

AGENDA ITEM 3**REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****22nd JULY 2022****REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER****GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENTS****SUMMARY**

This report details a number of items for agreement and confirmation by the Combined Authority Cabinet at its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet:

- i. agrees the appointments as set out at Appendix 1;
- ii. agrees the members' allowances scheme for 2022-23 and Mayoral Allowance at Appendix 2;
- iii. notes that the Monitoring Officer has reviewed the Constitution and is content that no amendments are required.

DETAIL

1. There are a number of items of business that the Combined Authority Cabinet is required to confirm at the AGM, and these are set out below.

Appointments

2. The Cabinet is recommended to agree a number of appointments to its statutory committees for the municipal year 2022-23. The appointments schedule at Appendix 1 details nominations to the statutory committees. It also details the proposed make-up of non-statutory/advisory Board appointments, external appointments, and statutory officers.
3. In summary, the following statutory appointments are being made:
 - **Deputy Mayor** – under our Constitution, the role of Deputy Mayor circulates annually amongst the Council Leaders. In line with this rotation, Councillor Robert Cook, Leader of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, is nominated as the Deputy Mayor for the 2022-23 municipal year.
 - **Cabinet** – the Cabinet is the decision-making body for the Combined Authority. The Tees Valley Mayor chairs the Cabinet, made up of the five Constituent Authority Leaders, and the Chair of the LEP as a non-voting member.

- **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** – this statutory committee reviews the policies and operations of the Combined Authority, ensuring effective democratic scrutiny of decisions. Members have been appointed by each of the constituent authorities, on the basis of political balance as set out in the constitution.
 - **Transport Committee** – this statutory committee reviews transport strategy and policies of the Combined Authority and makes recommendations to Cabinet. The Committee is Chaired by the Portfolio holder for Transport, Councillor Jonathan Dulston. Members are drawn from the executive member with transport responsibilities from each constituent authority, plus a private sector LEP member.
 - **Audit and Governance Committee** – this statutory committee assures sound governance and financial management of the Combined Authority. Members have been appointed from each constituent authority, on the basis of political balance, plus up to 4 independent members.
 - **South Tees Development Corporation Board** – this Board guides and oversees delivery of the key objectives of the South Tees Development Corporation (STDC) as set out in its Constitution.
 - **Teesside Freeport Board** – this Board makes recommendations to Cabinet on Freeport strategy and policies, reviews Freeport services, ensures compliance with Freeport legislation and co-ordinates the interests of landowners and other key stakeholders.
4. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Vice Chair of the Transport Committee will be brought forward to a future Cabinet meeting following their next meeting.

Other non-statutory/advisory groups:

- **Education, Employment and Skills Advisory Group**– this group brings together partners to provide strategic oversight on policies improving educational outcomes, enhancing skills and helping people into work.
- **Creative Place Advisory Group** - This group will receive updates from and provide sector insights and expert advice to the Creative Place and Place Marketing teams to shape the approach to delivery of Creative Place programmes and areas of strategic responsibility.
- **Enabling an Integrated Industrial Area Advisory Group** – providing a co-ordinated approach to attracting investment, including Innovation, R&D and digital infrastructure
- **Transport Advisory Group** – this group brings together officers and partners with responsibilities for the Tees Valley’s transport infrastructure.
- **SME Growth Advisory Group** - providing strategic oversight of the SME business support offer

Local Enterprise Partnership Membership

5. The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the Tees Valley’s principal forum for collaboration between the regional public and private sectors. LEPs exist across England as part of a national network, but uniquely in the Tees Valley this partnership is strengthened by its integration within the decision-making structures of

the Combined Authority, with LEP members also Associate Members of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet.

6. The LEP Board membership also includes a representative from the Tees Valley Further Education sector and a Business Representative Organisations Observer, with the respective representatives confirmed annually.
7. The Combined Authority is currently developing proposals to reconstitute the LEP in line with requirements set out in the government's Levelling Up White Paper. Recruitment to the two current vacant positions will take place after the approval and implementation of these proposals.

Appointments to External Bodies

8. The appointment schedule also proposes Tees Valley representation on a small number of external bodies; including Transport for the North, European Structural Investment Fund sub-committee (constituted by the government as managing authority for European Union funding) and the Local Government Association.

Officer Groups

9. The Combined Authority supports a range of officer groups which ensure coordination between the authority and its constituent councils. The arrangements for officer coordination are continually reviewed to ensure that effective communication and close partnership arrangements are maintained between officers on all aspects of the Combined Authority's responsibilities.

Members Allowances Scheme and Mayoral Allowance

10. Members' travel and subsistence allowances for the year 2022-23 and the Mayoral Allowance are detailed in Appendix 2.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. Support for the governance of the Tees Valley Combined Authority is provided from within the Authority's core budget, as agreed by Cabinet through the annual budget process, and funded through resources devolved from central government.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The report relates to the Constitution of the Combined Authority which sets out the appropriate statutory framework. The Constitution came into effect on 8th May 2017 and is legally binding.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION

14. The five Constituent Local Authority Leaders have been appropriately consulted on appointments, and nominations have been made through each council. The Mayor has also been consulted on these proposals.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

15. Cabinet publicly committed to achieving a 50/50 gender balance on the LEP and to increasing it's overall diversity by 2023. This was achieved in 2021.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

16. The items in this report have been circulated to LEP members in advance of coming forward to Cabinet.

Name of Contact Officer: James Grant
Post Title: Governance & Business Support Manager
Telephone Number: 07384797817
Email Address: james.grant@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk