



10th March 2026

Directors of East Midlands Freeport Ltd

[Sent via email]

EMCCA as Accountable Body for East Midlands Freeport

Dear EMF Director,

Thank you for the invitation to set out a few points about how I see EMCCA operating and working alongside you as the new Accountable Body for the Freeport. The matters contained within this letter are important to me, as I know they are to you too.

The note provided deals with some of the legal “guardrails” that exist to govern the role of the Accountable Body. For the most part these already exist, but there are further steps and assurances I am keen to set out.

The note provided sets out:

1. A description of the role of the Accountable Body
2. An explanation of the Accountable Body's veto and extent of control of the Freeport
3. Proposed further guardrails once EMCCA becomes the Accountable Body
4. A statement from EMCCA on its responsibilities as Accountable Body

Furthermore, I want to set out my own personal commitment to working with you all to make the Freeport a success, particularly given I will not be EMCCA’s nominated company Director on the Board. Please don’t interpret this as a lack of interest on my part; it is quite the opposite. I have decided not to be EMCCA’s nominated company Director precisely so that I can fully champion the work of the freeport in my role as Mayor, free from any conflicts of interests. I look forward to doing so. I would like to attend the Board as a guest from time to time, as you see fit, and I will remain in touch through my officers and via the EMF Chair and Chief Executive.

Lastly, I am extremely mindful of the fact that 1 of the 3 Freeport sites is not in the EMCCA area. This creates a complexity, but it is our collective job to work past that. I am confident that we can do that successfully (as you always have) with collaboration, common sense and pragmatism so that we can demonstrate the benefits of the Freeport to all of the communities we serve, regardless of administrative boundaries.

I hope the technical note and the further principles suggested provides greater clarity and reassurance about EMCCA's role and motivations. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to put words into action.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claire Ward

Mayor of the East Midlands

East Midlands Combined County Authority



www.eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk



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