and issues will be proactively monitored by the Programme team, including the provision of a monthly Board report, detailing changes in risks and proposed escalations and mitigations. Identified risks to the delivery of NESGF Set Up activities will be mitigated to reduce likelihood and impact, including transparent dialogue with Government to ensure a collaborative approach to risk. Our Risk Management framework is provided in 3.8.

Governance

Set Up phase governance is founded upon its Board, led by an independent Chairperson, time-limited to oversee the Set Up phase. The Board, established during the Bid Phase, is composed of public and private sector members who meet monthly to oversee set up activities. The Board operate efficiently, and will vote on most matters by special majority (public and private majority), and through unanimity on decisions of significant materiality (e.g. business case submission, incorporation). Observer status will be granted to the SRO and key representatives from the Accountable Body. The Board numbers 12 members plus the Chair, namely:

[REDACTED] Independent Chair

- Chief Executive, Port of Aberdeen
- Chief Executive, Peterhead Port Authority
- Director, Aberdeen International Airport
- Leader, Aberdeen City Council
- Leader, Aberdeenshire Council
- Chief Executive, Opportunity North East
- Principal, University of Aberdeen
- Regional Lead, Scottish Trade Union Congress
- Director, Net Zero Technology Centre
- Director, Storegga
- Chief Executive, ETZ Ltd
- Director, SSE

In preparation for transition to Set Up phase, robust Terms of Reference will be developed to support the Board's operation, delegation of authority and oversight of the nine key Green Freeport Governance requirements as set out in the prospectus. This will include a conflict-of-interest policy, a diversity statement and code of conduct. The Accountable Body will maintain oversight of financial governance arrangements and will provide a point of contact for Government. Any revisions or refinements to proposed governance will be done in discussion with Government.

The Programme Executive, composed of the necessary specialist capability to set up NESGF, will be overseen by the Board and be supported by Working Groups providing input and engagement from a range of relevant regional organisations. This builds on an established structure of Working Groups, specialist support and broad regional engagement that has supported the bid's development, providing consistency, and agreed and effective ways of working.

Set Up phase Governance is designed to transition to the required Delivery phase Governance, ensuring consistency and stability of oversight and leadership.

Detailed application information - Criterion E (2/4)

3.4 Please describe, with reference to your implementation plan when you will undertake activities set out in your response to question 2.2 that focus on regeneration and high-quality job creation.

Please enter your answer here (400 words max.):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3.5 Please describe, with reference to your implementation plan when you will undertake activities set out in your response to question 2.2 that focus on decarbonisation and a just transition to a net zero economy.

Please enter your answer here (400 words max.):

[REDACTED]

3.6 Please describe, with reference to your implementation plan when you will undertake activities set out in your response to question 2.2 that focus on establishing trade hubs.

Please enter your answer here (400 words max.):

[REDACTED]

3.7 Please describe, with reference to your implementation plan when you will undertake activities set out in your response to question 2.2 that focus on fostering innovation.

Please enter your answer here (400 words max.):

[REDACTED]

Detailed application information Criterion E (3/4)

3.8 Please upload a risk management framework that shows how your governance board will manage risks to the SharePoint folder.

3.9 Please outline your preferred investment proposal including:

3.10 Please provide evidence of the commercial demand for:

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Detailed application information - Criterion E (4/4)

3.11 What considerations and mitigating actions will be taken into account for potential negative externalities (including the displacement of local economic activity from nearby disadvantaged areas) affecting your site and/or the surrounding area resulting from the introduction of the Green Freeport?

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This will be led at Board level through enhance rather than compete with

neighbouring areas.

In addition to measures to protect against displacement, further investment through retained business rates will be aligned to core objectives that build on NESGF's value proposition with a particular focus on optimising connectivity and accessibility across the region. Business rate retention will enhance and accelerate regional development by increasing the funds available to rate collecting authorities and managing authorities to reinvest in the Freeport area and surrounding Travel to Work Area. The funds will drive regeneration through job growth and wage uplift triggered by the Freeport levers and will facilitate a flourishing and innovative cluster around the target sectors.

Investment in previously underdeveloped land creates the potential for negative externalities relating to the loss of green space. Loss of green space can be associated with negative implications for local communities and the wellbeing of residents. To mitigate these externalities, the Freeport will maintain a commitment to leave a significant proportion undeveloped or actively improved in terms of environmental quality. One example of this is the 'rewilding' and allowing public access to these areas, supporting regional biodiversity, and creating outdoor space for local residents to exercise or relax.

Other negative externalities may arise if the incentives associated with the Green Freeport fail to deliver on the objectives of regeneration and job creation, decarbonisation, increased global trade and investment and the fostering of an innovative environment. For example, growth may inadvertently increase demand for oil and gas resources. This would create negative externalities in the form of pollution and, more specifically, CO2 emissions.

[REDACTED]

3.12 Please explain how your proposals will ensure compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and standards and if applicable, what further environmental standards will you stipulate and how will these be met?

Please enter your answer here (750 words max.):

NESGF will comply with all necessary environmental standards. In particular, businesses operating within NESGF will be required to abide by a number of environmental regulations and standards covering, but not limited to; air and water quality, waste management, chemical treatment and handling; protected sites and species; flood risk; bio security and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Prior to Green Freeport designation, the two councils require that businesses operating in their areas comply with all applicable environmental obligations, including those within the planning process. Businesses operating in sectors such as fisheries, industry and energy are required to also undergo an additional Strategic Environmental Assessment as part of the planning application process. This aims to provide high-level protection to the environment and promote more sustainable development. Any party operating within NESGF will be required as a minimum to abide by the existing environmental obligations set out by the Councils alongside the environmental conditions included in any planning application.

The North East Scotland Flood Advisory Group (NESFAG) consider flood risk for the entire Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire region. Within its Local Flood Risk Management plan, NESFAG notes multiple areas of potential vulnerability to flooding which lie within the boundary. An itemised plan is drawn up for each area which covers the history of flooding, likelihood of future flooding and suggested actions to mitigate the impact of flooding.

The three ports currently abide by additional environmental standards which extend their sustainability commitments beyond the mandatory requirements. AGS Airports Limited (AGS), operators of Aberdeen Airport have a sustainability strategy which details their environmental responsibilities and their progress against each element. This covers areas such as air and water quality, material resources, biodiversity, and waste management. Both Aberdeen Harbour and Peterhead Port hold EcoPort status with Aberdeen Harbour achieving International Organization for Standardization 14001 (ISO 14001) certification and Peterhead Port holding the Ports Environmental Review (PERS) certificate, which includes as a condition compliance with the general components of ISO 14001.

Upon Green Freeport designation, the Environmental Regulations and Standards subcommittee (ERSS) will be established to oversee enforcement and monitor compliance with Environmental Regulations and Standards. The ERSS will also be responsible for the introduction of new regulations and will

maintain open and honest lines of communication with operators. The ERSS will work collaboratively with operators, should a breach in environmental regulations or standards occur. The ERSS will report directly into NESGF's Board, who assume ultimate responsibility for the enforcement and monitoring of environmental regulations and standards within NESGF's Boundary.

Environmental standards will be a core component of NESGF's decarbonisation agenda. Developed during the Set Up phase, NESGF will establish a robust plan of action which will ensure activity is founded upon clearly defined baselines for emissions, whole life-cycle carbon monitoring, environmental impact, and climate risk management. This will then set clear objectives and activities for stakeholders involved in NESGF, ensuring robust progress towards net-zero and just transition, with progress monitored by the NESGF Board.

NESGF's decarbonisation plan will enable the Councils' vision to be Net Zero by 2045, in alignment with Scotland's Net Zero 2045 plan. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The ERSS will work closely with local law enforcement agencies such as the UK Border Force (UKBF) and Police Scotland to detect, deter and defeat those operating within NESGF's boundary who are non-compliant with the applicable environmental regulations and standards. The UKBF currently have border control posts at all three ports within the NESGF's boundary (Aberdeen Airport, Aberdeen Harbour and Peterhead Port) and Police Scotland maintain a visible presence across the region as a whole, with an additional focus around the three ports.

NESGF will require, as part of the tax site operator and customs site operator application process, that any party wishing to apply for operator status must comply with the applicable environmental regulations and standards at their site. This will be communicated in writing as part of the tax and customs site application process, and contained within the respective codes of conduct, and it will be noted that any non-compliance may result in the withdrawal of operator status.

Detailed application information (4. Criterion F: A high level of private sector involvement in the proposal)

4.1 Describe the primary types (including size and sector) of business:

Please enter your answer here (500 words and 10 SIC codes max.) :

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4.2 Please describe any formal agreements or commitments you have from businesses or other partners to support port and business development. Please upload any supporting documentation to evidence these commitments to the SharePoint folder. Bids that demonstrate genuine and tangible long term commitments from partners will score more highly.

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.) :

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Before you Submit

Please confirm you have uploaded the relevant documents/information to your SharePoint folder:

Q1.4, Q1.5, Q1.6, Q1.7, Q1.8, Q2.1, Q2.2, Q3.1 (table), Q3.2, Q3.8, Q3.9 (table), Q4.2

Important: Applicants must submit material for all sections of 5.6 (Applicant information) and 5.7 (Gateway criteria). There will be no opportunities to submit additional information or documentation for this section. Any bids that do not pass every stage of 5.7 will not proceed to detailed application assessment. Are you sure you would like to proceed?

I would like to proceed with my application :

Yes



Integrated Impact Assessment

Pre-screening



[REDACTED]

The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) supersedes the previous Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) form.

The pre-screening (Stage 1) will determine if your proposal requires a full impact assessment (Stage 2). Stage 2 will look at details of your proposals, the impact and any mitigations in place.

Note: This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: 'Guide to Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment'. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

This assessment and accompanying guidance use the term 'policy' for any activity within Aberdeen City Council. Therefore 'policy' should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services - essentially everything you do.

Purpose:

Aberdeen City Council wants Aberdeen to be a place where all people can prosper. We want everyone in Aberdeen to have fair opportunities regardless of their background and circumstances. The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the policy / proposal on different communities.
- whether Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), [Equality Outcomes](#) and [Human Rights](#);
- whether [Children's Rights](#) have been impacted;
- whether [Socio-economic disadvantage](#) is reduced;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised which will be covered in Stage 2.

<p>Title*</p> <p>Name your business case, policy, strategy or proposal (including budget proposals)</p>	<p>North East Scotland Green Freeport</p>		
<p>Is this a new or existing policy/ proposal?</p>	<p>New Proposal</p>		
<p>Brief description of policy / proposal (including intended outcomes and purposes)</p>	<p>The North East of Scotland Green Freeport (NESGF), [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will ensure North East Scotland retains its global energy leadership position and promote decarbonisation and inclusive growth across key regional industries.</p> <p>Proposed to be an independent company with Local Authority representation, the governing body will consider the Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty and drive Levelling Up across Scotland and the UK. The NESFP will ensure that growth is inclusive and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote regeneration and high-quality job creation (lead policy objective). • promote decarbonisation and a just transition to a net zero economy. • establish hubs for global trade and investment; and • foster an innovative environment. <p>Businesses will be supported to build their capacity around the principles of Fair Work First, ensuring that jobs are fulfilling, secure and well paid high-quality and attractive, including for groups traditionally underrepresented and facing barriers to employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business rates retention will amplify regional development by increasing funds available to Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council to reinvest in regional connectivity, skills, and innovation in consultation with stakeholders and communities. 		
<p>Do you consider this proposal to have an impact on the:</p>			
<p>a. Human Rights of people?</p> <p>b. Rights of Children and Young people?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>a). The NESGF partners will work collaboratively to have a positive impact on Human Rights by [REDACTED] and spreading opportunities across local communities.</p> <p>The overarching aim and commitment is total inclusivity and equality of opportunity in terms of employability and skills, promoting gateways to high quality, sustainable and stable employment. These skills and jobs will align with Fair Work First Criteria, and the Green Freeport will provide opportunities for areas of deprivation and underrepresented groups.</p> <p>[REDACTED] will deliver improved prosperity, health and wellbeing</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Unsure</p>

	<p>outcomes and equality through regeneration of local communities</p> <p>Compassionate and considerate approaches to physical, social and information accessibility will be integral to our commitments.</p> <p>As per Scotland's NPF, the region will drive a restoration of pride in community and place.</p> <p>NESGF will be inclusive with fair opportunities regardless of ethnicity, sex, religion, abilities, background, and circumstances.</p>																																																																																																																																										
	<p>Yes</p> <p>b) The NESGF will have a positive impact on children and young people by working with schools and employers to inspire and develop the young workforce, creating a pipeline of future talent regardless of their ethnicity, sex, religion, abilities, background and circumstances.</p>	No	Unsure																																																																																																																																								
<p>What is your assessment of the impact on groups with:</p> <p>a. Protected characteristics</p> <p>b. Children and young people</p> <p>c. Other</p> <p>For example -consider the impact of your policy on people and how they will be able to access goods, services and information with no barriers.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>H</th> <th>High negative impact</th> <th>H</th> <th>M</th> <th>L</th> <th>N</th> <th>P</th> <th>U</th> </tr> <tr> <th>M</th> <th>Medium negative impact</th> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>L</th> <th>Low negative impact</th> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>N</th> <th>No impact</th> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>P</th> <th>Positive impact</th> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>U</th> <th>Unsure</th> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disability</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender Reassignment</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marriage and Civil partnership</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pregnancy and Maternity</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Race</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religion or Belief</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sex</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sexual Orientation</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children and young people</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A key activity of the GF will be to support organisations working within the GF zone to embed Fair Work First principles across their activities. One of the key priorities is 'taking action to tackle the gender pay gap and create a more diverse and inclusive workplace', encouraging employers to go beyond their legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010, enhancing protections for workers around the nine protected characteristics.</p> <p>The North Sea Transition Deal Integrated People and Skills Strategy highlights that the energy sector has much to do to improve the representation of under-represented groups in its workforce so that it better reflects modern UK society. Overall, there is a lack of robust data and intelligence around workforce demographics, but available evidence does highlight imbalances identified around gender, with the majority of roles occupied by men and ethnic minorities representing a small proportion of the workforce. Through the monitoring and</p>	H	High negative impact	H	M	L	N	P	U	M	Medium negative impact							L	Low negative impact							N	No impact							P	Positive impact							U	Unsure							Age						X		Disability						X		Gender Reassignment					X			Marriage and Civil partnership					X			Pregnancy and Maternity					X			Race						X		Religion or Belief					X			Sex						X		Sexual Orientation					X			Children and young people						X		Other						X			
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	<p>reporting requirements around fair work first criteria, a baseline around the demographic makeup of the workforce in the GF can be established to inform areas for action to improve diversity.</p> <p>Activities already identified furthering opportunities for people based on protected characteristics include:</p> <p>-Age- developing the young workforce activities in school and work to develop pathways to enter new, green jobs including opportunities for work-based learning will be of benefit to young people. The older age group will also be considered as a priority group for re/upskilling initiatives, including those that may have been made redundant and would benefit from training to transition into a new field and employability support to search for and apply for jobs.</p> <p>-Gender & Race- building on existing programmes such as 'Girls in Energy', when promoting opportunities around developing the future workforce, pathway planning, re/upskilling initiatives, a priority will be considering how to target women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds and other underrepresented groups in communications to encourage participation</p> <p>-Disability- in support of ambitions to reduce the employment gap for disabled workers and as part of the fair work communications to organisations in the GF, awareness will be raised of initiatives to support employers in recruiting disabled people such as Access to Work, information around reasonable adjustments and exploring flexible working practices like working from home that could attract more diverse talent to their organisation.</p> <p>-Gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, sexual orientation- with work around building organisations' capacity to embed fair work practices, there is potential for all nine protected characteristics to be positively impacted by this policy however these have been assessed as neutral.</p>		
<p>Socio-Economic Inequalities</p> <p>Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. Will your proposal have an adverse or high impact on them?</p>	<p><u>Yes</u></p> <p>The intention of the NESGF will be to reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage through delivery of the Green Freeport objectives and therefore have a positive impact.</p> <p>[REDACTED] [REDACTED] which in turn will lead to increased employment opportunities.</p> <p>This will benefit individuals and families experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage as a result of being out of work, or who are experiencing in-work poverty, but also those at risk of becoming disadvantaged, for example if a member of the household is employed in industries where jobs are expected to decline and where there are growing levels of insecure work, such as the oil and gas sector. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">This will</p>	<p><u>No</u></p>	<p><u>Unsure</u></p>

mitigate the risk of declining or insecure employment for the existing workforce and enable individuals to retrain and apply their talent and expertise in driving forward the net zero economy. Opportunities for upskilling, delivered across the whole skills system to include universities, College, training providers (private and third sectors) and public skills agencies will enable accessible opportunities for all, including those furthest away from the labour market, to benefit from the new, quality green jobs.

Activities will align with the work of the local employability partnerships (LEPs) in both local authority areas, which are made up of key organisations involved in the delivery of employability and skills including in their respective areas each Council, Skills Development Scotland, Department for Work and Pensions, FHE and third sector representation. The LEPs work to maximise resources around working towards shared priorities and delivering improved outcomes for disadvantaged groups.

Developing the future workforce will also be a key priority for NESGF, with activities initially targeted at senior school pupils close to entering the labour market, but with opportunities engage with children much earlier in their education as pathways into green jobs establish. Delivering these activities in schools within the disadvantaged communities in the Freeport Zone will aim to increase levels of aspiration and attainment within young people, whilst bringing their families and wider community along the way in informing about net zero ambitions.

[REDACTED]

The NESGF will ensure communities across the Green Freeport benefit from innovation outcomes in terms of sustainable energy options, digital inclusion, and digital responsive zero emission travel solutions.

The transition from oil and gas will be catalysed, providing significant opportunity for investment in local infrastructure and regeneration for North-East

	Scotland with ambitions to cement the region as a global leader for green energy and technology.		
What considerations did you have when making the above selections?			
<p>Internal or existing data Please detail your sources</p>	<p>With over 50% of Scotland’s energy jobs already in the city region, the overall objective in economic terms is to sustain this level of jobs and productivity, while attracting new skills and expertise, both in the energy sector and key industries across the wider region, that create opportunities for residents in more deprived areas and from underrepresented groups.</p> <p>The Green Freeport will deliver Levelling Up and Fair work to improve outcomes in the following areas:</p> <p>Levels of those employed in low-skilled categories</p> <p>In 2021 North East Scotland had a higher rate of those employed in low-skilled jobs (16.1%) compared with Scotland (15.1%); the UK (15%); Glasgow City (13.7%) and City of Edinburgh (8.4%)</p> <p>Children in Absolute Low-Income Families</p> <p>Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire are two of only three Scottish councils to see a rise in the number of children living in absolute low-income families from 2014/15 - 2020/21. Rising from 3,962 and 4,511 children in 2014/15 to 4,541 and 4,628 respectively, a percentage rise of 14.6% for Aberdeen and 2.6% for Aberdeenshire, this compares with a drop of 11.1% in Scotland.</p> <p>In 2020/21 the intermediate zones in Aberdeen with the highest number of children in such low-income families are Tillydrone (290); Northfield (264); Torry East (251); Heathryfold and Middlefield (251); Woodside (232) and Torry West (176). These 6 areas, out of 49, make up just under a third (32%) of Aberdeen’s total. In Aberdeenshire the two highest zones are Peterhead Harbour (253) and Longside and Rattray (198).</p> <p>Claimant Count</p> <p>During the pandemic the Claimant Count rate in Aberdeen grew at a much faster rate than the Scottish average, a reflection of the Aberdeen economy’s vulnerability due to its reliance on the key energy sector.</p> <p>intermediate zones in Aberdeen City with the highest Claimant Count rate as of March 2022 are as followed, Heathryfold and Middlefield (24.7%); Tillydrone (25.5%); Torry East (26.3%); Torry West (21.7%) and Woodside (25.7%) Compared with Aberdeen (3.9%); NE Scotland at (3.2%); Scotland at (3.8%) and the UK at (4.2%).</p> <p>The intermediate zones in Aberdeenshire with the highest Claimant Count rate as of March 2022 are as followed, Peterhead Harbour (8.14%) Compared with Aberdeenshire (2.5%); NE Scotland at (3.2%); Scotland at (3.8%) and the UK at (4.2%).</p> <p>The data collated to date has been provided by partner organisations, businesses and ‘North East Performs’, the in-house North East of Scotland Economic Performance Monitoring Data Repository.</p>		

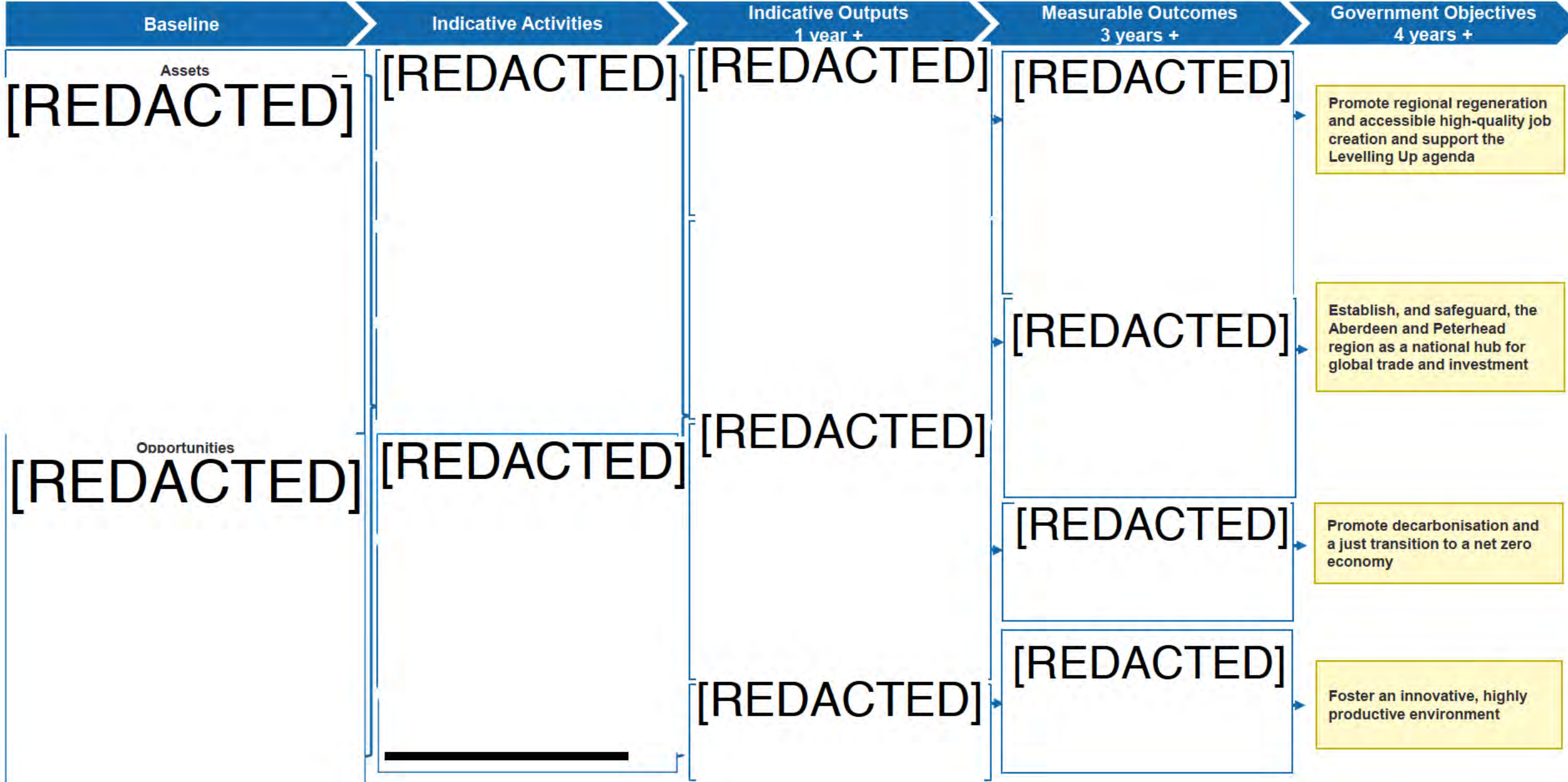
	Partners and stakeholders will be asked to work together to measure progress in a similar format to the Aberdeen City Region Deal Benefits Realisation Plan contributing to the outcomes set out in Scotland's National Performance Framework . Benefits Realisation Plans continually evolve in partnership with governments to reflect new policies and measures to ensure future growth is inclusive and sustainable for workers and their communities		
Consultations with officers or partner organisations Please list your sources	The North East Scotland Green Freeport is a private public sector partnership. During the bid stage it has involved collaboration and consultation with over 100 regional key stakeholders through a Steering group, engagement with landowners and six working groups with expertise in: Regeneration and Skills; Innovation: Net Zero and Decarbonisation; Trade & Investment; Communications, Governance and Land and Tax Sites. The partners are committed to inclusive economic growth in delivering the Green Freeport objectives and their alignment to the region's ambitions and would look to maximise and amplify positive impacts seen in well-established local partnerships such as the Aberdeen City Region Deal, and the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Local Employability Partnerships .		
Does this proposal contribute to the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?	Yes - please explain The North East Green Freeport will encourage all organisations and partners to contribute to the equality duties, diversity and to extend it across the protected characteristics, foster good relations between people, consider minimising disadvantages and taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups. In addition the ACPGF is committed to align with the Fair Work First criteria to ensure that Fair Work positive practices are progressed on a journey of continuous improvement and encourage all organisations to create a culture which ensures workers are treated fairly in order to grow and prosper.	No	Unsure
Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25 ?	Yes - please explain The North East Green Freeport is currently in the bidding stage, therefore the contribution to the Council Equality outcomes will be considered going forward, assessing how decision-making around the delivery of the Freeport will need to reflect equality ambitions and minimise negative impacts on people with protected characteristics and diverse communities.	No	Unsure
Please note for any high negative or medium negative impacts identified (red or amber), a full Integrated Impact Assessment will be required (stage 2).			
Will a full assessment be required?	Yes	No X	Unsure

Assessment completed by: Name and job title	[REDACTED] Aberdeen City Council
Date:	20/06/2022
Signed and approved by Chief Officer (Name and signature)	[REDACTED]

If you have any queries or require this form in an alternative format, please contact equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A fully completed and signed form should be mailed as a PDF to the above email address for publishing your assessment.

NESGF Draft Logic Model



Executive summary

NESGF, encompassing [REDACTED] will ensure the North-East and Scotland remains a global energy leader, promoting decarbonisation and growth across key regional industries, creating quality work for all, and improving life chances. The region faces significant economic headwinds given the decline of the Oil & Gas industry, the driving force of regional prosperity over the last 50 years. Green Freeport status is a fundamental requirement to achieve the necessary re-pivoting requirements of the region.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This is a generational opportunity for regional transformation that contributes to all Green Freeport policy objectives.

[REDACTED]

NESGF is founded upon genuine commitment from the public and private sectors, focusing on deliverability at pace. Governed by 12 private/public sector Board members and an independent Chair, set up and delivery of NESGF will be undertaken in a robust and transparent manner, ensuring appropriate oversight of NESGF investments and activities and comprehensive engagement with Government and communities.

1. How the outputs we expect our Green Freeport proposal to support or enable, will achieve the key outcomes associated with the objectives and principles set out in the prospectus:

Our response sets out how NESGF will achieve the key outcomes associated with Green Freeport objectives and principles. Against the four key objectives, our response details:

- NESGF's strategic vision
- NESGF's relevant objectives
- How these support relevant Green Freeport objectives
- NESGF's interventions to deliver these objectives
- How NESGF will utilise Green Freeport levers
- How NESGF's activities complement existing regional initiatives

NESGF's strategic vision for regeneration and high-quality job creation

NESGF will ensure North-East Scotland protects its global energy leadership position, utilising decades of expertise to drive low-carbon transition through significant opportunities presented by

[REDACTED]

NESGF will stimulate increased investment in target markets, building on existing connections with overseas investors, leading to increased employment opportunities. This will enable the retention of a highly skilled workforce in the area, mitigating the risk of losing such talent as the oil and gas sector transitions and declines. Businesses will be supported to build capacity around the principles of Fair Work First, ensuring jobs are high-quality and attractive, including for groups traditionally underrepresented and facing barriers to employment. Reskilling and upskilling initiatives developed alongside employer demand will ensure that skills gaps do not materialise, with options available across the FHE, private and third sectors to underpin a renewable energy legacy. A sector-leading international trading cluster will deliver improved prosperity, health and wellbeing outcomes and equality through regeneration of local communities.

NESGF's regeneration and high-quality job creation objectives

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

How NESGF supports Green Freeport regeneration and job creation policy objectives

With over 50% of Scotland's energy jobs already in the city region, the economic objective of NESGF is to sustain and build on current levels of jobs and productivity, through attracting new skills and expertise,[REDACTED] creating opportunities for residents in more deprived areas.

NESGF will stimulate local and wider regeneration through economic and social investment, aligned to the Scottish Government's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET), with outcomes that support the Scottish Government's Net-Zero ambitions, the UK Levelling Up agenda and Scotland's Just Transition Plan.

Building on committed investment from the UK and Scottish governments in recognition of the impact that the decline of oil and gas will have on the region, NESGF will amplify the value of

investment to accelerate just transition, ensuring the region retains and strengthens its high-skilled workforce and world-class reputation as a global energy and innovation hub.

NESGF tangible interventions to deliver these objectives

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

How NESGF utilises Green Freeport levers

[REDACTED]

How NESGF's regeneration and job creation initiatives complement existing regional activities

NESGF complements initiatives across the region, including:

- The Regional Skills Strategy and National Energy Skills Accelerator (NESA) gives workforce access to the skills and capabilities required for delivering net-zero. New employment opportunities would support expansion of this service offering.
- NESGF will build from the successful North-East Economic Recovery and Skills Fund (NEERSF) and enhance opportunities for people engaging in employability and skills programmes under the Scottish Government's No One Left Behind agenda and the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Leveraging existing City Region Deal public/private sector collaboration.
- Investors in NESGF will gain direct access to talent from sector-leading institutions such as the University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, NESCOL plus a strong network of training providers, schools, and local employability partnerships.

- Harnessing oil and gas expertise from across the region for the skills required to meet net-zero ambitions as part of the North Sea Transition Deal with commitment from organisations such as OPITO.

NESGF’s strategic vision for decarbonisation and a just transition to a net-zero economy

NESGF will galvanise the region’s just transition to a net-zero economy, spearheading Scotland’s drive to net-zero by 2045. NESGF will significantly reduce carbon emissions within its boundary, making North-East Scotland an exemplar net-zero location, and a world leader in clean energy production, low-carbon investment, and accelerated commercialisation of innovative low-carbon technologies.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NESGF will establish an integrated network of nature-based solutions for addressing climate change, and the creation of green space including full accessibility parks, recreational areas, open-spaces, and woodlands across the wider region. These spaces will be managed to promote biodiversity and habitat value as well as active travel, ensuring wider community benefits [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

How NESGF supports Green Freeport decarbonisation and just transition policy objectives

NESGF will enable the region to become a world-class centre for renewable energy production and technological innovation. NESGF will contribute significantly towards the Scottish Government’s National Just Transition Outcomes by increasing decarbonisation in the North-East whilst also supporting innovative technologies which can be disseminated across Scotland and the UK to support decarbonisation nationally. Construction will commit to net-zero exemplar best practice guidance, including circular economy principles to ensure that waste is minimised, and efficiency is improved.

NESGF tangible interventions to deliver these objectives

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

How NESGF utilises Green Freeport levers

[REDACTED]

How NESGF's decarbonisation and just transition initiatives complement existing regional activities

NESGF's decarbonisation and just transition initiatives will be complementary to a number of existing regional activities, including:

[REDACTED]

NESGF's strategic vision for trade and investment

North-East Scotland exports over £11bn of goods and services internationally per annum. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NESGF's developer partners and future investors will commit to a growth strategy which secures direct benefits to communities across our region.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We will harness the region's existing expertise in freight logistics across global supply chains to develop innovative solutions for future trade systems, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NESGF's trade and investment objectives

NESGF will cement North-East Scotland as a global green energy hub, attracting investment and trade on an ambitious scale. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

How NESGF supports Green Freeport trade and investment policy objectives

NESGF will enhance Scotland's reputation as a global hub for trade and investment, delivering on the Scottish Government's Vision for Trade, promoting regeneration through investment and community wealth-building requirements for developers.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NESGF tangible interventions to deliver these objectives

Building on the response set out in 1.10, tangible NESGF interventions that will support trade and investment will include:

[REDACTED]

How NESGF utilises Green Freeport levers

[REDACTED]

NESGF will work closely with the UK Department for International Trade, Scottish Development International and other agencies to ensure that the business support programme within NESGF is informative, robust, and attractive.

How NESGF's trade and investment initiatives complement existing regional activities

NESGF will complement existing initiatives in the region, established as part of the Regional Economic Strategy. ETZ Ltd aims to create an integrated renewable energy cluster south of Aberdeen Harbour. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NESGF will enhance activities undertaken by Invest Aberdeen which aims to drive investment in the region. Regional sector support networks will be enhanced, building on initiatives such as TechX to connect new investors and regional start-ups to Tier 1 and 2 operators. New business growth programmes, such as the Business Incubator and the Growth Hub, will focus on commercialisation of products and services to accelerate export readiness.

NESGF's strategic vision for innovation

NESGF will forge an innovation alliance, aligning the R&D activities of the region's extensive private-sector presence, universities, and public-sector initiatives under a coordinated plan to transform the North-East of Scotland into a net-zero innovation hotbed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NESGF's innovation objectives

Innovation will be at the core of NESGF's proposition, stimulating increased R&D and collaboration to deliver additionality to the region, and seeking to:

[REDACTED]

How NESGF supports Green Freeport innovation policy objectives

NESGF will align with the ambitions of the UK Government's Innovation Strategy by supporting growth of innovative businesses, and responsible adoption of AI and other digital technologies.

[REDACTED]

NESGF aligns with the UK Government's 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NESGF will directly support the UK Research & Development Roadmap's ambition to enhance regional R&D and the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF) Economy outcome via its 'spend on research and development' indicator. Our ambition to enhance diffusion of innovation and grow innovative new businesses directly supports NPF Fair Work & Business outcome indicators.

NESGF tangible interventions to deliver these objectives

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

How NESGF utilises Green Freeport levers

[REDACTED]

How NESGF's innovation initiatives complement existing regional activities

The regional innovation ecosystem has an extensive private-sector presence, two universities and a number of on-going public-sector initiatives. The region has excellent linkages to research institutions in the UK and overseas, a cadre of innovation-oriented companies, and several structured programmes of innovation learning. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. Why a Green Freeport is the right public intervention for our proposed location

NESGF provides the UK and Scottish Governments with a unique opportunity to deliver regeneration/ skills, trade and investment, decarbonisation, and innovation outcomes, in a region that has been a major contributor to economic growth and tax receipts. NESGF levers will have a profound impact on delivering sustainable economic benefits sooner and at a greater scale than without them. With more than 50 years of expertise and reputation in the energy sector, the region has a world-class reputation for innovation to build from. It builds on investments to date around the Aberdeen City Region Deal and emerging developments such as the £400m Aberdeen South Harbour, ETZ and Acorn demonstrate a commitment to energy transition and more sustainable industrialisation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The councils, businesses, and a network of leading universities in the region are all supportive of NESGF and its potential to deliver economic opportunities for all parts of society.

The case for intervention is driven by the inter-dependencies between the regional economy and the oil and gas sector. Whilst historic growth of this sector has been a key economic driver for Scotland and the UK, regional GVA reached a peak in the mid-2010s and has subsequently been tailing off as the oil and gas sector has declined. It is forecast that output across the oil and gas sector will continue to fall, halving by 2035. However, building on the foundation of oil and gas, there is clearly a major opportunity for Aberdeen and Peterhead to now become the leading location for energy transition, drawing on established skills across the supply chain with 80% of workforce skills being transferable to sustainable energy jobs.

For Scotland to have a chance of meeting its net-zero commitments, investment in pioneering projects requires acceleration. The window for the Green Freeport levers and incentives falls within a critical period in which adoption of low carbon solutions and decarbonisation of production must significantly increase for targets to be met. With so many planned decarbonisation initiatives across the region, there is huge scope for NESGF to enable their delivery at pace and drive a transfer of skills, technology and infrastructure that will create a legacy that will benefit Scotland for many years to come.

Designation of NESGF offers the opportunity to add value to regional regeneration and job growth, innovation, and growth in global trade objectives in a coordinated manner. NESGF will simultaneously benefit the North-East of Scotland, the wider green freeport regime, and, therefore, the whole nation.

Establishment of NESGF in 2023 will allow for:

- [REDACTED]
 - Mitigation of anticipated decline in the region whilst spearheading Scotland's just transition.
 - Linkages to wider regional industries, supporting further growth and decarbonisation.
 - Transfer of skills that ensures employment opportunities can bring benefits to pockets of deprivation across the region in support of regeneration and Levelling Up.
 - Fostering an innovative environment, enabling collaboration between established and new companies, SMEs, and the university network with the development of new technologies in clean energy generation and decarbonisation.

Without Green Freeport designation, commercial floorspace will not be developed to the same scale or pace needed to deliver regeneration and support strategic ambitions. It will be less attractive for

FDI to invest, innovate and train people, and there is a risk that the region will face economic decline. Designation will ensure that the region realises its growth potential, remains a global energy leader, delivers just transition, net-zero and high-quality jobs for all and establish a new era for the region.

3. How our proposal aligns with relevant government strategies mentioned in the prospectus

NESGF has been designed to comprehensively deliver a range of Scottish and UK Government strategies and objectives.

Levelling Up:

NESGF will support a just transition that will protect jobs, create new quality green jobs, and anchor the supply chain, boosting productivity and supporting levelling up in the region. It will focus on skills development across forward focused sectors, spreading opportunities across local communities. These skills and jobs will align with Fair Work First Criteria, and NESGF will provide opportunities for areas of deprivation and underrepresented groups.

In line with Scotland's NPF, NESGF will drive a restoration of pride in community and place. The transition from oil and gas will be catalysed, providing significant opportunity for investment in local infrastructure and regeneration for North-East Scotland, with ambitions to cement the region as a global leader for green energy and technology.

Transport & infrastructure:

NESGF will enable improved regional transport infrastructure for local people and businesses. Strategic regional transport connections will be strengthened in line with Scotland's Second National Transport Strategy (STRP2). This will ensure tax site clusters and ports inter-connect, whilst ensuring that regional and national connectivity is maximised, including ongoing investment in Aberdeen Harbour to improve international connectivity, with a particular focus on sustainable transport through Hydrogen or electric power.

NESGF will complement the Scottish Government's national planning priorities for the region. Scotland's National Spatial strategy lists four key priorities for the North East:

- Transition to net-zero: NESGF will focus on net-zero exemplar infrastructure development and energy transition-focused industry.
- Improve local liveability: NESGF commits to investment in local community infrastructure, creating full accessibility parks, recreational areas, and open spaces for local people.
- Regenerate coastal communities: NESGF will invest in regenerating coastal communities, e.g. [REDACTED]
- Decarbonise connectivity [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Net Zero/just transition:

NESGF will spearhead Scotland's and the UK's net-zero agenda, driving down the region's emissions and creating clusters of net-zero-focussed activity.

NESGF's activities align to the Scottish Government and UK Government's net-zero plans and delivery against Scotland's just transition plan:

- Environmental protection and restoration: NESGF will create an integrated network of green space to restore and maintain biodiversity and habitat value.
- Decarbonisation and efficiencies: NESGF will encourage innovation in low-carbon fuel solutions.
- Adaptation and resilience: NESGF will transform the local seafood processing industry, protecting local industry in a sustainable way.
- Jobs, skills and education: NESGF will create a jobs and skills programme to equip local people with green skills to take advantage of local jobs created as the region transitions from oil and gas.

Economy & investment:

NESGF will become a key lever of Scotland's ability to attract inward investment and develop the regional and national economy. NESGF's proposition directly aligns and complements five out of nine opportunity areas outlined in Scotland's Inward Investment Plan, including:

- Energy transition
- Decarbonisation of transport
- Food and drink innovation
- Software & IT
- Digital business service

NESGF will deliver on Scotland's NSET, strengthening Scotland's position in new markets [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It will also be a catalyst for innovation in the region, creating more supply chains and supporting businesses to grow.

Assumed Milestone Dates	
Bid Submission CQ deadline	Apr-22
Bid Submission	Jun-22
Final Decision on Successful Green Freeport Locations	Aug-22
OBC Submission	Nov-22
Tax Site Designation	Jan-23
Incorporation of Entity	Feb-23
FBC Submission	Mar-23
Scottish Government Funding Go-Live	Apr-23

Bid Phase	2022												2023												2024											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Bid Phase	Responsible Party(s)	Initiative start date	Target completion date	Timeline																																			
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bid Phase																																							
1) Green Freeport Bid Submission																																							
a) Pre-Bid Submission Phase																																							
i. Strategic development																																							
ii. Tax site appraisal process																																							
iii. Customs site appraisal process																																							
iv. Scoping of infrastructure assessment																																							
v. Initial governance review																																							
vi. Feasibility study																																							
b) Bid development and submission																																							
i. Establishment of submission working groups confirmation and review process and set up of bid programme																																							
ii. Primary drafting																																							
iii. Final drafting																																							
iv. Bid submission																																							
c) Stakeholder communications																																							
i. Identify key stakeholder and their needs; also identify the nature of information content and updates required																																							
ii. Establish suitable communication methods and schedules that are consistent with the types of information shared																																							
iii. Continually track / log stakeholder communications																																							
2) Tax Site Planning																																							
a) Site planning																																							
i. Identification of potential tax sites																																							
ii. Discussions with potential tax site operators and initial review of development plans and Green Freeport tax levers																																							
iii. Bid submission and letters of support																																							
b) Customs Site Planning																																							
i. Site planning																																							
ii. Engagement with potential customs site operators																																							
iii. Bid submission and letters of support																																							
Set Up Phase																																							
a) Green Freeport Set Up Activities																																							
1) Infrastructure needs assessment																																							
i. Assess existing infrastructure and determine gap and align with existing infrastructure investment plans																																							
ii. Review and validate with stakeholders																																							
iii. Estimate costs and validate seed funding requirements																																							
b) Set-up phase governance																																							
i. Establish the set up executive function and set up delivery resources																																							
ii. Establish Working Group plans																																							
iii. Develop set up phase governance documentation - Board Terms of Reference Conflict of Interest Policy																																							
c) Establishment of decarbonisation plan																																							
i. Establish a decarbonisation plan																																							
d) Outline Business Case development and submission																																							
i. Review OBC guidance and set out development plan																																							
ii. First draft of business case and review by relevant stakeholder groups																																							
iii. Final draft for submission to Scottish Government/DLHMC																																							
iv. Receive feedback from Government																																							
v. Respond to critical actions																																							
vi. OBC approved																																							
e) Full Business Case development and submission																																							
i. First draft of business case and review by relevant stakeholder groups																																							
ii. Final draft for submission to Scottish Government/DLHMC																																							
3) Governance and Operating Model - Transition to Delivery Board																																							
i. Freepoint operator bylaws approved and statutory requirements met																																							
ii. Review Freepoint operator bylaws and statutory requirements with specific consideration of Trust Port status																																							
iii. Identify and implement and uphold actions / processes / controls to ensure compliance																																							
iv. Continually track compliance in accordance with freepoint operator monitoring expectations																																							
b) Freepoint delivery board selection and incorporated entity set up																																							
i. Establish Freepoint delivery board membership selection process																																							
ii. Establish incorporated entity																																							
c) Common security standards development																																							
i. Establish dedicated security and compliance subcommittees for security standards																																							
ii. Establish engagement sessions with other freepoints and security standards agencies / experts																																							
iii. Finalise common security standards documentation incorp. feedback from the Board and relevant gov. agencies																																							
iv. Commence adoption of common security standards across customs sites as documented																																							
d) Partnerships and Marketing																																							
a) Establish partnerships on innovation, upskilling and Net Zero																																							
i. Identify and connect with schools / colleges / universities / other training bodies or higher education bodies																																							
ii. Appoint partnered education bodies to working groups as appropriate																																							
b) Establish partnerships with businesses																																							
i. Identify and connect with local / regional / other businesses																																							
ii. Appoint partnered businesses to working group as appropriate (e.g. Trade and Investment Working Group)																																							
c) Establish initial marketing strategy																																							
i. Define marketing campaign strategy and determine target audience for marketing and call to action																																							
ii. Create marketing materials and distribute																																							
iii. Establish routes for interested parties to become involved in the Freeport																																							
iv. Establish and track key metrics for marketing performance																																							
2) Tax Site Set Up																																							
a) OBC and FBC Drafting																																							
i. Development of investment plan																																							
ii. OBC drafting - additional modelling and review against tax site framework																																							
iii. FBC drafting - further detailed modelling																																							
b) Site development																																							
i. Development of Masterplan Consent Area																																							
ii. Investment Attraction																																							
iii. Planning and procurement																																							
c) Customs Site Set Up																																							
a) OBC and FBC Drafting																																							
i. OBC drafting - additional modelling and review against tax site framework																																							
ii. FBC drafting - further detailed modelling																																							
b) Site development																																							
i. Authorisation																																							
ii. OBC drafting engagement																																							
iii. FBC drafting engagement																																							
iv. Development of customs site infrastructure																																							
3) Monitoring and Evaluation Planning (dependent on Government M&E strategy)																																							
a) Baseline data collection																																							
i. Review Government's proposed M&E strategy for Scottish Green Freeports																																							
ii. Identify base line data requirements including data on protected characteristics and normal CO2 emission levels																																							
iii. Identify baseline data collection processing and storage methods																																							
iv. Conduct baseline data collection in accordance with pre-defined methodologies																																							
b) Establish progress evaluation methodology																																							
i. Establish clear (SMART) targets and objectives for each deliverable / workstream / area of performance																																							
ii. Establish robust performance management framework with ongoing review processes and reporting methodologies																																							
Delivery Phase																																							
10) Activities in line with Green Freeport Objectives																																							
a) Regeneration and high quality job creation activities																																							
[REDACTED]																																							
b) Just transition to a net zero economy activities																																							
[REDACTED]																																							
c) Establishing trade hubs activities																																							
[REDACTED]																																							
d) Fostering innovation activities																																							
[REDACTED]																																							
11) Tax Site Delivery																																							
[REDACTED]																																							
iv. Ongoing monitoring of tax sites to ensure Green Freeport objectives are met																																							
12) Customs Site Delivery																																							
a) Site delivery																																							
i. Monitoring of standards and protocols																																							
ii. Customs site delivery																																							
13) Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation (dependent on Government M&E strategy)																																							
a) Progress evaluation																																							
i. Conduct timely progress reviews and document observations in accordance with pre-defined review expectations																																							
ii. Identify plan and implement specific corrective actions to address any inadequate performance / areas of concern																																							

North East Scotland Green Freeport - Risk and Issues Register

> NOTE: Risks are presented in order of Severity by default, but may be filtered otherwise. New risks will be automatically assigned a reference number once the risk category has been chosen.

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Ref.	Risk category	Receive updates From	Risk description	Potential consequences	Risk timing by phase	L	I	S (L*I)	Initial proposed mitigations	Risk Owner (s)	L	I	S (L*I)
1	Operational	Programme Director Lead Authority	There is a risk that existing partners do not have the necessary expertise to progress set up activities.	This would impact NESGF's ability to set up the Green Freeport, access seed capital funding or deliver against the Green Freeport objectives specified.	2. Set Up	2	5	10	NESGF will ensure adequate professional support is in place to provide the necessary expertise to progress set up activities.	Green Freeport Board; Programme Director	1	4	4
2	Financial	Programme Director Lead Authority	There is a risk that actual set up costs exceed planned set up costs.	This would result in the development of a funding gap for which additional NESGF member funding and associated approval would be required. This may delay the set up process as well as hinder the return on investment achieved by NESGF.	2. Set Up	3	4	12	Formal set up cost monitoring will be initiated to maintain scrutiny on set up costs, implement actions to mitigate overspend and proactively secure additional funding where required.	Green Freeport Board; Programme Director; Finance Manager	2	3	6
3	Environmental & Planning	Infrastructure Workstream Tax Sites Coordination	There is a risk that the planning timetable slips, delaying tax site development.	This could result in a delay in development at the tax sites which could, in turn, result in underutilisation of tax levers in the early years of the Green Freeport designation further resulting in a reduction in investment.	2. Set Up	3	4	12		Tax Sites Coordination Workstream	2	2	4
4	Operational	Programme Management	There is a risk that NESGF cannot find individuals with the appropriate skills and expertise to develop a strong Executive Team.	This would result in NESGF not having the appropriate structure in place to develop the Green Freeport from set up to delivery phase, resulting in an inability to operate within specified timescales or deliver objectives effectively.	2. Set Up	3	3	9	NESGF will adopt a clear recruitment plan and enact this early to ensure that individuals are engaged on a timely basis to ensure that those with the appropriate skills and expertise are in place to take NESGF through to delivery. Technical expertise will be commissioned where required.	Green Freeport Board; Programme Director	1	3	3
5	Operational	Customs Operating Model Workstream	There is a risk that Customs Site Operators (CSOs) designation is not in place for FBC approval. This would impact NESGF's ability to submit the FBC and achieve Green Freeport designation.	There needs to be a CSO designated for FBC to be approved - delay in CSO designation may therefore hinder FBC approval.	2. Set Up	2	5	10	NESGF will introduce effective customs coordination, driving additional prospective CSOs to submit registrations of interest post-endorsement. Further NESGF will continue to market the NESGF proposition internally and externally to broaden interest and ensure proactive planning and support for proposed CSOs, in collaboration with HMRC.	Customs Site Operating Model Workstream; Investment and Marketing Subcommittee	2	4	8
6	Security	Tax site delivery coordination Customs Operating Model Workstream	There is a risk that the NESGF enables the creation of an environment in which tax evasion, tax avoidance, money laundering and other illicit activity is undertaken.	This could result in reputational damage for all stakeholders and the wider region as a whole, as well as potential legal consequences depending on the activities that take place.	3. Delivery	1	5	5	NESGF will review and apply the appropriate regulatory standards and preventative controls within the Green Freeport, as prescribed by the relevant institutions/authorities. Furthermore NESGF will ensure tax and customs site operators are aware of their responsibilities with regards to the prevention of illicit activity. Those operating within NESGF will undergo close monitoring and compliance checks with the relevant subcommittee and Police Scotland will maintain a presence across the Green Freeport area to reduce illegal activity.	Tax Site Delivery Coordination Workstream; Customs Site Operating Model Workstream; Risk and Compliance Manager; Green Freeport Board	1	2	2
7	Operational	Tax Sites Coordination	There is a risk that NESGF activity displaces other economic activity in the region.	In seeking to support the Levelling Up agenda, the Green Freeport must ensure that existing regional disparities are not amplified but rather reduced. As such, the Green Freeport would not be complementary to the Levelling Up Agenda.	3. Delivery	3	4	12	NESGF would implement a Tax Site Framework, which all Tax Site Operators must adhere to, to ensure that Tax Site Operators are committed to focussing on investing in projects which bring about additionality.	Tax Sites Coordination Workstream	1	3	3
8	Operational	Tax Sites Coordination	There is a risk that tax sites do not deliver in line with Green Freeport objectives	This would result in the full potential and benefits case of NESGF being underachieved and the level of investment in the region not being as was anticipated, resulting in a failure to meet the objectives as set out in the Levelling Up agenda.	3. Delivery	2	4	8	NESGF would implement a Tax Site Framework to be signed by the Tax Site Operator which commits them to deliver projects in line with the specified Green Freeport objectives. The Tax Site Framework also allows for the close monitoring of progress against the specified Green Freeport objectives.	Tax Sites Coordination Workstream	1	4	4
9	Operational	Infrastructure Workstream	There is a risk that NESGF does not meet its investment potential.	Failure to raise the catalytic infrastructure and revenue funding beyond the Seed Capital phase to deliver Green Freeport would result in the full potential and benefits case of NESGF being underachieved. This would also impact the economic and financial objectives of the Green Freeport being achieved.	3. Delivery	2	5	10	NESGF has strong links with domestic and international investors who have expressed interest in investing in the region. There is compelling investment attractiveness activity currently underway in the region. This coupled with collaboration with DIT and SDI will ensure the region remains an attractive investment proposition into the future.	Communications Working Group; Investment and Marketing Subcommittee	2	3	6
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14 June 2022

To Whom it May Concern

Re: North East of Scotland Green Freeport – Aberdeen City and Peterhead

On 11 May 2021 the Council's City Growth & Resources Committee agreed to support the development of a single regional bid from the Aberdeen city region; and that if that bid was successful, the Council would be represented on any governance to implement the Green Freeport. Since then, the Council has been working with partners and stakeholders on an exciting bid and we are delighted to be writing to you in support of an application for a Green Freeport for Aberdeen City and Peterhead.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Green Freeport policy objectives align to those of our regional economic strategy and our bid builds on the assets of the north east of Scotland – in terms of infrastructure, our track record in offshore energy production, hosting a global industry and supply chain and maintaining the economic contribution we make to the UK and Scottish economies. We will continue to support our private sector partners to develop and deliver the Green Freeport at pace.

Our overall economic priority is to continue to retain skills, jobs and expertise here and attract new people and jobs through inward investment to maximise the opportunity from new and emerging offshore renewables activity. Diversification was at the heart of the Aberdeen City Region Deal which not only is delivering major investments in technology and innovation, but also supports the infrastructure to deliver the Aberdeen Harbour South Expansion. We have also been supporting the development of Scotland's Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) in the hinterland of the harbour expansion so that new inward investment can be secured that will deliver the energy transition, and in particular ensure that Scotland maximises the benefits of the Scotwind licensing round.

A review of these supplier statements shows the scale of opportunities for existing and new businesses across the supply chain, and 18GW of power will be generated by offshore developments within 100 nautical miles of the north east of Scotland.

This region embarked on its energy transition many years ago – the European Offshore Wind Demonstration Centre in 2008, hydrogen power pilots since 2014, world first floating windfarms and CCUS – all facilitated by government and industry working together. This collaboration is a characteristic of this region and also our Green Freeport bid.

From a policy perspective, our bid supports our regional economic strategy objectives around employability, skills, innovation and aligns to the National Strategy for Economic Transformation. It commits to ensuring that any jobs created within the Green Freeport Zone are of a high quality, delivered in innovative sectors of our economy and that local communities are well placed to benefit from these. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The proposals align to our adopted Local Development Plans and as planning authority [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We also confirm that the Council will be accountable to central government for any allocation of seed capital funding to the Green Freeport company.

We also confirm that one of the Council's Co-Leaders will represent the Council on the Board of the North East of Scotland Green Freeport company.

The Green Freeport policy offers our partners the opportunity to secure new and additional business investment that will help secure our position as Net Zero Capital of Europe. The projects and proposals are ambitious, innovative and need to deliver our decarbonisation and economic objectives.

We look forward to continuing to support our proposals and deliver a successful Green Freeport in Aberdeen and Peterhead.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Councillor Alexander Nicoll
Co-Leader, Aberdeen City Council

Councillor Ian Yuill
Co-Leader, Aberdeen City Council



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**

—
The Hub
Exploration Drive
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—
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E info@agcc.co.uk
www.agcc.co.uk

13th June 2022

North East Scotland Green Freeport

Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce is the North-east Scotland's leading business support and economic development organisation and one of the most influential Chambers in the UK, representing more than 1,000 organisations that collectively employ over 100,000 people. Our aims are to support our members to do better business today while working as part of a strong and ambitious regional partnership to create the conditions that will underpin the **future economic strength of our region**, supporting inclusive growth and a just transition.

This letter is on behalf of our business community which stands behind this unique and strong region-wide **Green Freeport bid**. Support which has been demonstrated by the number and range of companies that responded to our call to back the bid and sign our open letter.

From a standing start in the 1970s Aberdeen built a global reputation as a leader in the oil & gas sector. Entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, problem solving, exporting technologies and project management skills and **punching above its weight in terms of economic performance and return to the exchequer**.

This is not a 'drawing board' bid. Many of the constituent parts are currently in operation, under construction or shovel ready. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The £400m South Harbour at Port of Aberdeen will open later this year with the vast majority of the investment being **privately funded** by the Trust Port.

Being at the heart of the drive to develop and deliver green energy solutions is, perhaps, a bigger and longer term economic opportunity for the Aberdeen city region than when oil was first discovered in the North Sea. The collective expertise, innovation and skills built up in the area over the last 50+ years across operators, supply chain, universities, agencies and other partners means we are well placed to once again be **at the vanguard of innovation and change**. We have the momentum and must not let the opportunity pass.

We all want to get to the same **net zero destination**, there is no one in denial about the direction of travel. All that needs to be agreed upon is the steps we take to get there and, crucially, the order in which we take them. The North-east of Scotland can be at the heart of driving this positive change if we make the right decisions now.



Registered in Scotland as a company limited by Guarantee
Registration number SC0 000 791
VAT Number 265 3165 59
Registered Office: The Hub, Exploration Drive, Aberdeen
Energy Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB23 8GX

To meet our ambitious targets, we must harness the expertise, knowledge, financial capital and infrastructure of our **world-class oil and gas industry and supply chain**. Doing so will allow us to move to net zero through developing carbon capture utilisation and storage, offshore wind and hydrogen technologies powered by UK businesses.

The recent 'Making the Switch' report by Robert Gordon University shows that currently in North-east Scotland 45,000 people are employed in the offshore energy sector. It looks at four scenarios and the worst of these, "regional decline", sees this figure fall by an eye-watering 17,000 by 2030. **That is the price of getting this wrong.**

The best case scenario, "**Global Energy Hub**" status, forecasts direct employment in the sector growing to 54,000, with over 60% of the jobs in renewable energy. A remarkable shift inside a decade. These low carbon jobs are not available at scale yet, but with the right support, investment and training they can be in the near future with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 80% of the windfarms will be situated within 100 miles of Aberdeen.

The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has publicly backed the idea that Aberdeen should aim to be Europe's net zero energy capital but it's a title that needs to be earned, not just assumed.

[REDACTED]

And as one of the UK's premium food and drink producing regions, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please do not fall in to the trap of thinking the streets of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are paved with gold. As in any city and any region, we have **significant pockets of deprivation**, many of which are within the bid footprint and we believe that these parts of our community have most to gain from the award of this bid.

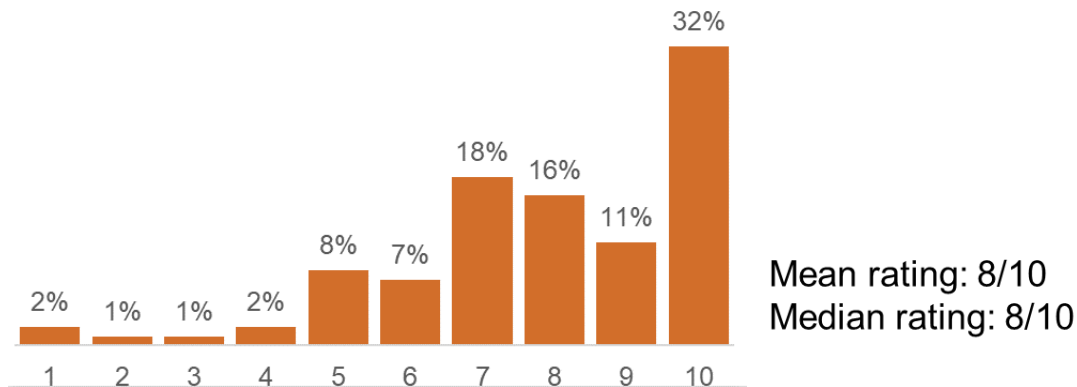
The economy of North-east Scotland is at a key crossroads. Decisions taken now will determine whether this region recovers strongly or becomes **a museum to its halcyon days as Europe's oil & gas capital**. Time is of the essence and acting now will avoid a scenario where the Aberdeen region follows the path of other 'post-industrial' areas requiring huge levels of future regeneration and reinvention.

This is a place that has continually delivered **strong return on investment made here**. A notable example being the City Region Deal where the initial total contribution of £250m from Scottish and UK Governments has now increased to £936m as a result of the initial programme leveraging additional commitments from local authorities, universities, the private sector and other investors.

This, along with the pace of delivery, is proof of the strong partnership between business, government, universities and agencies in this region which is the envy of other places. **We get things done** and have a proven track record of doing so. Being awarded Green Freeport status will be the catalyst for seeing a similar impact to that created by the core City Region Deal funding, only on a much larger scale.

Recent Chamber research of 500+ residents with AB postcodes undertaken independently by Scotpulse shows conclusively that there is an **appetite for change**.

In light of a changing economy, COVID recovery, and the climate emergency, what is your personal appetite to see big change projects go ahead in the region? (1 not at all, 10 absolutely)



We have a **once in a lifetime opportunity** to secure our nation's future energy security and regional prosperity while achieving our climate goals. This requires huge investment, much of which will come from existing businesses in the energy eco-system.

Of course, this was not helped by the recent Energy Profits Levy. Ahead of its introduction, the Chancellor himself said: *"The obvious impact of a windfall tax would be to deter investment- it is as simple as that. At this moment I want to see more investment in the North Sea, not less. Last year we saw the lowest amount of investment on record in the North Sea."*

One lever that both UK and Scottish Governments have to address this risk is to back the Aberdeen region and its business community by supporting the ambitious North East Green Freeport proposal being brought forward.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive

Response ID ANON-3DZF-Y4WA-V

Submitted to Green Freeports in Scotland bidding portal
Submitted on 2022-06-20 10:23:47

Before you start

Introduction

Do you agree to the privacy notice?

I have read and agree to the privacy notice:
Yes

Applicant information (1/2)

What is your name?

This should be the name of the person who will be filling in the Green Freeports application form.:
[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

All correspondence will be sent to this email address.:
[REDACTED]

Applicant information (2/2)

1.1 Please submit a proposed name for your Green Freeport. This should clearly distinguish it from any other potential Green Freeport proposals.

Green Freeport Name :
Orkney Green Freeport

1.2 Please provide the name and contact details for the Senior Responsible Officer for the programme.

Enter the officer's name and contact details here::

[REDACTED]

Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth
Orkney Islands Council
Town House, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3AA
Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1.3 To assist us in considering the impacts of your proposal, please provide us with information on the impacts you have identified against each of the nine protected characteristics. This information will not be subject to an assessment process. If you have any supporting documentation on the impact of your proposal please upload it to the SharePoint folder (optional).

Please enter your answer here (250 words max.) :

Orkney Islands Council is committed to promoting equal opportunities, challenging discrimination, and fostering good relations, both in employment and in carrying out its work and delivering services. As the Freeport Accountable Body, the Council will support the Green Freeport Management Board in preparing an Equalities Impact Assessment to fully consider the impacts and actions to ensure any negative impacts for people with protected characteristics are minimised, and opportunities are identified where proactive steps may be taken to promote wider equality and inclusion actions.

The Green Freeport Board and Management Team will be appointed according to the Council's Equality and Diversity Strategy and ensure that equality is a reality for those joining or part of the Green Freeport Governance and Management functions.

The Green Freeport is expected to create a significant number of new jobs and training opportunities. Employers and Green Freeport Partners will sign up to key Freeport Agreements, including a Gateway Policy, which requires them to demonstrate how the jobs and training opportunities created are accessible to people in protected characteristics and evaluate their performance in the context of the community in Orkney. The Green Freeport Board will encourage partners to sign up to the Disability Confident scheme and the Scottish Business Pledge to help drive inclusive practices in employment and to support work to reduce inequalities in Orkney.

The Green Freeport is likely to create a range of job opportunities. Roles and sectors within the Green Freeport sites will be assessed for inequality risk e.g. consideration given to where and when roles are advertised, the timing and accessibility of interviews and the options for safe and flexible working practises, i.e. working from home, flexible hours, options for reducing lone travel etc.

Employers will be encouraged to work with groups such as the Orkney Local Employability Partnership for support regarding inclusive employment practices and alternative pathways into employment.

Gateway Criteria (1/5)

1.4 Please upload the following pdf files legible at A3 to the SharePoint folder you have received a link for:

1.5 Please also upload an ESRI Shapefile or Vector Geopackage version of each map uploaded at 1.4 to the SharePoint site.

1.6 Please provide evidence (e.g. letters) that landowners have signed up to your vision for the proposed tax site, associated land use, and will take appropriate steps to ensure development on the site aligns with the Green Freeport's objectives and those of the wider Green Freeports policy. Evidence should be uploaded to the SharePoint folder.

Please explain how and why government can have confidence that the tax site will be delivered in line with your vision. (250 words max.):

The proposed tax sites are in locations where there are well established development plans in place. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in the Orkney Local Plan for business development. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Gateway Criteria (2/5)

1.7 For each customs site, please upload a signed letter from the site operator confirming that:

1.8 Please upload written confirmation of support for your application from your local authority or local authorities and (if you have their endorsement) Regional Economic Partnership (REP). The only mandatory signatories required from the leader of local authorities to pass the pass/fail are:

1.9 Explain how your Green Freeport Outer Boundary represents a credible, coherent economic geography? Please provide clear rationale.

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

Orkney functions as a single economic geography with a single local authority (Orkney Islands Council) which makes implementing the Green Freeport straightforward. The scale of Orkney – 90km from its furthest points - requires the Green Freeport to focus its location on the core economic assets

[REDACTED]

Key Green Freeport locations, connected by regional ferry services and excellent road links [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] to support the anchor investment proposals.

[REDACTED]

Gateway Criteria (3/5)

1.10 Please provide rationale for all proposed customs sites, including:

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

[REDACTED]

Currently all freight (excluding oil and gas) originates from the UK and is therefore outside the scope of what could benefit from the customs reliefs and simplified procedures available to Green Freeport customs sites. However, Orkney Green Freeport will attract future opportunities [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject to the future requirements of the Tax Sites and Key Investment Locations, it is likely that customs site status will be secured for the key manufacturing locations across Orkney, enabling freight and key components to be moved between Green Freeport locations efficiently.

[REDACTED]

1.11 Does your Green Freeport propose any customs sites outside the Outer Boundary? If yes, please provide a written submission with clear and specific reasoning justifying such additional proposals and how it relates to the wider Green Freeport.

If yes, please provide a written submission with clear and specific reasoning justifying having a customs site outside the outer boundary (300 words max.):

The Orkney Green Freeport is not currently proposing customs sites outside the 45km boundary.

[REDACTED]

1.12 N.B: This question has been deleted. Please refer to the clarification questions published on the 19th of April 2022 for details.

Gateway Criteria (4/5)

1.13a Please provide clear economic rationale for the tax site(s), including an explanation for the proposed location(s) and why it represents good value for money.

Please enter your answer here (200 words max.):

Orkney Logistics Base

The Orkney Logistics Base Tax Site Map included in this submission identifies the three locations covered by the Orkney Logistics Base. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.13b Please provide the management approach to each tax site.

Please enter your answer here (200 words max.):

[REDACTED]

1.13c Please provide clear economic rationale for how tax measures will generate additional economic activity and how this aligns with the local sectoral vision.

Please enter your answer here (200 words max.):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.13d Please provide clear economic rationale for how your proposed tax sites meet the criteria for being underdeveloped and what works are required on the tax sites.

Please enter your answer here (200 words max.):

Each of the proposed Tax Sites site has identified vacant and unused land for development [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Gateway Criteria (5/5)

1.14 How does the tax site locations mitigate displacement of local economic activity from disadvantaged areas?

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

The Orkney Economic Review 2020 shows that Orkney is a relatively prosperous part of the Scottish economy. Orkney performs well on wider socio-economic measures, including on healthy life expectancy and levels of social deprivation, although there are pockets of deprivation. The key locations identified in the Orkney Green Freeport proposals seek to grow the Orkney economy by providing high-quality, well paid and attractive roles for school, college and university graduates to remain on Orkney rather than leave the islands for opportunities elsewhere. The new roles will also attract people to the islands who have previously left or are attracted to the combination of Orkney's quality of life offer and the sector roles created. The Green Freeport is not expected to create any displacement effects as the core locations are recognised as growth areas, building on existing infrastructure and labour markets.

The interventions have been designed to enable additional activity to take place. The Green Freeport will specifically target identified growth sectors -

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The aim is to attract and retain international investment, which will result in increased trade and exports, innovative renewable energy activity, supply chain opportunities, market leading innovation, and the regeneration of local communities.

The nature of each site means they can attract additional investment in sectors that to a very large extent do not compete with other local businesses. There is strong market demand and an undersupply of large-scale, serviced sites. The proposed tax sites are constrained by infrastructure and other constraints, which the Freeport designation and associated up front public investment will address. The selected tax sites and focus for the Green Freeport mean that the level of additional activity will be maximised and the displacement of local economic activity from deprived areas minimised.

1.15 Please set out how you will meet the minimum standard of security and infrastructure required in customs and tax sites before being able to operate as a Green Freeport.

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

Orkney Islands Council currently manages Border Force designations at key harbour locations and has the knowledge and capability to extend the current approach to manage the security and infrastructure requirements of the Green Freeport.

[REDACTED]

The Freeport Board will ensure that the Orkney Freeport Inventory systems are compliant with the reporting and access requirements of HMRC and Border Force. Orkney Green Freeport would be interested in ensuring consistency of approach with the other UK Freeports to ensure that goods arriving to the UK for deployment via the Orkney Green Freeport are managed effectively.

During the designation process, HMRC and Border Force will be invited to survey the sites, key access points and any necessary amenity or additional securing requirements. Orkney Islands Council understand that the customs site designation requires the approval of HMRC and every effort will be made to ensure the site's requirements are satisfactory.

Detailed application information - Criteria A, B, C, & D

2.1 Please upload a diagram of a logic model which gives an overview of the links between the activities and inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact of your proposed Green Freeport model. (max. 50Mb file limit.)

Please confirm this has been completed :

Yes

2.2 Referring to the logic model and section 2 of the prospectus, please explain how your Green Freeport proposal will meet Scottish and UK Government objectives and achieve the desired outcomes listed in this prospectus? Please complete this as a Word document and upload to the SharePoint (max. 5000 words incl. 250 word executive summary). As part of your answer, please cover:

Please confirm this has been completed :

Yes

Detailed application information - Criterion E (1/4)

3.1 Describe the local authority current or planned planning applications for each tax, custom and key investment site. For each site please provide the following:

3.2 Please upload an Implementation Plan. This could take the form of a pictorial diagram, Gantt chart, timeline, flowchart or other graphical representation. (max. 50Mb file limit)

3.3 Please provide a written submission contextualising your Implementation plan, which sets out:

Please enter your answer here (1000 words max.):

The focus of the implementation plan is the first 2 years of Green Freeport Operation, with reference to the 5 years and 25-year time horizons. A detailed project plan covering the 25 years will be prepared for the Outline Business Case with detailed Tax Site Delivery Plans.

Business Planning

[REDACTED]

Governance and Management

[REDACTED]

Customs Site Arrangements

[REDACTED]

Tax Site Investments

[REDACTED]

Seed & TIF Investment Funds

[REDACTED]

Innovation Skills Net Zero and Communications

[REDACTED]

Key Investment Locations

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Detailed application information - Criterion E (2/4)

3.4 Please describe, with reference to your implementation plan when you will undertake activities set out in your response to question 2.2 that focus on regeneration and high-quality job creation.

Please enter your answer here (400 words max.) :

The creation of high-quality jobs is a major focus of the Orkney Green Freeport. The creation of quality jobs is the only sustainable way to grow the economy on Orkney as there is not the space or infrastructure to create many thousands of low-skilled opportunities.

[REDACTED]

3.5 Please describe, with reference to your implementation plan when you will undertake activities set out in your response to question 2.2 that focus on decarbonisation and a just transition to a net zero economy.

Please enter your answer here (400 words max.):

[REDACTED]

3.6 Please describe, with reference to your implementation plan when you will undertake activities set out in your response to question 2.2 that focus on establishing trade hubs.

Please enter your answer here (400 words max.) :

[REDACTED]

3.7 Please describe, with reference to your implementation plan when you will undertake activities set out in your response to question 2.2 that focus on fostering innovation.

Please enter your answer here (400 words max.) :

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Detailed application information Criterion E (3/4)

3.8 Please upload a risk management framework that shows how your governance board will manage risks to the SharePoint folder.

3.9 Please outline your preferred investment proposal including:

3.10 Please provide evidence of the commercial demand for:

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

[REDACTED]

Detailed application information - Criterion E (4/4)

3.11 What considerations and mitigating actions will be taken into account for potential negative externalities (including the displacement of local economic activity from nearby disadvantaged areas) affecting your site and/or the surrounding area resulting from the introduction of the Green Freeport?

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

The following negative externalities have been considered within the scope of the Orkney Green Freeport:

- Additional housing demand arising from additional employment opportunities. This will be mitigated by working closely with Orkney's planning function and local housebuilders on Orkney to ensure that the near term and long-term housing needs are met.
- Additional amenity provision, key amenity providers across Orkney will be consulted to understand capacity and utilisation of existing amenity provision. The Council's economic development team will support an appraisal of the investment requirements across the amenity provision and determine suitability for investment from the TIF investment available from Green Freeports.
- Additional education placements. This will be mitigated by close working with further education and higher education providers on a Green Freeport Skills plan which pro-actively identified the skills needs of future employers and maps this against current skills to identify skills gaps. Green Freeport will invest alongside existing skills funding to ensure the skills required are supported.
- Additional pressure on GP and health services. This will be mitigated with clear communications with public health and health providers across Orkney to ensure they have the information to plan for growth and can make the business case for investment in people and facilities.
- Additional traffic on local roads. This will be mitigated by an appraisal of traffic impacts at a project and site level with the necessary highway mitigations included in the scheme budget. Such strategic infrastructure projects may be funded by the Green Freeport TIF funds.
- Additional pressure on ferry links between Green Freeport Island locations. This will be with clear communications and information to the ferry operators in Orkney to help them make the business case for new higher capacity ferries and more services where necessary.
- Pressures on sensitive and designated environmental habitats. This will be mitigated through the planning system with Environmental Impact Assessments being undertaken in protected or sensitive areas. Green Freeport TIF funding may be used to fund the mitigation requirements of the projects set out on the Tax Sites and Key Investment locations.
- Increased demand for hotel provision, competition with tourism sectors. This will be mitigated with close working and information sharing with key stakeholders in the tourism sector. TIF Investment funding may be used to provide additional capability in the tourism sector where the case can be made that business tourism is impacting on leisure visits.

3.12 Please explain how your proposals will ensure compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and standards and if applicable, what further environmental standards will you stipulate and how will these be met?

Please enter your answer here (750 words max.):

Orkney is an exceptional location in terms of quality of environment evidenced by the range of environmental designations and protections. The quality of environment is extremely important to key industries such as agriculture, whisky, aquaculture and tourism, together representing a major component of the Orkney economy. The quality of the environment and the unique rural and coastal views of Orkney are extremely important to the quality of life for the communities on Orkney.

Orkney Islands Council and the Orkney Green Freeport Board will ensure that the Green Freeport investments are delivered sensitively with regard to environmental impact with all new projects required to meet all existing UK environmental regulations.

Core to the Green Freeport is the transition to a Net Zero economy, so whilst the projects are important in reducing reliance on fossil fuels and will make significant positive impacts on local air quality, consideration will be given to the physical impact on the environment of new development and ongoing Freeport operations.

The key opportunities for assessing environmental impact are:

Planning stage

Through the planning process, each development is required to set out compliance with applicable environmental law and in doing so demonstrate with evidence the impact on land and habitats relating to the development scheme.

Some sites across the Green Freeport are on previously developed land [REDACTED] such that the land has low environmental quality and the impact of development is low in terms of impact on biodiversity. Other sites are rural in nature and undeveloped and sit adjacent to protected sites, including sites adjacent to Scapa Flow and the recently designated marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Scapa Flow and North Orkney, covering a total area of 529 square kilometres, have been designated to protect rare and vulnerable migratory wild birds, which include the great northern diver and slavonian grebe. The designations reflect the importance of the habitats and also the Council's consideration of the importance of vital marine industries.

During construction

All major construction projects will need to be delivered by companies of significant standing and familiar with the delivery of projects on Orkney. As part of the procurement process, all companies will be required to demonstrate their environmental and social value credentials. The Considerate Constructors Scheme is one scheme which contractors can utilise to demonstrate their commitment to environmental quality.

During operations

Given the abundance of renewable energy on Orkney, facilities will target net zero in operation utilising electricity for operational energy requirements. Transport needs will be met by hydrogen powered and EV vehicles. Developments will target BREEAM excellent and an EPC of "A".

Detailed application information (4. Criterion F: A high level of private sector involvement in the proposal)

4.1 Describe the primary types (including size and sector) of business:

Please enter your answer here (500 words and 10 SIC codes max.):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4.2 Please describe any formal agreements or commitments you have from businesses or other partners to support port and business development. Please upload any supporting documentation to evidence these commitments to the SharePoint folder. Bids that demonstrate genuine and tangible long term commitments from partners will score more highly.

Please enter your answer here (500 words max.):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Before you Submit

Please confirm you have uploaded the relevant documents/information to your SharePoint folder:

Q1.4, Q1.5, Q1.6, Q1.7, Q1.8, Q2.1, Q2.2, Q3.1 (table), Q3.2, Q3.8, Q3.9 (table), Q4.2

Important: Applicants must submit material for all sections of 5.6 (Applicant information) and 5.7 (Gateway criteria). There will be no opportunities to submit additional information or documentation for this section. Any bids that do not pass every stage of 5.7 will not proceed to detailed application assessment. Are you sure you would like to proceed?

I would like to proceed with my application :

Yes



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Green Freeports Team
Department for Levelling Up and Communities (DLUHC)

16 June 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Orkney Green Freeport Submission

On behalf of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, I am writing to express our support for the Orkney Green Freeport submission by Orkney Islands Council. A Green Freeport will cluster the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] opportunities around Orkney's unique and nationally significant strategic locations, in particular [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Green Freeport will support the investment in key infrastructure that will enable the Orkney economy to grow significantly, with the creation of 1,000 high quality jobs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Orkney Green Freeport is well aligned with the Government's objectives for Green Freeports: to promote regeneration and high-quality job creation, promote decarbonisation and a just transition to a new zero economy, establish hubs for global trade and investment, and foster an innovative environment.

The Green Freeport proposal will build on key innovation and energy assets to drive growth, investment, and research and development – making a material and significant contribution to meeting Scotland and the wider UK's net zero targets.

We look forward to working with Orkney Islands Council on the further development of the Green Freeport and supporting the governance and management arrangements that will ensure its future success and optimise the economic and environmental benefits it will deliver for these islands.

We respectfully commend this submission to the attention of the selection panel.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

J. Stuart Black
Chief Executive

